



Incorporated by Royal Charter 2005

The Worshipful Company of Water Conservators

*Promoting a diverse and sustainable environment*

# *Michaelmas Court Lunch*

*Wednesday 25 September 2024*

*Barber-Surgeons' Hall*

*You are invited to attend the Michaelmas Court Lunch of the Worshipful Company of Water Conservators at Barber-Surgeons' Hall, Monkwell Square, Wood Street, London, EC2Y 5BL*



The guest speaker will be

**Dougal Driver**

Chair, Society for the Environment and  
Founder and CEO of Grown in Britain

who will share his views on the importance of forests in future water conservation.

Reception drinks will be served from 12.15pm to 12.40pm followed by lunch and the traditional offering of the Stirrup Cup.

Places may be reserved by e-mailing Christine Duthie via [clerk@waterconservators.org](mailto:clerk@waterconservators.org) giving the names of those attending, any dietary restrictions and any preferences for whom you wish to sit beside. The cost is £126 per head and you will be provided with banking details for payment when your reservation is acknowledged. The closing date is Friday 13 September 2024.

## Our Speaker



Dougal Driver has extensive experience in the public, private and NGO sectors. He left the woods to build a successful career managing the Defence Estate, he then became a Defra Director and Ministerial advisor on environmental matters. He played a vital role in the first green infrastructure and natural capital polices and was the leading advisor in the Secretary of State's team that set up the New Forest and South Downs National Parks.

Dougal is CEO of Grown in Britain having co-founded the organisation 10 years ago.

GIB certifies the UK Forest Products supply chain and has an extensive R&D programme aimed at replacing unnecessary imports with homegrown sources.

He is a Chartered Environmentalist (CEnv) and a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Foresters (FICFor). Dougal is passionate about the work of the Society for the Environment and was elected chair in 2023.

Dougal is determined to ensure that environmental professionals are at the heart and start of decisions affecting the world we live in. He is the Cabinet lead on the Society's World Environment Day programme and Chair of the Judging Panel for the society's annual awards.

Finally, he is a passionate advocate for technicians and technical skills and has chaired several leaders summits under the stewardship of the Gatsby Foundation.

## The Barbers' Company



The first mention of the Barbers' Company occurs in 1308 when Richard le Barbour was elected by the Court of Aldermen to keep order amongst his fellows. This Company also included surgeons amongst its number, the first recorded member appearing in 1312. Barbers and surgeons had overlapped in their duties for many years; barbers in monasteries, already used to working with sharp blades, had begun to add minor surgical skills to their repertoire, which in the due course were passed on to barbers elsewhere.

The respective roles of barbers and surgeons in London were finally defined by an Act of Parliament in 1540 which created the Company of Barbers and Surgeons of London. The Act decreed that no surgeon was to perform the tasks of a barber, and vice versa, but both could continue to draw teeth.

The union of the Barbers and Surgeons was never easy to manage and the relationship continued uneasily for 200 years. In 1745, at the request of the surgeons, a Bill was finally passed and the Surgeons left the Company forming what eventually became the Royal College of Surgeons of England.

Between 1745 and 1919 few surgeons were admitted to the Company. However, in 1919 the bonds between the Company and the Royal College of Surgeons were re-established and surgeons, including surgeons to the Royal Family and the Royal Household, have been regularly admitted to the Company ever since, in memory of the past union.



Barber-Surgeon's Hall  
Monkwell Square  
Wood Street,  
London,  
EC2Y 5BL.

Tel. No.: 020 7517 3500

Nearest Tube Stations:  
Barbican, Moorgate, St. Paul's