

## THE LIVERY COMPANIES

In mediaeval days the 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 and 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 Paviers. Others have more contemporary titles such as the Information Technologists.

There are now 103 City of London Companies and the Water Conservators is the 102nd. The first three companies are familiar names. In order of precedent they are: [1] the Mercers [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

The 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 started as a Guild in 1988 and became a Livery Company in 2000.

## THEIR OBJECTIVE

The Company’s prime objective is: “To promote the development and advancement of the science art and practice of water and environmental management for the public benefit and the fostering and promotion of education, training, study and research in the said science for the benefit of the public in general.”

## THEIR 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” INITIATIVE

As a vibrant young Company, it now wishes to further develop its educational activities. The purpose of the Pupils’ Prizes initiative is to promote a greater awareness and understanding by school children of the role of water and the environment in all our lives.

## HOW “PUPILS’ PRIZES” IS RUN

1. Any Water Conservator invites an appropriate school to participate, He /she “registers” the school with the Company, and is designated the School Water Conservator.
2. The Head Teacher and / or the selected class teacher agree the approach with the School Water Conservator.
3. 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.
4. The pupils prepare their projects and submit them to the class teacher for assessment, in the usual way.

5. The class teacher and the School Water Conservator (if necessary) choose the first, second, and third projects.

6. The winners get 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.

7. The School Water Conservator, suitably robed, presents the prizes on an appropriate occasion, as determined by the Head Teacher.

#### EXAMPLES OF PROJECTS

Here are some examples of different types of possible projects, but the Company is happy to encourage any water or conservation related projects, undertaken by a group of pupils.

1 LABORATORY Water filtration in a plastic cup, using fundamental materials to see who gets the cleanest water.

2 FIELD Survey of pond / river life.\*

3 DESK Review of water availability in different countries, and its relationship to spread / prevention of disease.\*

4 WORKSHOP Make a water wheel / water meter.

5 IT Develop a "Water Awareness" website\*

\* These types of projects would allow easier "inter-school" judging, if and when the time comes. See "Future Developments."

#### FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

At the moment the Company is carrying out this initiative at a number of "pilot" schools. Should it create the interest that is anticipated, it will be widened to more schools, but also be evolved to become an annual inter-school competition. 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/>

#### CONTACTS

In the first instance please contact your

School Water Conservator who is: -

NAME.....

TEL.....

EMAIL.....

Participating schools should be registered with the Company Clerk, Ralph Riley:

Tel 020 8421 0305 (daytime)

Email [clerk@waterconservators.org](mailto:clerk@waterconservators.org)



## THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF WATER CONSERVATORS

### PUPILS' PRIZES