

## ***THE LIVERY COMPANIES***

In mediaeval days people carrying out the same craft or trade tended to live and work near each other and also began to make arrangements amongst themselves for maintaining standards of workmanship, not only for the benefit of their clients but also their own mutual benefit. They did this by forming "companies." The earliest reliable record of a company is of the granting of a Royal Charter to the Weavers' Company in 1155.

The term *livery* is used to describe the distinctive clothing and badges worn by Livery men of the Companies which depicted their trade or craft. Many of the Livery Companies are based in the City of London

The ethos of the companies is timeless: fellowship, welfare, education and at all times working in the best interests of the communities in which they operate. However within this ethos the individual companies vary significantly in their age, beginnings, size and approach to the modern world. Some are ancient, whilst others have been founded in the last twenty years. Some are still active in their original trades, others less so or not at all. Some are wealthy, most are not. Some have names that most people may not easily recognise such as *Loriners* and *Paviors*. Others have more contemporary titles such as the *Information Technologists* and *World Traders*.

There are now more than 100 City of London Companies and the *Water Conservators* is the 102<sup>nd</sup>.

The first three companies are familiar names In order of precedence they are:

- [1] the *Mercers* (established in 1394)
- [2] the *Grocers* (1345) and
- [3] the *Drapers* (1364).

From their earliest times the companies undertook a responsibility for the education and training of young people. Training apprentices in the skills and art of their trade was an important part of a liveryman's duties.

## ***THE WATER CONSERVATORS***

Membership of the Company is by invitation, and is open to those who are, or have been, professionally concerned with the water cycle and the environment. It was formed in 1988 and became a Livery Company in 2000.

## ***COMPANY OBJECTIVE***

The Company's prime objective is:

*"To promote the development and advancement of the science art and practice of water and environmental management."*

## ***COMPANY CHARITY***

In order to support this objective the Company established a charitable trust known as the *Water Conservation Trust* [Charity Number 1,007,648].

## ***THE "PUPILS' PRIZES" SCHEME***

As a young Company it aims to develop its educational activities. The purpose of the scheme is to promote a greater awareness and understanding by school children of the role of water and the environment in all our lives.

Any Company member may invite a school to participate, He / she "registers" the school with the Company Clerk and is designated the School Water Conservator.

Alternatively, any school teacher may approach the Company Clerk, (contact details overleaf), and express interest in participating. The Clerk will then arrange for a Company member to progress this with the teacher.

- o The Head Teacher and / or the selected class teacher agree the approach with the School Water Conservator.

- o The class teacher, in consultation with the School Water Conservator (if necessary), sets a water / environmental project for the class as part of their normal National Curriculum studies of the subject.

- o The pupils prepare their projects and submit them to the class teacher for assessment, in the usual way.

- o The class teacher and the School Water Conservator (if necessary) judge the projects.
- o The winners receive certificates and prizes to the value of say £25, £20, and £15 respectively (maximum £100 per school). The winner also gets a limited edition Water Conservator's Goblet, to keep.
- o The School Water Conservator presents the prizes on an appropriate occasion, as determined by the Head Teacher

### ***POSSIBLE PROJECTS***

Some examples are listed below, but the Company is happy to encourage any water or conservation-related project, undertaken by a group of pupils.

- o **LABORATORY:** Water filtration in a plastic cup, using fundamental materials to see who produces the cleanest water.\*
- o **FIELD:** Survey of pond or river life.\*
- o **DESK:** Review of water availability in different countries, and its relationship to the spread or prevention of disease.\*
- o **WORKSHOP:** Make a water wheel or water meter.
- o **IT:** Develop a "Water Awareness" website\*

\* Projects of this type would allow easier 'inter-school' judging, if and when the time comes. See '*THE FUTURE*'

### ***THE FUTURE***

At the moment the scheme is operating in a number of schools. If sufficient schools participate, it could evolve to include an annual inter-school competition. In this the winning projects from each school will be assessed against each other and a 'national' winner determined. The hope is that a substantial prize, of, say, £1000, will be awarded to the school that produces the best project, and that the Head Teacher and the pupil from that school will be invited to a formal Water Conservators' lunch or dinner, to receive the prize on behalf of their school.

### ***FURTHER INFORMATION***

Further information may be obtained from the Company's web site:  
<http://www.waterconservators.org/charities.html>  
 or from the Company Clerk:  
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 'The Lark'  
 2 Bell Lane  
 Worlington  
 IP28 8SE  
 Tel: 01638 510626 (daytime)  
 Email: [clerk@waterconservators.org](mailto:clerk@waterconservators.org)



***THE WORSHIPFUL  
 COMPANY  
 OF  
 WATER CONSERVATORS***

***PUPILS' PRIZES***