



The Worshipful Company of Water Conservators

PRESS RELEASE

WORLD WATER DAY EVENTS – MARCH 2019

We are one of the 110 Livery Companies in the City of London – the term “livery” originates from a specific form of dress worn by retainers of noblemen which evolved to denote the status of belonging to a trade.

A special event to celebrate World Water Day will be held at Guildhall in the City of London on Friday, 22nd March.

Representatives from schools and businesses will join organisers The Worshipful Company of Water Conservators together with their partners Thames Water, Thames 21 and the City of London Corporation to discover the importance of using water wisely, keeping fat, oil and wet wipes out of sewers and drains and the impact of plastic waste on rivers and oceans.

The event will be opened by Sheriff of the City of London, the Honourable Liz Green and will see the launch of the Water Conservators’ “Taking Control of Your Environment” initiative. This initiative is designed to encourage individuals, organisations and businesses to follow simple practical steps to improve their environment and will include a school’s competition and a photographic competition. Exhibition stands will be run by each of the partner groups as well as some of the City of London schools. Visitors will be able to see the equipment used to clear fatbergs from sewers and sign a pledge to make the City of London plastic free.

Members of the public can visit the event between midday and 2.00pm.

Simon Catford, Master of the Water Conservators Company explained “World Water Day is an opportunity for us all to reflect on the way in which we can directly influence the environment in which we live. Simple practical steps can make a world of difference. I very much hope this initiative will encourage the residents, commuters, visitors and businesses in the City of London to positively help improve their environment”.

Richard Aylard, Thames Water's Director of External Affairs and Sustainability, will be a guest speaker at the event. He said: "World Water Day is a great opportunity to help our customers, and those of the future, learn about where their water comes from and how precious a resource it is, as well as how to avoid fatbergs and blockages in the City's sewers. We all need to do what we can to protect the environment and events such as this go a long way to raising awareness and changing behavior".

Jeremy Simons, Chairman of the City of London Corporation's Environmental Services Committee, commented: "At a time when micro-plastics are causing serious harm to our oceans, it is important that residents, businesses and visitors to the City are aware of their impact on the environment and what they can do to be more sustainable. Events this week, sponsored by our Plastic Free City campaign, look to rid the City of single use plastics, encourage a refill culture through the installation of more water refill points and educate more people about what they can do to help".

Other events in the run up to World Water Day include a litter pick on the Thames foreshore at Queenhithe on Saturday 16th March (**ALREADY FULLY SUBSCRIBED**), the launch of a new drinking water refill point in Bow Church Yard on Wednesday 20th March and a WET 10 debate in Guildhall on the impact of plastics on the water environment on Thursday 21st March. Details of all these events are given on the attached flyer.

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Notes for editors

The Worshipful Company of Water Conservators is one of the 31 'modern' Livery Companies formed in the City of London over the last 80 years. The Company promotes and spreads awareness of the science, art and practice of water and environmental management and hopes to play an informative role to the Government, the City and the public about the many and important ways that water affects our lives.

Founded as a Guild in 1988 and achieving full livery status in 2000, the Water Conservators in order of precedence is the 102nd Livery Company in the City of London.

- The Water Conservators are passionate about sustaining and conserving the public requirements of clean water, both for domestic and industrial purposes
- The Worshipful Company seeks to support and promote advancement of education within the industry

The Company's focus on water and related environmental matters puts it at the heart of some of the most important issues facing the world today.

The City of London Corporation is the governing body of the Square Mile dedicated to a vibrant and thriving City, supporting a diverse and sustainable London within a globally-successful UK. www.cityoflondon.gov.uk

Thames Water is the UK's biggest water and wastewater services provider. It has invested more than £1 billion every year, on average, for the past 13 years improving service for over 15 million customers across London, the Thames Valley and surrounding areas. For an average £1 a day for its households, they provide 2.7 billion litres of clean drinking water and safely remove 4.4 billion litres of wastewater – every day, 365 days a year. They are regulated by Ofwat, the Environment Agency and Drinking Water Inspectorate, and as part of their £11.7 billion business plan for 2020-25, propose to invest record amounts on improving resilience, service and efficiency, as well as providing more support for customers in vulnerable circumstances.

Thames 21 is one of the UK's leading waterway charities. It works with communities across Greater London to improve our rivers, canals, ponds and lakes for people and wildlife. Its' aim is to rebuild the relationship between communities and their rivers, restoring river health and wellbeing and community cohesion in the process.