



The Conservator

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The Newsletter of the Worshipful Company of Water Conservators

A Message from the Master



I hope this message finds you all in good health. It is with great honour and excitement that I become the 36th Master of The Worshipful Company of Water Conservators. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the trust you have placed in me. I thank my predecessor Martin Bigg and his Consort Eileen for the hard work, dedication and leadership they have shown over the last twelve months and will continue to show as Martin assumes the role of Deputy Master. I thank our Clerk Christine Duthie for the phenomenal work she has done during her tenure.

I welcome and congratulate on their advancement Carolyn Roberts as Thames Warden, Tom Flood as Fleet Warden, Alex Money as Walbrook Warden, Stuart Herritty as Master's Bailiff and Tom Morton as Thames Warden's Bailiff. It takes a team to lead a company, but it is our multiple committees that support the team that enables our company to function as well as it does. Thank you all for your commitment and continued support.

As we embark on a new year, it is important to reflect on the strengths and accomplishments of our wonderful company. Our history is rooted in a deep commitment to the conservation and responsible management of water, waste and the environment. Our members past and present have played a pivotal role in shaping policies, advocating change and promoting innovation in these fields.

One of our greatest strengths lies in the diversity and expertise of our membership. We are fortunate to have individuals from various backgrounds and professions who bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to our company. Our collective expertise enables us to tackle complex challenges and find sustainable solutions.

Another strength of our company is our strong network of partnerships and collaborations. Over the years, we have forged valuable relationships with government, and non-government agencies, non-profit organisations, industry leaders and academic institutions. These partnerships have allowed us to leverage resources, share best practices, and amplify our impact. It is through collaboration that we make a significant difference in addressing the pressing issues of our time.

It is crucial for us to share our passion for water conservation. Our collective voice and actions can have a transformative impact on the future of water management. By expanding our membership base, we can strengthen our advocacy, increase our outreach, and create a platform for knowledge exchange and collaboration.

I encourage every member to reach out to colleagues, friends, and acquaintances who have an interest in water and the environment. Start by inviting them to one of our lunches, debates, lectures or even one of our many social events and share with them the value proposition of joining our company - the opportunity to contribute, access to a network of experts and a chance to make a significant difference. Let us emphasise the inclusive and supportive nature of our company that we foster a culture of openness and that we attract a wide range of talents and perspectives.

Our company belongs to our members and involvement by all is crucial to the company's continued success. I thank you all, for making our company the shining light that it is.

Dylan Barker
Master Water Conservator



Our Wardens 2024-2025



Thames Warden

Professor Carolyn Roberts is a water resource management and science communication specialist, who has worked, researched and published across the world. She specialises in the impact of human activity on the water cycle and water quality, including the impact of housing, industry, mining and waste disposal, but has wide interests in

environmental management. She was Technical Advisor to Gloucestershire County Council following the dramatic flooding of 2007 that led to changes in UK flooding policy. After an academic career at Exeter and including Head of the School of Environment, and Director of a national Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning at Gloucestershire University, she moved to Oxford University, directing a national programme that linked industry with researchers to foster the development of innovative environmental technologies. They worked with hundreds of businesses - multinationals to SMEs. Carolyn also assisted the government to promote UK technical expertise internationally.

Alongside a Gresham College professorial role, she now works as a water and environment consultant,

assisting businesses and universities to develop technological innovations that take us closer to being environmentally sustainable. She advises Innovate UK, the government's innovation agency. She also assists the police in murder enquiries by identifying the pathways followed by human bodies floating through river and canal networks.

Carolyn has chaired two major UK professional bodies: the Institution of Environmental Sciences, and Society for the Environment, and is an elected Fellow of several others. She appears in the media quite often, including a 2016 appearance on 'The Life Scientific' on BBC Radio 4, as an expert to the BBC TV fiction series 'Silent Witness', and recently in relation to a legal case on sewage pollution of rivers. She is a longstanding Trustee of the Water Conservation Trust.



Fleet Warden

Tom Flood was born and educated in Ireland where he gained a lifelong appreciation for the natural world. In 1972 he emigrated to the UK. His first sales and marketing position was with 3M UK. He then joined the

voluntary sector, the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers. Over a 26-year career, 12 as CEO, he made this a UK-wide organisation, recognised as charity of the year. Its patron was the late Duke of Edinburgh. In 2004 he was awarded a CBE for services to conservation. A founder member of the UK water partnership, and with Past Master Mark Lane, he helped to establish a private public body. Today it provides thought leadership, informed research and collaboration to drive innovation in a diverse water community. Its relevance is reflected in the public debate about the quality of our water.

In 2021, he became chair of the Dorset Community Foundation, a grant giving body, which also manages the Paul Cornes Fund, a living legacy to his late civil partner who sadly died during the COVID pandemic. In July 2024 he was reappointed for a further three years as Chair in which he will lead the disseminating of the Hidden Dorset report which highlights the social inequalities in Dorset. He was recently elected President nominee for the Rotary Club of Poole. Tom divides his time between Farringdon, EC1 and Bournemouth. He is a keen gardener, amateur chef, and explorer of the Dorset countryside. He is also a co-owner of a Patterdale terrier "Miss Jessie" – 'she's great company'.



Walbrook Warden

Alex Money is the Founder and CEO of Watermarq, an early-stage company based in the UK with a mission to break the status quo on how water is valued,

globally. His background includes ten years working as an emerging markets investment manager and a further fifteen years as a serial entrepreneur and academic. He has a Master's degree with distinction in water science, policy and management; and a doctorate in water risk, both from the University of Oxford.

Alex is also part-time faculty at the Smith School of Enterprise and the Environment at the University of Oxford. In addition to undergraduate and postgraduate teaching, he supervises a few PhD students each year. At Oxford, Alex leads a workstream on mobilising investment

for climate compatible growth as part of a £100m FCDO funded programme that runs to 2030. He is a Senior Associate in the Oxford Sustainable Finance Group, and in addition is Chair of Trustees (pro bono) at the Uptime Catalyst Facility, a registered UK charity that provides results-based funding to maintain rural water services in developing countries.

Alex grew up in Zambia, where his family have lived since the 1960s. He joined the Water Conservators in 2010 and has been a Court Assistant since 2023. He was installed as the Company's Walbrook Warden at the Court meeting in July 2024.



Reflections on my year as Master 2023-24



I am very grateful for the opportunity to have been Master of the Worshipful Company of Water Conservators and to be part of a 50,000 strong movement committed to commerce, community and charity. London is where you come to have global problems solved. Water and the environment have never been such important challenges and we are leading in addressing them.

During the Lord Mayor's Show 2023 the BBC commentator observed: "Talk about the relevance of the Livery, what could be more relevant than water conservation?" We have a high profile and respect within and way beyond the Livery movement. As Alderwoman Dame Susan Langley and Lord Mayor Professor Michael Mainelli put it recently, the Water Conservators are the trendy Livery! Modern and very relevant!

We are a Company of action - for the future, promoting a diverse and sustainable environment. We are stronger and growing, active and making a difference.

During the year we have welcomed a record 24 new Freemen and seven new Liverymen to the Company, and with many more on the way. We now have 137 Company members plus 11 Honorary members and 26 Associates.

To our Lunches we welcomed Dame Glenys Stacey, Chair of the Office for Environmental Protection (OEP), Sarah Mukherjee MBE, CEO of the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment,



Tony Juniper, Chair of Natural England, and the Lord Mayor Michael Mainelli, the Lady Mayoress Elisabeth Mainelli and Sheriff Dame Susan Langley.

Past Lord Mayor Dame Fiona Woolf was our guest speaker at our Banquet in the Armourers' Hall.

During the year, thanks to the team led by Deputy Master Colin Drummond, we held two City water debates with an impressive team of speakers on 'Water liquidity: how to finance the required investment in the water sector to 2050' and 'Go with the flow: working with nature and managing catchments'. We welcomed Sir John Armitt, Chair of the National Infrastructure Commission, to a private discussion dinner.



Through the work of the group coordinated by Court Assistant David Lloyd Owen and Past Master Peter Matthews, we have produced six consultation responses and think pieces during the year. Ministers and Defra officials have acknowledged our work.

As a result of the work of a group led by Court Assistant Allan Barton we are preparing for a City Environment Debate in the Autumn. Allan is also helping to develop a thought leadership piece on 'river waters, estuaries and coastal sea pollution' for the Company.

Thanks particularly to Fleet Warden Carolyn Roberts, we now have a Sustainability Policy, building on our earlier Climate Action Plan. We continue as a leading member of the Livery Climate Action Group and we are offsetting our carbon emissions with the charity River Holme Connections, with which the Water Conservation Trust has worked for several years.

Members of the Company contribute their skills and experiences through mentoring, advice, consultation responses, think pieces and policies. The Water Conservation Trust has continued its valuable support for students on postgraduate courses through bursaries and dissertation prizes. This year we invited 11 prize winners to our Myddelton Lunch to receive their prizes and to date have supported over 200 students with bursaries. The Trust's support for schools, especially young people with individual needs, and through the London Museum of Water and Steam has increased, raising awareness and appreciation of water and the environment, and we held a great sponsored walk together.



Our Trust contributes about £75k per annum to schools, community groups and students studying water and environmentally focused postgraduate degrees. My grateful thanks to the Trustees for all their work.

Our successful programme of monthly webinars and special webinars for Associates has continued under the management of Past Master Rob Casey. These have proved a very effective way of briefing members of the Company and the wider community on current environmental issues.

We have made significant contributions to the 2023-24 Lord Mayor's Theme "Connect to Prosper". Our Coffee Colloquy at the Mansion House organised by Walbrook Warden Tom Flood brought together experts from around the world to talk about the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals 6 'Availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all'. Fleet Warden Carolyn Roberts and Court Assistant Allan Barton have delivered "Knowledge Mile" webinars on the Thames Barrier and Circular Economy.



During the year we have successfully balanced our commitment to our profession, standards, education and charity with a very active social side. A major highlight was when over 40 Company members and friends joined our magnificent Magic Tap float in the Lord Mayor's Show. Thanks to the team effort.



As Freemen of the City of London, over 20 of us asserted our right to herd sheep across the Thames, with many friends and families.

Our social programme included seeing the Swan Upping, visits to St Albans, Westminster Abbey, Apothecaries'



Hall and Bletchley Park, with 30 visiting the Thames Barrier courtesy of the Environment Agency. A record 34 members of the Company braved the Bristol weather to learn more about bridges, boats and Banksy at the Master's Weekend.

Our cutter Water Forget-me-not has been out on the River Thames for the Admiral of the Port Race, Port of London Challenge, Doggetts Race, Great River Race and the Tudor Pull, winning almost everything! My thanks to our marvellous crew. Our cutter provides a valuable reminder of our connection with the importance of clean water and the river Thames – but we need a sponsor to keep our cutter afloat.

I have been invited to many civic and livery lectures, receptions, and other events. A highlight was the visit to our HMS Scott in Plymouth where we had a tour of the ship and met the crew.

Eileen and I have joined fellow Masters and Consorts at banquets, formal dinners and on many visits, from Treloar's School to Harrogate and Liverpool. I have had the honour of representing the Company at the elections of the Mayor and the Sheriffs, the United Guilds Service, at the Mansion House Banquet for the King and Queen, carol services, services of Remembrance, and thanksgiving at St Paul's Cathedral.

In return for the invitations from other Livery Consorts, Eileen organised a morning Mud-larking on the north foreshore of the Thames near the Millennium Bridge. I was pleased to welcome almost 40 Consorts as we found artefacts from many stages of the history of the City before enjoying a drink and meal together.

The cross-Livery support and spirit is amazing. We have shared the work and interests of our Company and learnt so much about other Companies and professions.

After careful nurturing we have a new and effective website which contains a wealth of information, including on future and past activity, consultations and policies. We have active LinkedIn pages for the Master and the Company, with over 1000 followers, including the Lord Mayor. Others are linking up to our social media, we have new recruitment materials and we are successfully raising awareness of the Company. All these are attracting attention and new members. My grateful thanks to everyone who has contributed.

In addition to revitalising the Wet 10 group of Livery Companies the Water Conservators have been invited to join the Construction Livery Group.

My grateful thanks to everyone who sponsored my abseil 215m down the Leadenhall Building, raising well over £1000 for the Lord Mayor's Appeal.

I should like to say thank you to Colin, Deputy Master, and the Wardens, Dylan Barker, Carolyn Roberts and Tom Flood. I am especially grateful to our Clerk Christine Duthie for all the time and work she has put into the Company and all her support for me.

I should like to express my appreciation of the great support everyone has given Eileen and me during my year as Master. Our heartfelt thanks to you all for your continuing commitment and company as we go forward in strength.

We wish Dylan and Sharon the best for the coming year, and I am sure we will all support them.

Companies and individuals want to be associated with us. We are successful, modern and effective. We are trendy!

Professor Martin Bigg,
Deputy Master

Recent Events 2024

Abseil for the Lord Mayor's Appeal



Thank you to the many generous members of the Company for sponsorship of the Master to descend 215m down the Leadenhall Building (the Cheesegrater). After being kitted out with harnesses and helmet, he ascended to the 47th floor. A check on the breaking strain of the ropes, then over the safety rail and it was all downhill. Regular stops were required to look down on the Gherkin and Shard, and admire the view. Walking on glass was not easy, and eventually flat ground was reached. An amazing experience.

New Members' Dinner.

The Master, Wardens and Deputy Master and Clerk had the pleasure of the company of ten new/pending new

members at an informal dinner in the Private Dining Room at the Guildhall. It was a welcome opportunity to get to know each other better away from the time limitations of our formal meetings.

Bletchley Park



Company Members visited the Park to discover the incredible achievements of Britain's World War Two Codebreakers, ably guided by Court Assistant Christine Jarvis. We are only now finding much out about the thousands who worked there, which is a reflection of the high level of secrecy that surrounded their work. We heard about the brilliant minds and complex machines that made this vital work possible, and discovered the global impact Bletchley Park had on the outcome of the war.

Admiral of the Port



The Mayor of London is the Admiral of the Port and this race in his honour comprises two nautical miles from HQS Wellington to the Westminster Boating Base in Pimlico. In our cutter Water Forget-me-not were four oarsmen, a coxswain and the Master and Consort. We started well but were overtaken and lost to the recently refurbished Port of London (PLA) cutter. This loss was so unusual a thorough review over beer and food was required and identified that the PLA cutter must have a clean shiny bottom. It was nothing to do with the Master putting on weight over the year.

Sunset Cruise

Many Court Assistants, Masters and guests joined the Master and Consort at Bankside Pier for a sunset cruise and dinner on the Thames for them to say thank you for all the support and fellowship over the past year. They travelled under Tower Bridge before heading upstream to



Putney and back. It was a beautiful mild evening and encouraged many Titanic impressions on the bows as we cruised past the beautiful sights and lights of the City.



Installation Lunch

The Installation Court was held in the magnificent setting of the Apothecaries' Hall. The focus of the Court meeting was on the growth of the Company and increased activity and income. The Company was very pleased to welcome Liam Hogg, Lee Morton and Gerald O'Shaughnessy as new Liverymen, and Martin Ballard, Avtar Jirh, Tom Morton, Michael Nates, Lina Nieto, Elizabeth Price, Mark Smith, John Ward, Judy West and John Wylie as new Freemen of the Company.

Water Conservation Trust

The Water Conservation Trust has continued to support the enhancement of learning and research in water related science and the environment through our university, schools and young people's programmes, funded largely through member's giving, our investments and sponsored events.

Universities Programme

The Trust offered bursaries to MSc students at 15 universities for the academic year 2023/24. Due to the declining number of eligible students it is expecting to support 10 students with bursaries for 2024/25. We will be supporting students at universities where there is a strong commitment to water and environmental management, with the aim of building up a dialogue on cooperation, mutual support and membership. To date we have supported over 200 students through our bursary programme and awarded over 90 dissertation prizes. We invited 11 students to receive prizes for their MSc dissertations at our Myddelton Lunch in January.

Schools Programme

The Trust now funds 4 successful bursary schemes for schools. One supports half day educational visits to Spitalfields City Farm near Whitechapel where children learn about food production, growing vegetables and fruit, pollination, natural pest control and animal welfare. Our second scheme supports educational visits to the London Museum of Water and Steam to learn about water supply and public health. Both schemes target schools with a high percentage of disadvantaged children who might not otherwise be able to afford the visits. For our third scheme we have continued with an annual award of £1000 to Ysgol Y Gogarth School to support children with special needs on craft-based projects and workshops. Finally, our fourth scheme supports the "mayfly in the classroom" project as part of the river education programme led River Holme Connections.

The Trust also supports projects at schools to encourage water related science and environmental learning with two projects currently in progress. The first project is at Northease Manor Special School, near Lewes, to support a makeover of their horticulture garden involving rainwater collection and the reconstruction of a pond. The students are neurodiverse, most of whom have diagnoses of autism/ADHD and horticultural sessions offer the opportunity for students to learn how to grow a variety of plants as well as respect and care for our environment - including water conservation and sustainability.



Our second project is at Cranbourne School at Potters Bar where the school is currently developing a part of the site into a wildlife haven including a pond (pictured above) to provide the children with the opportunity to learn more about nature, its wildlife, and their habitats.

Young People's Programme

The Trust has continued its support for Maidstone Sea Cadets and is currently funding Steam Explorers STEM courses at the London Museum of Water and Steam where young children aged between 11 and 16 can learn about water supply and get actively involved in maintaining the steam engines at the museum.



Our Clerk



Christine has indicated that she would like to step down from being the Company Clerk at the end of September 2024 after more than two years in the role. On behalf of the Company we would all like to express our deep gratitude to her for all that she has done for the Company in this role as she prepares to hand over the reins.

When our previous Clerk left at short notice, we rapidly had to initiate a recruitment process while at the same time maintaining the successful operation of the Company. We quickly realised that this was going to be a challenge as we worked to get to grips with the records and financial details for the Company as well as with the organisation of events.

We were therefore mightily relieved when Christine, who has been closely involved with the workings of the Company for quite some time, offered to step in as Clerk. I suspect that even she did not fully realise the challenge she was taking on. Quickly she tackled the immediate issues and preparations so that we could continue to function. With Peter Hall, she gathered all the papers and other records of the Company and started methodically to pull out the critical operational information. With Ken Marsh, she tracked down our financial records, including various bank accounts. Under her care the procedures of the Company were carefully put together with Master Colin Drummond. Gradually all the records were pulled together to provide the tools for the efficient running of our businesses.

Christine has done a great job at building up relationships with the other Clerks, Fellowship of Clerks, caterers, halls, Mansion House and many more. She has worked tirelessly engaging with and supporting members. She is an effective organiser for all our various meetings, lunches, dinners, banquets

and other events. Particularly she has done a great job at keeping up to date and working through the myriad of emails, letters, and other communications, resolving issues before they become a problem. Her support for the Master has been amazing.

We are very grateful to Christine for all her work as we now have a smooth operating Company, with secure foundations, and comprehensive records of events and membership. Christine is now pushing the development of online membership management and payments for events, and a far more efficient operation. This will certainly make the future work of the Clerk and operation of the Company considerably easier.

On behalf of us all, thank you Christine, for all you have done.

Professor Martin Bigg
Deputy Master

Jim Urquhart



Earlier this year, the Company was saddened by the passing of Jim Urquhart. Jim had an industrial background and became a founder member of the Company of Water Conservators in April 1994. Jim had business skills which the Company valued highly, becoming a Trustee of the Water Conservation Trust in 1995 and a Court Assistant of the Worshipful Company of Water Conservators. Whilst a Trustee, he championed planning, and established a financial planning system used to this day. He also supported Trustee engagement with beneficiaries, which offered insights into the problems they faced, and ideas about how the Trust could help. Quiet and unassuming, but firm when it counted, Jim will be sadly missed.

Future Events

Installation Court and Lunch **Apothecaries' Hall July 3rd**

Guest speaker Claire Pillman, Chief Executive Natural Resources Wales

Jug Ceremony **Mansion House July 15th**

Port of London Challenge **River Thames July 17th**

Boat Trip and Visit to Thames Tideway **River Thames September 21st**

Michaelmas Court & Lunch **Surgeons' Hall September 25th**

City Environment Debate **October 1st**

Discussion Dinner **Oxford & Cambridge Club October 14th**

Principal Guest Alan Lovell DL Chair of the Environment Agency

Annual Banquet **Pewterers' Hall November 6th**

Principal Guest Lord Chris Smith Former Chairman of the Environment Agency & Master of Pembroke College Cambridge

Company Visit to CERN **Switzerland December 7th**

Private behind the scenes tour

Christmas Court & Lunch **Guildhall December 10th**

Myddelton (Civic) Service **All Hallows by the Tower January 23rd**

Myddelton Lunch **Watermen's Hall January 23rd**

Masters Dinner **TBC**

Pancake Race and Lunch **Guildhall March 4th**

City Water debate **Bakers' Hall March 19th**

Tudor Pull **River Thames April 12th**

Election Court & Lunch **Tallow Chandlers' Hall April 17th**

Installation Court Lunch **TBC**