A Message from the Master

I and my Consort, Judy, share some wonderful memories of my Installation Lunch which was held in Stationers Hall just a few days ago, attended by so many members of the Company and distinguished guests. It is a huge honour and privilege to be installed as your 31st Master. I look forward with excitement and relish to the opportunities and challenges of the year ahead.

But first I should like to pay tribute to my predecessor, Simon Catford, and his Consort Wendy. They have both worked unstintingly for the Company over the past year, and have enjoyed an outstanding year as Master and Consort. I congratulate them both on their outstanding service to the Company and on their achievement. They have set the bar very high indeed!

The key initiatives of the coming year will reflect an underlying theme of “Continuity”. Quite simply, the issues that we face as a Livery Company are too significant to be resolved within the annual term of office of one Master. Every year, The World Economic Forum meets in Davos in January, and one of the outputs from that meeting is the Annual Global Risk Register. For 2019 five of the top ten global risks perceived as most likely to occur this year are “Water” or “Water by Another Name”.

Who then would question the relevance of the Worshipful Company of Water Conservators to current events and issues of global significance? We unquestionably have a reservoir of talent, experience and energy within the Company membership. Thus we have unprecedented opportunities to make a difference in terms of thought leadership on some of the absolutely critical issues facing society today both in the UK and worldwide – through networking, catalysing and coordinating action, speeches, visits, and writing articles. One excellent illustration of what can be achieved was the launch of our “Control of your Environment” initiative on the 22nd March 2019 that followed the WET 10 Lecture on Plastics and the Oceans. Led by Master Simon Catford these are an example of how the Company can catalyse and enable an initiative to take place, in this case working with The City of London Corporation, Thames Water, Thames 21 and others. Steps have been taken to ensure continued development of the relationship with the City of London Corporation on environmental matters under my Mastership.

Work is already underway to organise next year’s WET 10 Lecture, which will be on the subject of “Which Way Water 2050?” What will the world of water look like in 2050? To what extent will Digital Water assist in solving society’s water problems? How will the skills shortage in education and training within the water industry be addressed? All key issues for the ongoing success of the UK water industry. The H_2_Outreach initiative to gain new members has been very successful, and I intend to continue with this during my year as Master – to recruit full Livery, Associate Freemen and Corporate Members. It is my aspiration that the range and quality of events that the Company hosts or enables will assist in fostering membership growth within the Company. Taken in the round, they will present a compelling proposition for joining the Company.

Turning to the broader spectrum of the Company’s social events, Judy and I have decided to hold the Master’s Weekend earlier in my year of office than has been the recent custom. We look forward to welcoming as many of you as possible to Bridport for an early autumn weekend on the 27th to 29th September – look out for more details. There will be the customary visit to The Globe Theatre, this year on the 18th September, to enjoy “As You Like It”. In addition planned visits include – Denis Severs’ House at 18 Folgate Street; Sir John Soane’s Museum; and the Foundling Hospital.

In conclusion – the core purpose of our Company has never been more relevant than it is today. I look forward to serving you as Master over the year ahead, so that with your help, we can all truly say that we have put “Water First”.

Mark Lane
Master
Our Wardens 2019 - 2020

Thames Warden

Rob Casey, BSc. Eng., MCIWEM, joined the Company as a Freeman in 2006 and was appointed as Thames Warden in July 2019. Born in North West London, Rob obtained a degree in Civil Engineering at Imperial College London and started his career in the water industry, initially with Southern Water, moving to Thames Water in 1977. Rob has over 40 years of experience in water systems engineering with specialisation in applying hydraulic models for planning, designing and optimising major water supply systems.

For 20 years as Network Analysis Manager and Water Modelling Manager at Thames Water Rob managed a group responsible for all clean water hydraulic modelling for a supply network supporting over 7.5 million customers.

In 2015 he became Water Strategy Manager to manage a team responsible for the strategic operation of the Thames Water supply system.

Rob is a member of the Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management and was Chairman of the Metropolitan Branch in 1999/2000. He was also a member of the American Water Works Association for 20 years, serving as a technical expert on AWWA research projects. He has presented papers at conferences all around the world. For many years Rob was a lecturer for Water Training International.

As a Trustee for the Water Conservation Trust Rob coordinates the schools programme for the Trust and in 2015 he became a governor at Hugh Myddelton School.

Walbrook Warden

Martin Baggs, BSc. CEng. FiCE, joined the company as a Freeman in 2012 and was elected as Walbrook Warden on 11th April 2019.

Martin originally trained as a civil engineer and started his career in the water industry in 1986 with Southern Water in the days of drawing boards, pens, stencils and tea trolleys. Martin spent almost 20 years with Southern Water covering most areas of the business enjoying the challenges that it brought as the Operations Director before eventually leaving in 2005 to become Managing Director of South East Water.

With a total change of direction Martin then joined Macquarie Bank with responsibility for a range of investments across Europe including Thames Water. After a spell of being a Non-executive Director he became the Chief Executive Officer of Thames Water in 2009. As well as being responsible for running the largest water and wastewater company in the UK the role also included the development of the Thames Tideway Tunnel following in the footsteps of the great Sir Joseph Bazalgette.

Martin is a Fellow of the Institution of Civil Engineers, an Honorary Fellow of the Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management, a member of the Institute of Water and a Trustee of Thames 21. He is passionate about education and the environment and has a keen interest in the history and heritage of the industry whilst having a reputation for being challenging and delivering change.

Being born in Portsmouth, educated in Plymouth and now in Brighton Martin has always lived on the south coast enjoying everything that it has to offer. He has a range of hobbies and interests but above all else enjoys spending time with his two daughters, Rosie and Anna.

Fleet Warden

Graham Howell, BSc. CEng. FICE, started his career in East Kent with Thanet District Council who sponsored him to read Civil Engineering in which he obtained a First Class Honours Degree. He was fortunate to work on two major schemes, Margate Outfall and Relief Sewer and the development of Ramsgate Harbour.

Following a period with Southern Water Authority he moved to East Sussex to take up the role of Group Engineer within Wealden District Council. He was primarily involved in rural drainage and flood relief schemes. Privatisation of the UK Water Industry resulted in Graham joining South West Water as a Project Manager looking after the upgrade of frameworks within the UK Water Industry.

Throughout his career Graham has kept his passion for Engineering along with a strong belief in the development of graduates and apprentices - this led to AECOM being recognised as one of the top graduate employers in the UK.

Graham retired fully last November and now enjoys spending time with his grandchildren, travelling, playing golf and helping to run the local rugby club.

Graham made the move to Oscar Faber in 1993, looking after the South West Offices in Exeter and Bristol. Following the merger with AECOM, reorganisation of the business resulted in him being appointed to the position of Managing Director of Water and Environment. Further acquisitions lead to Graham’s role expanding to cover initially Europe, followed by the addition of the Middle East and later Africa and India. Highlights during his career included the management and engineering of building dams and flood channels through the city of Jeddah in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, assisting with water pollution from disused gold mines in the Johannesburg region of South Africa and winning numerous awards.

Rob has a keen interest in the history of London’s water supply presenting at various meetings including the Royal Society of Chemistry. He is an ambassador for Museum of London Archaeology and currently chairs the technical steering group of the Plastic Free City campaign for the City of London Corporation.

In 2015 he became Water Strategy Manager to manage a team responsible for the strategic operation of the Thames Water supply system.

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Free City campaign for the City of London, he is a member of the Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management and was Chairman of the Metropolitan Branch in 1999/2000. He was also a member of the American Water Works Association for 20 years, serving as a technical expert on AWWA research projects. He has presented papers at conferences all around the world. For many years Rob was a lecturer for Water Training International.

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Deputy Master’s Report

As the Water Conservators 30th Master it was a privilege to lead the Company into its fourth decade and to assist in shaping its future role in an ever-changing world. With the unstinting support of the Wardens, Clerk, Court Assistants and many others we have achieved great things for the Company, the industry we serve, the wider Livery and for charity. It has been an incredible year and the Mistress and I have been proud to play our part.

Turning to the work we do for the industry we serve, our week-long series of events to mark World Water Day focusing on plastic and the environmental damage it causes was a real triumph and is reported overleaf. We also participated at two high-profile seminars on the subject of plastic pollution. The first at the Westminster Sustainability Forum saw key-note speeches from industry leaders and regulators, with valuable contributions from the Company during the day. This was followed by a Roundtable seminar at Lambeth Palace with attendees from across the globe – particularly the Commonwealth - to share common understanding on Ocean Plastic Pollution. Again, the Company’s experience and knowledge were well received and I was able to add significantly to the debate.

Furthermore, we sponsored an award won by Rothschild Bank for sustainable innovation at the annual Clean City Awards and gave input to the Museum of London’s excellent exhibition ‘London’s Secret Rivers’ at their Docklands site. And I was also proud, together with Sherriff the Hon Liz Green, to mark the course of the River Fleet via the unveiling of a Blue Plaque fixed to the walls of Barclays Bank on Fleet Street!

Staring perhaps with our charity work, the Company has been tremendously supportive of a number of good causes either via the Lord Mayors Appeal or directly. Our visit to Treloars School and College in Hampshire was a particular highpoint and to witness at first hand the incredible work the staff and volunteers do for disadvantaged children is truly humbling. And keeping on the theme of children, to be part of the send-off for the Magical Taxi Tour in September was a privilege.

Being part of the wider Livery movement in the City allows us to play our part in the Civic events that punctuate the calendar over the year. One of the most profound was to attend the commemorations to mark the 100th anniversary of the end of WWI. I was proud to represent the Company at a service in St Pauls on Armistice Day and also at a moving ceremony in the Garden of Remembrance a week earlier. St Pauls was also the venue for the United Guilds Service in March and the Festival of St Cecilia in November, both big set-piece civic events with the Lord Mayor in attendance. And of course, the Lord Mayors Show is one of the fun events in any year – and it didn’t rain!

On the social side the Mistress and I were delighted to host the Masters Dinner on Valentine’s Day in the Little Ship Club and the Masters Weekend in Chichester in May. Both events were well attended and a good time was had by all! Our annual Banquet at the wonderful Drapers Hall was also a stand-out event and we were honoured to have as our guest speaker the former Bishop of London the Rt Hon and Rt Revd Lord Richard Chartres who gave an incredible address that touched us all in its warmth and humanity for the world we live in. And on a lighter note, the annual Tudor Pull from Hampton Court to Tower Bridge aboard the HMS Gloriana, the Queens Rowing Barge was an absolute blast and we were delighted to have as our guests Sherriff the Hon Liz Green and her Consort Peter who had a marvellous time of it.

There are so many other events that took place throughout the year and space does not allow but the Bank of England visit, our Sponsored Walk and the visit to Kensington Palace all spring to mind. As does the Garden Party at Buckingham Palace in May!

The Mistress has been busy too and enjoyed a wide range of social and charitable events via the City Consorts Club. What great work they do.

So finally, may I thank everyone for their amazing support during the year and I know that the Company is as vibrant, energetic and relevant as ever and can play a real part in shaping the future of our environment in the City and beyond.

Simon Catford
Deputy Master
World Water Day

Plastic Litter Picking

The first event in the run-up to World Water Day was designed to highlight the scourge of single use plastic and was in support of the City of London Corporations’ “Plastic Free City Campaign”.

…… and so it was, on a chilly Saturday morning (16th March) the Master Simon Catford, Fleet Warden Rob Casey and Past Master Keith Tozzi joined a team organised by Thames 21 as part of their research programme aimed at identifying types of single use plastic and their origin, washed up on the Thames foreshore. We were joined by representatives from Nomura and Goldman Sachs (both keen supporters of the City of London initiative) together with the City of London Environmental Committee Chairman, Jeremy Simons. We met at The Banker pub (near Cannon Street) and after a safety briefing and the issuing of safety gloves we set off for the foreshore at Queenhithe, about a 5-minute walk away.

Although the foreshore had only been cleaned two weeks before, we were staggered to collect over about an hour, several large bags of items including bottles, straws, cotton buds, tile spacers and pen tops. Incidentally, we also found plenty of evidence of animal bones, shells, bricks and clay pipes from London’s historic past. Details of the plastics we found were added to data collected by Thames 21 from a series of sites along the Thames. A combination of river flows and locations of combined storm-water overflows meant that we found little evidence of wet wipes, although sites at Hammersmith and further east along the Thames record large quantities of these nightmare pollutants that cause so much damage in forming “fatbergs” in the sewerage system.

Photographs show the foreshore and some of the plastic items collected.

Keith Tozzi
Past Master & PR Manager

Drinking Water Refill Point

The next key event was the unveiling of a new drinking water refill point in Cheapside, on 20th March, as part of the Plastic Free City initiative.

The City of London Corporation are installing a number these refill points across the City, to encourage the filling of re-useable containers with drinking water. This new facility, immediately adjacent to Bow Churchyard was unveiled by the Master, Simon Catford, and the Lady Mayoress, Lindy Estlin. Also in attendance, were children from Hugh Myddelton School which is supported by our charity, The Water Conservation Trust and Fleet Warden Rob Casey, who is a Governor of the school.

Photographs show the Master, Mistress and Fleet warden at the ceremony and schoolchildren helping the Master fill his water bottle from the new refill point.

Keith Tozzi
Past Master & PR Manager

WET 10 Debate

On the eve of World Water Day, the annual WET 10 debate took place in the Guildhall. Organised by the Water Conservators, this well established event brings together those livery companies associated with the supply or use of water, together with representatives from academia, regulators and our own Members.

The well attended event, which focused on the harm that society’s reliance on plastics is causing the water and marine environments, was opened by Sheriff the Hon Liz Green. The two speakers were Professor Richard Thompson (Plymouth University) and Dr Lynette Dollar (Stantec sustainability consultant) – both presentations were well received and gave a balanced view between the benefits and dis-benefits of plastic to society. This led to a lively Q & A session!

Many thanks to our sponsors, The City of London Corporation and Stantec.

Photograph shows The Sheriff and Master prior to opening the event.

Keith Tozzi
Past Master & PR Manager
“Taking Control of Your Environment” - Launch on World Water Day

Following months of preparation under the guidance of our project manager, Fleet Warden Rob Casey, on a dry but overcast day, the Water Conservators launched their “Taking Control of Your Environment” initiative on 22nd March in Guildhall Yard.

Working with their key partners, Thames Water, the City of London Corporation (and their “Plastic Free City” campaign) and Thames 21, and the full support of the Lord Mayor Alderman Peter Estlin, the initiative focuses on three key areas:

- using water wisely
- what not to put down your drain, and
- removing plastic waste in rivers and oceans.

With several hundred children and adults present, the event was formally opened by Sheriff the Hon Liz Green with our Master Simon Catford, Richard Aylard (Thames Water External Affairs & Sustainability Director) and Natalie Parker (Executive Head Teacher of Hugh Myddelton/Winton Schools) welcoming everyone and lending support to the initiative.

The Master took the opportunity to link the water and environment related events of the week in which the Water Conservators had played a key role. He was proud to confirm that the Company has never been more relevant.

Richard Aylard took the opportunity (with two volunteer schoolchildren) to demonstrate, using water filled bottles, how easily toilet tissue breaks down but wet wipes (a major cause of “fatbergs” and beach/foreshore pollution) remain intact.

Natalie Park spoke of the close association the Water Conservators have with her schools and the generous contributions made by the Water Conservation Trust in promoting STEM subjects. She also spoke about Rob Casey (then Fleet Warden) and the excellent work he does as one of her School Governors.

Schoolchildren and adults took the opportunity to view the Thames Estuary Partnership (TEP) video “The Living Thames” which was screened in the Crypt beneath the Guildhall. This excellent video, with an introduction by Sir David Attenborough, held everyone’s attention.

Our Magic Tap was the main focus of attention (particularly for photographers) in the displays, but was joined by a Thames Water tanker/jetter, a display of recyclable plastic by Viridor, stands by Thames Water, Stantec, Thames 21, TEP and the City of London Corporation (focusing on their Plastic Free City campaign).

A much-admired display was of the large Albatross (an endangered species) models made from scrap plastic by the children from Myddelton School.

The very well attended event, which ran for over two hours, will be followed up with a schools’ competition and a photography competition for adults.

Many thanks to everyone who helped pull this event together and manning it on the day. It was very successful and has helped focus everyone on how they can help control their environment by using water wisely, not putting wet wipes and oils down their drain and working to minimise single use plastic.

Photographs show the Hon Liz Green, opening the event, Richard Aylard (Thames Water) demonstrating the problems with wet wipes, our magic tap and schoolchildren watching a demonstration of a sludge tanker/jetter in operation.

Keith Tozzi
Past Master & PR Manager
Networking Events

In support of Project H2Outreach, a series of Networking events took place during the year. These very informal gatherings have proved highly successful.

In early January we held an event specifically aimed at younger members at the WeWork offices in Devonshire Square. Led by Liveryman Robbie Epsom, invited guests received information about the Company, its mentoring programmes and networking capabilities at first hand. Another event followed in May at the Guildhall and open to a wider audience. Again, Wardens and members of the Court engaged with prospective members why the Company is so relevant and ‘on-message’ in the current environment.

Both events have garnered a number of new members and we will continue to build on this work going forward. Look out for further details in due course.

Simon Catford
Deputy Master

Rowing

Two visits to the Tideway with the Company team led by Bargemaster Johnny Dwan saw excellent results. The Port of London Challenge took place on 9 July 2018 from HQS Wellington to Chelsea Harbour with an all-male crew. Despite being in last place at the start and it being a handicap race, our crew won their class!

Then the Admiral of the Ports Challenge held on 13 June where again our crew did well. Despite poor weather and an unhelpful tide, we caught the lead boats over the mile-long course from Wellington to Westminster Rowing Club. Perhaps burdened down by the Master and Consort as passengers there were no medals this time but still a good showing from our young team. Well done to all concerned!

Simon Catford
Deputy Master

15th Inter-Livery Pancake Race

This annual event was held in the Guildhall Yard on 5th March and the Company team comprised of the Master, the Mistress, the Fleet Warden and Liveryman Andy Williamson. Despite our best endeavour there was no silverware although Andy made it through to the final in his class. Perhaps some more training would have helped but when wearing a hat, apron, gloves and carrying a frying pan we did pretty well considering!

Simon Catford
Deputy Master

Golf Report 2019

Golf is a great way to socialise and to meet other members of the livery. Others have said it is a good walk spoil! Within the Water Conservators we have a number of golfers but I’m sure there are others I do not yet know. Please get in touch with me.

We entered a team in the Prince Arthur Cup, played at Walton Heath Golf Club, Surrey, a top-class venue which hosts one of the US PGA qualifiers. This year the competition was held on 16th May. Our team put in considerable effort but unfortunately for little reward save for good company and an excellent day.

We used to have our own golf day which was well attended by members, clients and other guests. I’d like to resurrect this event so let me know if you would be interested in playing.

Simon Catford
Deputy Master

Bishop of Dover

Congratulations to our Honorary Chaplain and Honorary Freeman Rev Rose Hudson-Wilkin who has been appointed as Bishop of Dover.

Roger North
Golf Captain

Sports Report
During the last year the Water Conservation Trust (WCT) has continued its excellent work to give bursaries to MSc students whose studies are in the water, waste and environmental sectors and to give grants to schools to support their STEM activities. We have also continued our support to the Maidstone Sea Cadets, the Lord Mayor’s charities, the Army Benevolent fund, Treloar college and other City charities. The WCT will spend £75,000 this year on charitable activities.

Looking forward, the Trustees of the WCT have prepared a strategy for the next 5 years. We receive many approaches for support, but are limited by the available funds. We plan to increase our disbursements and to encourage more giving by members, outside organisations and philanthropists.

We will be preparing an information leaflet which will set out what the WCT does, with some case studies to raise our profile and encourage more giving.

This is where the help of members is needed, to identify organisations and individuals who would be willing to support the WCT. We would like to hear from members of the Company who would like to get involved with our charity work, particularly those with marketing, fundraising and social media skills.

The Schools Programme
We are looking to double our support to schools over the next 5 years. This will require considerable effort from the Trustees and involvement of members.

We have a very strong link with Hugh Myddelton School in Islington and its partner Winton Primary School. With Hugh Myddelton school we are developing a topographical survey learning module which will assist pupils with maths, measurement, scale and mapping.

Following recommendations by Ofsted, the WCT funded Water Themed Outdoor Learning Equipment for the Spa Green Nursery Development at the Hugh Myddelton School. This will enable the development of early scientific exploration and enquiry for 2 to 4 year olds.

In the Welsh special schools we have supported the development of bicycle maintenance and repair skills. These will serve the community and allow the school to become a recognised provider to deliver City & Guilds in Bicycle Mechanics.

We received a request to fund re usable aluminium water bottles in schools. The Trustees felt that water bottles may not be sustainable as they get lost or damaged and supported funding the installation of water fountains. However, we plan to do some short term research in conjunction with Hugh Myddelton School to trial the longevity of water bottles.

The Universities Programme
The Universities Programme has been running for about 11 years with 11 universities currently in receipt of grants. We added City and Plymouth Universities to the programme recently. Bursary recipients have been involved in some ground-breaking research in the Water and Environment sectors.

We fund prizes for the best dissertation on the courses the WCT supports. Recent prize winning topics have included ways of monitoring leachate, the science behind the catchment benefits of reintroduced animal species, toxic microfibre release from fashion companies, the sustainability of UK funded development programmes in Nepal and experiences of arsenic-related psychosocial distress in rural Bangladesh.

The National Union of Students support a Student EATS programme. This encourages students to set up sustainable food enterprises on campus and in the community. The WCT gives grants to improve water efficiency and to raise awareness of water conservation.

Sea Cadets
Through the Company links with HMS Scott, the WCT supports the Maidstone Sea Cadets. The WCT continues to fund a berth on the training ship TS Royalist for the best cadet and the new landing stage we part funded last year is in operation.

Alex Hazelgrove-Planel – MSc prize-winner
Bicycle repairs at Ysgol y Gogarth

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2018 Best Cadet Able Cadet Cameron Cook-Clarke

Increased giving
Charitable giving is at the heart of the livery movement. Please consider ways you can help the WCT to achieve its objectives by increasing your donations and offering your time and experience to its Charity Committee.

Roger North
Chairman of the Trustees
Retirement of our Beadle

Tony Parker, our Beadle, formally retired from the Company at the Installation Court in early July, having been in post for an amazing twenty years. His good nature, humour and gravitas brought fun and formality in equal measures to our Company events and formal occasions. A retirement presentation was made to Tony at the Installation Lunch where he made a moving farewell speech. He will be sadly missed.

Keith Tozzi
Past Master & PR Manager

Our new Beadle

At the same lunch, our newly appointed Beadle, Tim Gutteridge led us through the formalities with ease and he was warmly welcomed. Tim grew up in Buckinghamshire and is the son of two doctors. He then attended Warwick University and studied Ancient History. A Mountview graduate, Tim is a writer, actor and voice over artist. He’s also a guitarist, mandolin player and folk singer. Tim is Beadle to the Worshipful Company of the Makers of Playing Cards, Bakers and the World Traders. Tim has performed in the Charity event “Trial and Error” at the Old Bailey for the Pan Arts Charity. He has also performed at Mansion House. He is a founding member of the Theatre Company Buckle Up.

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Keith Tozzi
Past Master & PR Manager

Twittering Water Conservators

Earlier this year, the Company established its first venture into social media by opening a Twitter account to keep the world up to date on our activities. The account “handle” is @H2Oconservators and it quickly established a good number of followers and has links to the City of London Twitter account amongst others.

If you want to follow the Company and its activities, then log-in and see what we are up to. The account is updated regularly.

Keith Tozzi
Past Master & PR Manager

Forthcoming Events

Michaelmas Court & Lunch

To be held in the Armourers Hall in Coleman Street in the City of London on 10th September, guest speaker Cate Lamb, Director of Water Security, CDP.

Globe theatre

Vists to see a performance of Shakespeare’s “As You Like It” on 18th September

New Members

A very warm welcome to new Members Ramon Gonzalez, Alan Barton, Steve Morris, Afzal Ginwalla, Tony Elliams, Martin Bigg, Dave Jeffery, David Meehan and Associate Member Gemma Harvey.

Sheep Drive, London Bridge

An annual event where Liverymen can discharge their ancient right of driving sheep across London Bridge. To be held on 29th September

Annual Banquet

This highlight in the Company’s social calendar will be held on 5th November at Painters’ Hall in Little Trinity Lane in the City of London, guest speaker Sir David Wootton.

The next edition of The Conservator will be published in January 2020. If readers have any ideas for articles, please contact our PR Manager, Keith Tozzi (keithtozzi@aol.com).