



The Conservator

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF WATER CONSERVATORS

A message from the new Master

Mr Colin Drummond



Mr Colin Drummond

It was a great privilege to be elected as Master of the Worshipful Company of Water Conservators on 4 July. As many of you know, I have worked in the water and environment sector for 15 years; not well known however is that I come from a family of water engineers, my relatives having helped build the SS Titanic, that icon of British water engineering expertise!

Before saying anything else, I must thank Sue Owen, my predecessor, and now Deputy Master, for an excellent and enjoyable year. As I am sure we all agree, she has passed on a Company that is happy and in good heart. Well done, Sue from all of us!

Members may reasonably ask me, as this year's Master, how I see the job. What is my vision for our

Livery? I do believe that the UK now leads the world in environmental and climate change solutions.

Our higher education is world leading particularly in environmental science; the City of London is the largest provider of funds for environmental projects world wide; our market friendly regulatory system

is widely admired; we have a large and strong water and environmental industry backed by advanced technologies and internationally respected consultancies; and we have a track record of considerable achievements in both water and waste management in recent years. Our Livery Company expresses the values of a world leading water and environmental sector.

One key way the Water Conservators express these values is in our charitable activities. I am delighted that via our own charity the Water Conservation Trust we are now supporting a range of educational items including:

- bursaries and dissertation awards for students in water sciences at three UK universities: Oxford, Sheffield and Exeter
- support for education for people with disabilities at Ysgol Y Gogarth (in Wales) and the Calvert Trust.

Indeed our guest speaker at our Installation Lunch was the Earl of Arran, whose wife the Countess is Patron of Calvert. We had a special collection for Calvert that day which raised £578 cash (plus Gift Aid) for their Exmoor Centre. I would particularly like us to make further progress on our charitable works this year and hope there will be a great turnout at our Charity Event at Salters Hall on 13 November. Please do come and bring guests. It is in a good cause, in aid of enhancing our educational activities.

Our representational work in the wider City community is a great opportunity. Though we are quite a young company, our profile is

developing well. July saw our annual “water passing” ceremony when we present the Lord Mayor with a jug of Thames Water (see separate article). So taken was he by this that the Lord Mayor referred to it (twice), as an example of a fine and enjoyable tradition, in his address to all the Livery Companies. I have also taken the opportunity to brief the Lord Mayor and members of his staff on the strength of the UK water and environmental industry as background to his programme of overseas trade missions (he leads 20 a year, more than most government ministers). He was delighted, as environment is a key priority for him, and issued a warm invitation for members of the company pursuing business overseas to join him on overseas business missions if that would assist them. (For those interested there is more information on our website).

I am privileged to have a fine team of Wardens, who are also my friends, Professor Lorna Walker, Ian Staniforth, and Rear Admiral Bob Mark; a well connected and experienced Clerk in Ralph Riley; an ever popular Beadle, Tony Parker; a fine Chaplain in Rev Dr Peter Mullen (who takes his pastoral duties seriously); an energetic bailiff and webmaster, Bill Halson and our new bailiff, Trevor Harrington.

I hope we have an excellent outward looking year.

**Colin Drummond
Master**



**Professor Lorna Walker
Thames Warden**



**Mr Ian Staniforth
Fleet Warden**



**Rear Admiral Bob Mark
Walbrook Warden**



**Rev Dr Peter Mullen
Company Chaplain**

About the new Master

Colin Drummond was installed as Master of the Worshipful Company of Water Conservators on 4th July 2007. He became a Freeman of the Company in 1999 and in recent years has devoted particular efforts to raising the profile of the Company's charitable activities.

Colin has been in the water and environmental business since 1992 when he was appointed a director of Pennon Group PLC, the water and waste management company. He is chief executive of Viridor Waste, Pennon's waste management subsidiary; previously he was chairman of T J Brent, its specialist pipeline contractor and Viridor Instrumentation which supplied specialist instrumentation to the water and environmental industry worldwide.

Prior to joining Pennon, Colin was a divisional chief executive of Coats Viyella PLC, a director of Renold PLC, a strategy consultant with the Boston Consulting Group and an official with the Bank of England.

Colin has been chairman of the government's Environmental Sector Advisory Group (ESAG) since 2005 and was a member of the government's Advisory Committee on Business and the Environment (ACBE V) from 2001 to 2003. In 2007 he was appointed chairman of IPM-Net, the Knowledge Transfer Network for the Environment Sector, and visiting senior research fellow of the Department of Earth Sciences at Oxford University. He has been a director of Sustainability South West since 2005.

Colin believes not only that climate change and environmental degradation are key issues facing the world (as most people recognise), but that the UK is in fact a leader in addressing them (a point not well recognised). He says "The UK is a world leader in environmental solutions in terms of our regulatory framework, academic excellence, track record of environmental improvements and financing capabilities. We should fully embrace the opportunities this presents".

Colin has an MA from Oxford University and an MBA from Harvard Business School, where he held a Harkness Fellowship. He rowed and/or coxed at both universities, as is appropriate for a Water Conservator; in successive years he was the most successful and then least successful cox on the river at Oxford. He is a Licentiate of Trinity College of Music and spent some 20 years as organist/choirmaster in various churches persuading young singers from varied backgrounds that Anglican church music is indeed 'cool'. He lives in Somerset with his wife Georgina and has two sons who are now working in London. His spare time interests include growing vegetables (somewhat in the manner of a peasant farmer).



Deputy Master's Report 2006/2007

I have been asked many times whether I have enjoyed this year as Master and without exception, my answer has always been "How could I not?"

Traditionally, the Deputy Master has always said how fast the year has gone and I totally concur, but it wasn't just fast – It flew. There

are so many wonderful memories that I will treasure forever and fortunately, many photographs to help when memory fades.

In my first speech I anticipated a marvellous year but the experience far surpassed the expectation. I have enjoyed wonderful food, great wines and entertaining company in beautiful and historic surroundings. To give a flavour of the first two weeks as Master, I was a guest at Vintners' Hall, Mansion House, Painters' Hall and a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace.

The pace continued throughout the year, with our first Ladies Event at Mansion House and the only dampener the total washout of York Races in June, the first time they had ever cancelled the June meeting. In true company tradition, the rain in no way prevented nearly forty members from enjoying a convivial evening, dining in style at York's Merchant Taylors' Hall. I can vouch for the fact that recent tradition was upheld with all present enjoying an impressive volume of liquid refreshments.

I started my year in the middle of a drought and departed amidst floods. I am an expert on the fastest routes between Livery Halls and hotels. I travelled by Barge from Hampton Court to the Tower and was released without charge. More mundanely, I made the journey from Durham to London Kings Cross by train 37 times. (According to the Internet, this is a distance of 19,684 miles, not quite the circumference of the earth at the equator - but not far off!).

It will no doubt take some time to come to terms with the fact that I no longer have a personal Bargemaster or Barge, but I hand over both with pleasure to a great team in the new Master and his Wardens.

The Company is in good heart with attendances at record levels, events over the year made a small profit, we managed to make savings on printing, meeting room hire and leading to a cash surplus of £7,708 for the year ending 2007.

The Charity is moving forward and the Master will outline the various projects for his year. We are increasing our funds and new initiatives will be announced in the near future.

Thank you to everyone who has supported me in this wonderful, unforgettable year, but particularly to my long suffering colleagues at Northumbrian Water. I look forward to meeting you all again at our Company events.

Sue Owen
Deputy Master



Deputy Master's Events 2006/7

July 2006

- Installation Court & Lunch
Vintners' Hall
- Chartered Accountants' Dinner
Mansion House
- Parish Clerks' Dinner
Painters' Hall
- Jug Presentation
Mansion House
- Garden Party
Buckingham Palace
- Lord Mayor's Address
Mansion House

September 2006

- Modern Companies' Dinner
Armourers' Hall
- Chester Boyd Collection
Stationers' Hall
- Antony & Cleopatra
Globe Theatre

- Master's Dinner
Vintners' Hall
- Michaelmas Court & Lunch
Innholders' Hall
- Turners' Lunch
Apothecaries' Hall
- Election of Lord Mayor
Guildhall

October 2006

- Chartered Accountants' Lunch
Chartered Accountants' Hall
- Musicians Evensong
St Paul's Cathedral
- Scientific Instrument Makers
Dinner
Glaziers Hall
- Ladies' Social Event
Mansion House

November 2006

- Annual Banquet
Drapers' Hall
- Wreath Laying
St Paul's Cathedral
- Launderers' Dinner
Glaziers' Hall
- Silent Ceremony
Guildhall
- Lord Mayor's Show
City of London
- Wreath Laying
Trinity House
- Festival of St Cecilia
Westminster Cathedral
- Meeting with Lord Mayor
Mansion House

December 2006

- Christmas Court & Lunch
Oxford and Cambridge Club
- Joint Carol Service
St Michael's Church

January 2007

- Launderers' Dinner
Glaziers' Hall
- Maidstone Sea cadets
Maidstone
- Myddelton Lunch
Fishmongers' Hall
- Master Mariners' Lunch
HQS Wellington

- Plumbers' Lecture
Royal College of Physicians

February 2007

- Lord Mayor's Briefing
Mansion house
- Livable City Awards
Mansion House
- Tacitus Lecture
Guildhall

March 2007

- Modern Companies' Dinner
Farmers' Hall
- Masters, Prime Wardens &
Upper Bailiff Dinner
Mansion House
- United Guilds Service
St Paul's Cathedral
- Blacksmiths' Ladyday Lunch
Painters' Hall

April 2007

- Sea Cadet of the Year Awards
Mansion house
- Election Court & Lunch
Pewters' Hall
- Watermens' St George's day
Watermens' Hall
- Plumbers' Lunch
Brewers' Hall

May 2007

- Fuellers' Lecture
Haberdashers' hall
- Calvert Trust Reception
Fishmongers' Hall
- CIWEM Dinner
- Tudor Pull
River Thames

June 2007

- Company outing
York
- Admirals Challenge
River Thames
- Security Professionals' Lunch
Drapers Hall
- Port of London Cup
River Thames



About 70% of the members of the company are aware that things have been happening to our website. The original, very ambitious design, with its excellent Education section, has been retained, but a significant step forward is the activation of the password protected Members' section.

This has enabled us to remove material of interest only to members, from the Public area, and supplement it very considerably. In particular:

- There is a list of the dates on which regular events take place, so that we can plan well ahead
- Most events now have a down-loadable flyer.
- Information is available to enable members to attend events available only to qualified Liverymen, such as the elections of Sheriffs and the Lord Mayor
- Reports of activities can appear within days, instead of having to fit in with the publishing cycle of our newsletter, 'The Conservator'. Recent examples have been the Admiral's cup, and the Master's meeting with the Lord Mayor
- There is also a confidential section guarded by an additional password for Court and Committee matters.

Apart from the advantage of timeliness and speed, there are significant financial benefits, if, for example, members with email opted to receive periodic mail-outs, especially flyers, by email. This would, though, require a degree of discipline on the part of

these members to ensure that changes of email addresses were conveyed to the webmaster and Clerk. One solution to this would be if everyone had a waterconservators.org email address. These addresses would automatically be re-directed to their present email addresses, and would mean that if members change service provider, they need only tell the webmaster – not their current addressees. This would be a real benefit to everyone – and use of this service could attract a modest one-off charge, the proceeds to be passed to the Company's charity

There are other potential benefits to the Company in developing greater use of the website: for example, we can be more relaxed about sending attachments to members' business email addresses if they are protected by the members' password; we could consider – subject to members' agreement – including a list of members' email addresses so that inter-communication would be simpler; a further refinement could be some means of having 'live' discussion.

We shall shortly have a 'hit-counter' attached, so will begin to get a feel for the site's use by both members and non-members. There is no doubt that non-members are much more likely to visit if there is a steady stream of interesting, informative material in the public area: that is rather up to our members, many of whom, undoubtedly have much to contribute if they can but overcome shyness and inertia.

Bill Halson
Webmaster



The Tudor Pull

Each year Her Majesty's Watermen complete a marathon row from Hampton Court Palace to the Tower of London, a distance of some 25 miles. They do this to support the apprentices system of the trade of Thames Watermen and Lightermen and to draw attention to London's greatest under used asset ~ The River Thames.

They also commemorate events of 1256 when Queen Eleanor's royal barge sank under the old London Bridge with the loss of one of her courtiers, the Lady of the Bedchamber.

The Queen has a retinue of 25 appointed Watermen with her Royal Bargemaster to oversee and organise their duties ~ these consist of accompanying Her Majesty when travelling on the river, at State visits and at the State Opening of Parliament. Men are chosen for this honour for the dedication to their trade and for their prowess as oarsmen, several of the men in the Queen's retinue have competed in the Olympics and many in major events within the sport of rowing.

The Master presented the 'Stela' to the Keeper of Hampton Court saying

*"Sir
On behalf of my company, as we have undertaken to do, I hereby return this 'Stela' made from the timber of an ancient conduit. That you may once again send it by river to the City of London and in so doing, demonstrate the historic use of this water highway."*

She then joined him and the royal Bargemaster in drinking from the Boating Cup

After the ceremony of accepting the 'Stela' at Hampton Court Palace HM Bargemaster carries the emblem, made of from a slice of Mediaeval elm water pipe, placing it aboard the Royal Shallop 'The Jubilant'.



The Shallop Jubilant taking the Stela down the Thames

During the Tudor Pull the barge is accompanied by traditional oar powered Watermen's Cutters belonging to the Livery Companies of the City of London dressed in their full company regalia, the Watermen's Shallop 'Lady Mayoress' and by other craft from rowing clubs who preserve the sport of fixed seat rowing on the River Thames ~ this wonderful highway of London. The Water Conservators' Cutter led for the entire row despite valiant efforts of other crew to overtake, thanks to our enthusiastic and fit Oarsmen led by our Bargemaster Johnny Dwan



The Governor The Tower of London receiving the Stela for safe keeping.

Following a short stop at Richmond the crews row down to the pool of London arriving at The Tower where the river pageant disembark and the 'Stela', escorted by Yeomen of the Tower, is processed to be presented to the Governor of H.M. Tower of London, who at a short ceremony accepts the 'Stela' under his protection until it is returned to Hampton Court Palace for the following years procession.

**Sue Owen
Deputy Master**



Admiral's Challenge and Port of London Challenge Cups

The Company's cutter, the Water Forget Me Not has maintained her tradition of success in these two races on the River Thames.

The Admiral's Challenge is a race

of 1.33 miles from 'where the red and green canopies meet' at the Palace of Westminster, to Westminster Boating Club. The race rules are that there must be four oarsmen, a cox and two passengers. The Master, accompanied by Andrew Bennett, valiantly agreed to be the passengers.

Under strict instructions from the Bargemaster, the Master sat motionless and in silence for the entire 10 minutes of the race, something that will amaze those who know her. The crew were presented with the Cup at the reception at the Boating Club.

The Water Conservators Company was then the target for all other cutter crews for the next race, the Port of London Challenge. This took place on 26th June and covers the six miles from Temple Pier to Chelsea Bridge. The Water Forget Me Not soundly beat all opposition, the extra winning distance due in no small measure to the fact that instead of being rowed, the Master and Deputy Master followed the race from a pleasure cruiser

**Sue Owen
Deputy Master.**



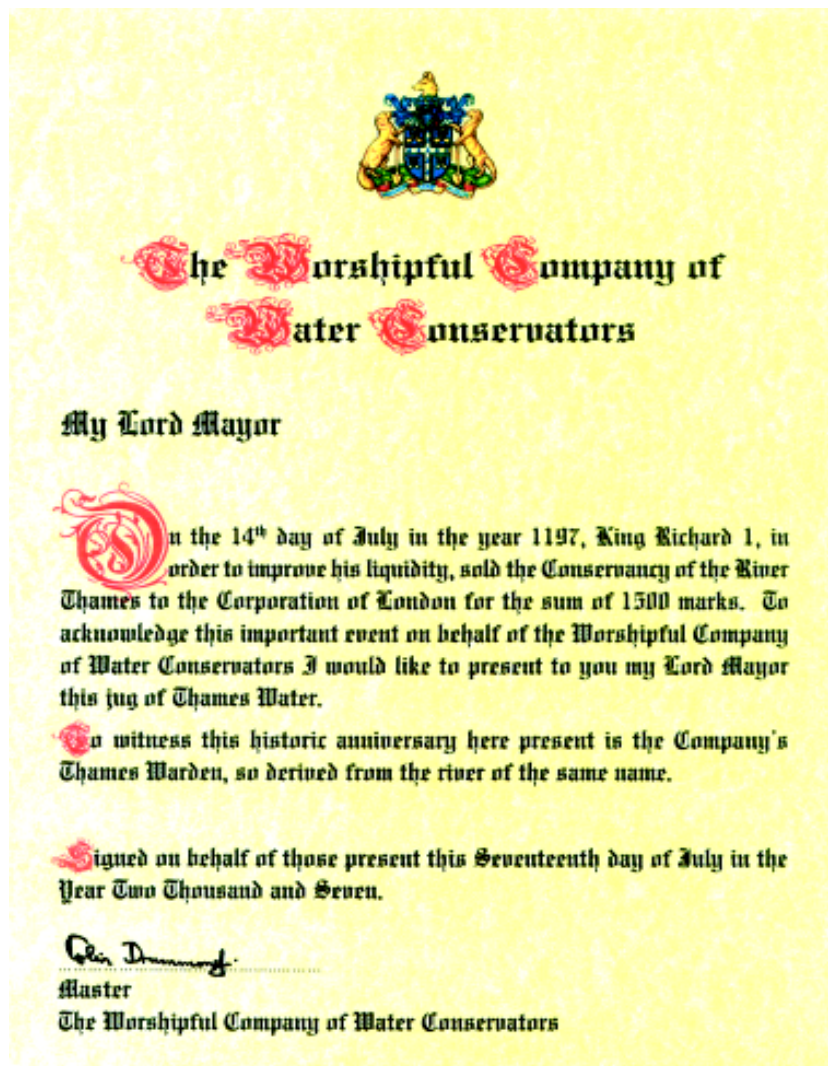
WATER JUG CEREMONY

The Water Conservators' annual "water passing" ceremony took place on 17 July. In this ceremony the Master, accompanied by his Lady, the Thames Warden and Honorary Liveryman Alderman Andrew Parmley presented the Lord Mayor with an inscribed jug of Thames water at Mansion House. The Lady Mayoress and a number of members of the Mayor's staff were also present.

This commemorates an early act of water privatisation when King Richard I in 1197 granted the Conservancy of the River Thames to the Corporation of London for the sum of 1500 marks. Historians among us will recall that the national exchequer was severely stretched at that time due to the need to pay King Richard's ransom on his return from the Crusades. As our certificate shows (see attached photo), this grant was essential to improve the liquidity of the public purse.

There are various other similar ceremonies among Livery Companies, e.g. the Butchers Company present the Lord Mayor with a Boar's Head each year in a tradition dating back to 1469. It is good that we have a ceremony of our own with such a venerable pedigree!

Colin Drummond
Master



The Master presenting the Jug to the Lord Mayor

EVENTS 2007/8

Election of Lord Mayor

Guildhall
1st October 2007

Social Event

House Commons
10th October 2007

Ladies Social Event

Royal Academy
19th October 2007

Masters Dinner

Lord's Cricket Ground
22nd October 2007

Annual Banquet

Painters' Hall
1st November 2007

Lord Mayor's Show

City of London
10th November 2007

Charity Event

Salters' Hall
13th November 2007

Joint Carol Service

St Michaels Church, Cornhill
6th December 2007

Myddleton Lunch

Ironmongers' Hall
25th January 2008

United Guilds Service

St Paul's Cathedral
7th March 2008

Election Court Lunch

Tallow Chandlers' Hall
17th April 2008

Ladies Social Event

Kew
TBA



Pulils from Elliston Junior School with their teacher Demi Loftus with certificates for their Water project

Contact

Mr R.A. Riley, Clerk,
The Worshipful Company of Water Conservators,
The Lark, 2 Bell Lane,
Worlington,
Bury St. Edmunds,
Suffolk,
IP28 8SE

Tel/Fax: 01638 510626 Email: clerk@waterconservators.org
Website: www.waterconservators.org