The Worshipful Company of Water Conservators Wardens

Keith Tezzi BSc, MA, C Eng, FICE, FCWEM, CMI, FRAeS
Freeman of the Company since 1995 and was installed as Thames Warden on 1st July 2015.

Keith spent his early career with Thames Water and Southern Water and was one of three executive directors of Southern Water plc during the period of privatisation and growth into a wide range of ancillary businesses. In 1994 he was headhunted as CEO of the British Standards Institution and led the extensive international expansion into its countries and the establishment of several commercial enterprises. In 2000 he was appointed Group Chief Executive of the Swan Group plc which owned Maid Kent Water, an energy consultancy, a food testing business and an international engineering consultancy. Keith led a successful management buy out of the business.

In 2005 he established two new testing and inspection businesses which is based in Guernsey, UK, Cayman, Bermuda, Malta and Dubai – the business moved offshore in 2014.

In 2014 Keith co-founded The Body Detoxification Ltd, a new testing business focused on analysing a wide variety of matrices related to promotion of fitness and well-being.

Keith enjoys spending time with his three children and four grandchildren and finds time to indulge himself in his love of cars and particularly, Fiona, his wife.

On leaving school he started his career in construction teams in remote locations. He worked on sewerage and infrastructure projects locally, in Pakistan and in the Middle East. Following graduation, he worked for Ashcroft & Parkman in Liverpool, he gained a grounding in job costing, wages, contracts and administrative systems through his early career. He was involved with financial control of the Ministry of Works where he gained a grounding in job costing, wages, contracts and administrative systems throughout the Department. In 1986 he transferred to the Department of the Environment and joined a team responsible for the preparation and introduction of Water Resources Regulation involving major changes to local government finance. The final 10 years of Mike’s career were spent as Head of Water Conservation, Water Regulations and Export Promotion in the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions. He was responsible for the production of “Using Water Wisely”, the Government’s first consultation paper on water conservation.

Work on water quality and water fittings legislation brought him into extensive contact with water companies, regulators and a wide variety of water-related organisations and industries. He was also responsible for organising and participating in water industry trade missions led by Environment Ministers. Following retirement from full-time employment Mike lectured extensively at home and abroad on water privatisation, regulation and water fittings legislation.

Mike was educated at Alleyn’s School, London, and has a honours degree in Civil Engineering at Salford University. His career, spanning more than 40 years, has been in water-related aspects of metrology, and more particularly, Fiona, his wife. He has also served on the executive committee of a local Arts Council.

Dear Water Conservator,

It is a great honour to be elected your 27th Master. Your Company is in good shape and well placed to extend its influence and impact on events in the City and encourage Conservators’ support to young people.

Georgina and I will play a full part in organising technical events to confront current and future challenges in our sector and social events to increase our well-being. Electing an accountant as Master may seem a strange choice but after 10 years in the gas industry dealing with financial, environmental and safety legislation involving major changes to local government finance, I am sure I will be able to bring a different perspective to the Company.

I shall fully support the Company’s engagement with the City, with Companies and, in collaboration with the City of London, encourage Conservators’ support to young people about their own career paths and experiences.

We have achieved a great deal in our 27 years and the time has come to lay the foundations for our middle age and an additional task for our university students should be talking to young people about their own career paths and experiences.

The Trust has a charitable fund, and a Trustee of Lower Green Community Association.

I intend to enjoy the year and I hope you will too.

Ralph Riley
The Clerk
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The Newsletter of the Worshipful Company of Water Conservators

A message from the Master

WALBROOK WARDEN

Richard Walter C Eng, BSc (Hons), MICE, FICE, FIWEM
Freeman of the Company since 1995 and was installed as Walbrook Warden on 1st July 2015.

Richard, after education at Bootham School, York, gained an honours degree in Civil Engineering at Cardiff University. His career, spanning more than 40 years, has been in water-related aspects of civil engineering consultancy. Following a sandwich course with Ward, Ashcroft & Parkman in Liverpool, he gained full time employment with them in 1978. He worked on sewerage and infrastructure projects for local authorities and private clients. Richard then took an 18-month posting with Tarmac, Monks of Oman, being responsible for managing multi-ethnic construction teams in remote locations. Returning to the UK, he joined Sir Frederick Snow and Partners’ Public Health team in London, working on major sewage treatment, sea outfalls and sewerage projects for Anglian and Wessex Water Authorities, prior to privatisation. He became an Associate of the firm, being responsible for a wide range of sewerage, water and infrastructure projects, both in the UK and overseas, including 18 months in Saudi Arabia.

Richard re-joined Parkman in 1991 at Parkman Buck, London. Soon after, he joined the international division, his work being mostly managing projects in Nigeria for the World Bank, including design and supervision of several £20m water supply systems. Before transferring to the role of Regional Director in West Yorkshire, he had moved onto institutional strengthening and privatisation studies, and worked in, or visited, most of anglophone Africa.

After Parkman became Mouchel, Richard ran their Southern Water division, including teams for energy, environmental and water and wastewater. In 2010, his post being made redundant, he set up his own consultancy, resulting in water and wastewater projects focused on water and legal views of water authorities and water companies. By 1999, this covered all disciplines, and after 2002, I spent much of my time developing and presenting science-based advice to the European Commission. During this time I also evaluated turnaround projects in Central Asia and South-east Europe. It was in Warsaw that I met the late Hugh Berridge, who was my specialist expert on metrology, and consequently I became a Freeman in 1997.

During the year I shall be working with my Wardens to extend the reach and standing of the Company and Conservators and this will be encouraged, particularly in schools. School projects generally require local connections and some guidance and limited financial support from expert Trustees. A second issue raised by schools is the importance of career advice, especially for careers in STEM subjects. Career determining choices are often made at the age of 14 and an additional task for our university students should be talking to young people about their own career paths and experiences.

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I intend to enjoy the year and I hope you will too.

Peter Hall – Master

Design by A. Hall

The Conservator

The Conservator is the official newsletter of the Worshipful Company of Water Conservators. It is published quarterly and distributed to members of the Company. The newsletter contains news and updates about the Company’s activities, events, and initiatives, as well as informative articles on water-related topics. It serves as a platform for sharing knowledge, fostering discussions, and promoting engagement within the water conservator community.
Reflections on the year as Deputy Master 2014 – 2015
by Roger North

It has been a privilege to be Master over the last year. It has been busy but Christine and I thoroughly enjoyed the experience. During the year I have attended in excess of 120 events. Christine has accompanied me to all events when she was invited and she has attended about 12 on her own. During this year the Mistressess (and consorts) from a number of Livery Companies have organised their own non-reciprocal events and other livery companies as well as the modern livery companies.

I have been fortunate to attend a number of commemorative anniversary livery events during the year including, the Drapers’, the Vintners’ 350th, the Clockmakers’ 50th and the Plumbers’ 650th as well as the presentation of the Feuellers’ Charter by HRH The Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex.

At my installation lunch I said I wanted to re-energise our Military links. This has been achieved successfully. The affiliation with HMS Scott has been re-established and we continue to actively support the Maidstone Sea Cadets. Our affiliation with AIDUS is ongoing and their Commanding Officer is keen to develop relations with our Company. We have a new affiliation agreement with 66Works Group, Royal Engineers which was signed at the Election Court in April.

Corporate membership was another target of mine and I’m pleased to say that we now have 5 Corporate Company members with Ricardo AEA being added in January.

Our social events have been excellent with visits to Dowgate Fire Station, the Globe Theatre, the River Walk, the Company Golf Day, the British Library and the College of Arms. We have two Master’s weekends, one in July 2014 to Cromer and in May this year to Salisbury. I’m very grateful to the social team for organising events but particularly, Peter and Lis Matthews and Nigel and Stella Matttavers for organising the weekends. I would encourage members to come to social events as these are a great opportunity to meet other members and their partners in a relaxed environment.

There are a number of notable annual events in the Master’s calendar but I would highlight four. The Lord Mayor’s Parade.

The Queen’s Garden Party. The presentation of the Jug of Thams Water to the Lord Mayor to celebrate the anniversary of the sale of the Conservancy of the River Thames by Richard I to the Corporation of London in 1197. The Tudor Pail Ceremony held in May when the Master presents the ‘Stela’ crafted from an ancient piece of elm conduit from the City at Hampton Court to be taken to the Tower of London by the Queen’s Barge master on board the Gloriana, the Queen’s row barge. It is a tremendous experience to be transported on such a prestigious vessel and to have the acknowledgement of the spectators on the way.

We continue to be one of the main Livery Companies in the WET10. The City Water Debate this year was a resounding success with around 200 attending. The question was ‘When will London Flood?’. Presentations were given by Dr Paul LeConter, CEO of the Environment Agency and Prof. David Balmforth the President of the Institution of Civil Engineers.

One of the other highlights to my year was the unveiling of the Blue Plaque, in Cheapside, to mark the end of the Great Conduit on the day of our Christmas Court. This is the second Blue Plaque the Company has sponsored on the route of the conduit.

Christine and I attended the very moving Hackney Carriage Drivers’ ‘Big Breakfast’ in Canary Wharf when sick and terminally ill children are taken on a weekend visit to Euro Disney in London Cab. The Water Conservators sponsored a cab from our collection at the installation lunch. Attendances at the Banquet and all lunches were excellent during the year giving us a positive income. We were also able to make charity donations of £1000 each from our lunch collections to the Lord Mayor’s Charity, the Treloar Trust and ABF The Soldiers Charity.

My last day of City engagements as Master was on 24 June when we elected the new Sheriffs at Common Hall. The day was full, starting with breakfast at the Haberdashers’ Hall, Common Hall, lunch with the Master Mariners on HQS Wellington, Armed Forces Flag raising ceremony on Guildhall Yard and finally, being rowed by our all women crew in the Admiral of the Port Challenges Rowing Race on the Thames. A terrific performance as usual.

The year was rounded off at the Marketers’ Golf Day at Verulam, the home of the Ryder Cup, as part of the Water Conservators team.

At the end of my year as Master, I’m pleased to hand over the Company in a strong position. I would like to thank all those who have supported me particularly, my Wardens, our Clerk, my Bailiff, and our Beadle.

Roger North – Deputy Master

The Prize for the biggest pumpkin went to Whitgift School, Bromley.

The Water Conservation Trust

This year the Trust has focused on developing its Schools Education Programme, providing Conservators’ expertise in support of water and environmental projects.

The Programme funds and supports suitable projects to enhance water-related science and environmental education in our schools. The Trust also gives prizes to pupils for school projects in support of these activities, especially for observation and recording skills. This is intended to encourage more of our children to consider a career in science, particularly in water and environment, and helps to encourage thinking about water efficiency and care of the environment at an early age.

A pumpkin growing competition was organised during 2014 by Thames Water to increase awareness about the amount of water needed to sustain crops. Schools supported by the Trust were offered prizes for the heaviest pumpkins and most creative carving. The prize for the biggest pumpkin went to Russilp High School and the prize for the best carved pumpkin went to Whitgift School, Bromley. The competition was a great opportunity for children to grow their own pumpkins for Halloween, learn about the importance and amount of water required to grow the vegetables that feed us, and also learn about the important contribution that rainwater harvesting can make to ensure the best use of our water resources to meet future population growth.

The Trust is repeating the competition in 2015 using sunflower seeds.

The Prize for the biggest pumpkin went to Whitgift School.

For many years the Trust has supported Nigel gogarth, a day and residential special school in Llandudno, by encouraging gardening and the development of training for young people in environmental skills as a prelude to work. This has been successful and has been used as a showcase for other schools in north Wales. The Trust has been approached by a similar school in rhyd which would like to go down the same path. Following a visit, Trustees have agreed to support the school if it can prepare a satisfactory development plan.

A significant impact has also been made through technical and financial support to schools for special projects such as the management of ponds and an aquarium. These facilities allow the children to safely study water ecology, consider water quality and the need to balance the ecology of water and life.

A competition has been organised with three organisations and two scout troops in South London as part of the Lost Effra Project to promote water efficiency with school children. Children are encouraged to look for where water is being wasted or efficiency could be improved both at home and in school. The Trust is offering small prizes to the best submissions.

The first batch of prizes was presented to Hill Milad Primary School in Brixton in November 2015. The Trust is looking to expand its commitment to the Schools Education Programme and is pursuing the possibility of extending its links with schools, initially, in the London area by working with Thames Water in projects to improve water efficiency in selected secondary schools. The success of this venture could lead to similar schemes with other UK water companies.

The Student Eats project, led by the NUS, promotes designated growing areas at universities to encourage students to grow their own food. The Trust has provided funding to support the installation of rainwater harvesting and irrigation at three universities – Staffordshire, Exeter and Cumbria and awaits a report on its usefulness. The Company’s Universities Programme is now in its eighth year.

In 2014, the Trust supported students at eight UK universities by providing bursaries towards postgraduate degrees for the 2015 intake, the Trust has offered water, waste and environmental bursaries to four core universities: Brunel London, Sidney Sussex Cambridge, Newcastle and Wadham Oxford. A further sum will be available for the possibility of expanding its links with other universities – Staffordshire, Exeter and Cumbria. The Trust also supports a career development bursary for secondary schools. The success of this venture could lead to similar schemes with other UK water companies.

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The Water Conservation Trust

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Calendar of Events 2015–2016

1 July 2015 Installation Lunch HDS Wellington
10 September 2015 Company Visit Globe Theatre
14 September 2015 Michaelmas Lunch Trinity House
29 September 2015 Election of Lord Mayor Guildhall
5 November 2015 Annual Banquet Grosvenors’ Hall
14 November 2015 Lord Mayor’s Show City of London
January 2016 Myddelton Lunch Trinity House
11 March 2016 United Guilds Service St Paul’s Cathedral
21 April 2016 Election Lunch Barber Surgeons’ Hall
24 June 2016 Election of Sheriffs Guildhall

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