

The Worshipful Company of Water Conservators

*Promoting a diverse and sustainable
environment*

Monthly Update



September 2025 Issue 52

Message from the Master



Recent scientific evaluations have made it clear that climate change is accelerating, primarily as a result of growing greenhouse gas emissions. This has led to higher global temperatures, a rise in extreme weather events, and greater uncertainty in water and environmental cycles. The interconnected nature of these changes—spanning atmospheric shifts, loss of biodiversity, marine health, and water security—underscores the need for comprehensive environmental strategies.

Our Company is committed to shaping responsible water and environmental management. Through a range of initiatives featured in our newsletter—such as webinars, City debates, charitable projects, policy contributions, and an updated website—we champion sustainable water usage, foster education about the environment, and encourage open dialogue between industry professionals, policymakers, and the wider public. These activities highlight the importance of integrated

environmental stewardship and help build resilience in communities facing climate uncertainty. By upholding both tradition and innovation, we are making a meaningful contribution to the fight against climate change. Achieving this requires our Company to be visible, influential, and robust in numbers.

Liverymen, Freemen, and Associates are encouraged to think about colleagues and friends who may wish to join us in our fellowship and environmental initiatives. Extend invitations to formal events or social gatherings and introduce them to fellow Conservators. Such outreach has the potential to strengthen both our Company and benefit the wider community.

Professor Carolyn Roberts
Master Water Conservator

Company Cutter



On 6th September, eight members of the Company took the opportunity to row our recently refurbished boat in the Kingston River Festival, with our retained Waterman Stuart Smith as coxswain. Pictures of the Company crews in our cutter

'Water Forget-Me-Not' will follow in future newsletters! River races, often managed by the Thames Traditional Rowing Association, include the Great River Race, and various pageants. Look out for further opportunities for Company members to row the cutter. Pictured above are three of the cutter crew at the Kingston River Festival.

Future Events (see website for details)

- 23 Sept 2025 – WCWC Webinar, Water Framework Directive Economics
- 24 Sept 2025 – Michaelmas Court Lunch, HQS Wellington
- 2 Oct 2025 – City Environment Debate, Arup, London
- 5 Oct 2025 – WCT Sponsored Walk, Tring
- 6 Nov 2025 – Annual Banquet, Apothecaries' Hall

September WCWC Webinar

Dr Jonathan Fisher of Jonathan Fisher Environmental Economics will be presenting our WCWC September Webinar on Tuesday 23rd September 2025 6.00pm to 7.15pm titled "Water Framework Directive Economics 25 Years On: From Promise To Practice – The Case For Reform".



Jonathan will first provide the historical context to the WFD from water policies in the 1980s. He will then set out the economic provisions of the WFD, which was the first EU Directive to incorporate economic analysis and instruments. This will be followed by a SWOT analysis of the implementation of the WFD's economic provision that provides the basis for recommending specific refinements of the WFD, which can hopefully support water policy reforms. For the EU this could inform the EC Water Resilience Strategy, and for England and Wales can support the findings and recommendations of the Cunliffe Independent Water Commission. Click on the following link to register for the webinar <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1652891355539?aff=oddtcreator>

Michaelmas Court Lunch

This year's Michaelmas Court Lunch will be held on board HQS Wellington, which houses a splendid and unique Livery dining hall, on the 24th September 2025. The guest speaker will be Dame Susan Langley DBE, Chair, Gallagher UK (Insurance, Risk Management, Consulting), and Lady Mayor of London (Elect) who will share her views on interests in water and environmental management.



Reception drinks will be served from 12.15pm to 12.45pm followed by lunch and the traditional offering of the Stirrup Cup. Places may be reserved by e-mailing Chris Millett via clerk@waterconservators.org giving the names of those attending & any dietary restrictions. The cost is £130 per head. Please note the closing date for booking is: Tuesday 16 September 2025.

City Environment Debate

The Worshipful Company of Water Conservators is pleased to announce the second City Environment Debate, which will focus on creating sustainable cities. Our theme is based on United Nations Sustainable Development Goal No. 11: Making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. The Debate will be chaired by Cassie Sutherland, Managing Director for Climate Solutions and Networks at C40 Cities. It will be held at Arup, 8 Fitzroy Street London W1T 4BJ, 16:30 – 19:30, Thursday 2 October 2025. Doors open at 16:00.



The debate will be held under the Chatham House Rule, starting with 10-minute presentations by the speakers, followed by discussion amongst the speakers and with the audience. Afterwards, there will be networking opportunities and refreshments. The debate is free and attendance is by invitation only. Places are limited and available on a 'first come first served' basis. To reserve a place please register using the link [Sustainable UK Cities: What, How and When Tickets, Thu, Oct 2, 2025 at 4:30 PM | Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1652891355539?aff=oddtcreator)

WCT Sponsored Walk

The Water Conservation Trust has organised a sponsored walk for Sunday 5th October 2025 starting at 12 noon, along the Tring Summit of the Grand Union Canal to raise funds for the Trust's schools programme. The walk will start at 12 noon outside Tring Railway Station then follow the route of the Grand Union Canal along

the Tring Summit including the Marsworth flight of locks and finish at Cheddington Station.



To participate in the Sponsored Walk please email rob.casey1@hotmail.com no later than Monday 29th September 2025 and include the names of any guests attending with you. Also, you can sponsor us using the following link to our Crowdfunder donation page <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/2025-wct-sponsored-walk>

Charity Update

The Water Conservation Trust sponsors the Steam Explorers Course, an after-school activity for children at the London Museum of Water and Steam where they can get hands on experience in engineering and learn about the history of water supply. Six explorers completed the summer 2025 course, three have signed up as volunteers, and one completed a week of work experience at the Museum. Below is some of the feedback received from parents:-

"I am grateful that my daughter could take part in something that she could not access anywhere else. Such a unique location, history and practical hands-on learning - just perfect, thank you!". "Well organised course with very knowledgeable and experienced staff, children being given the confidence to work with the machinery in a safe but exciting way."

