

The Worshipful Company of Water Conservators

Monthly Update



July 2022

Issue 22

Message from the Master



This is my last Monthly Update as Master because on 7 July the honour passes to Master Elect Colin Drummond. June was busy, with the planting of a tree commemorating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, the Tudor Pull commemorating the use of the River Thames as a highway for people and commerce, and the Election of two Sheriffs to serve the City in the Autumn. The latter event plays an important part in our City involvement. Above, present Sheriff and Alderman Alison Gowman has done much to bring us to prominence in the Climate Action Debate. Led by Deputy Master, Rob Casey, we are still the only Livery Company with a published Policy and shortly a Climate Footprint. Honorary Liveryman Sir Andrew Palmley needs no introduction. This link with the City continues to be strong in an era when the impact of climate change will bring about changes to all our lives.

The government have been publicly consulting on a range of issues at the heart of the water and the environment. We have engaged with this debate, arguing both that river basin strategies should be developed to provide the framework for any actions, and at the local level, citizens need to be involved in actions to reduce sewage litter. This is led by Past Master Peter Matthews.

It's been a busy year, made enjoyable by the support I have been given by Company Members and their consorts, and the Company's friends. My thanks to all.

Peter Hall
Master

Follow the Master on: <https://masterwaterconservator21.blogspot.com/>

June Webinar

Professor Sean Comber, Associate Head SoGEEES (Knowledge Exchange) Plymouth University presented our June webinar titled "Defra nutrient targets for improving river water quality: A personal assessment of the challenges and opportunities". DEFRA are proposing ambitious and far-reaching targets for nutrient reductions in rivers by 2037, including an 80% reduction in phosphorus by 2037.

In his fascinating talk Professor Comber highlighted the need for better phosphorus measurement and gave his thoughts relating to options to reduce loads entering watercourses, their effectiveness and feasibility. Our next webinar will be in September after a summer break.

Platinum Jubilee Event

It was a splendid occasion on 9th June at Thorne's School in Dorset as the Water Conservators' Master Peter Hall planted a special tree and unveiled a plaque to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee with officers of the Company and Trust, plus the school children in attendance, who provided a musical finale.

Future Events

4 July: Livery Climate Action Group Annual Conference at Merchant Taylors Hall

7th July Installation Court Lunch at the Bakers' Hall

19 July: Mudlarking on the Thames Foreshore

3 September: Visit to All Hallows by the Tower, the oldest church in the City of London, and Superbloom at the Tower

26 September: Master's Weekend in Somerset

27 September: Michaelmas Court Lunch at Brewers' Hall

Climate Change Update

The Livery Climate Action Group will be holding its annual conference on

sustainability in support of the City of London's Climate Action Strategy on the 4th July at Merchant Taylors Hall – full details are on our website. The programme includes an introduction by the Lord Mayor, Alderman Vincent Keaveny and sessions on sustainable catering and food sources, building a livery climate action plan, measuring your Company's carbon footprint, considerations in building an ESG business case for all your investments and a sustainable approach for the refurbishment of listed Livery halls.

Retirement of Our Clerk



Our Clerk, Ralph Riley, will be retiring on 30 June 2022. For most of us, Ralph has always been there: pictured above.

Ralph was appointed Clerk upon the inception of Livery in the year 2000, having previously been both Deputy Clerk and Assistant Clerk respectively since 1989. His career began in the City of London in 1974 and in 1984 he moved to the Chamberlains Court where, as Deputy Clerk, he was responsible for admitting individuals to the Freedom of the City of London. Ralph became a Liveryman of the Water Conservators' Company and has had an enormous impact on the Company's development. He will be greatly missed. Details of the interim arrangements for the Clerk's duties will be circulated to Company Members.

Associate members

There has always been agreement that our connections with universities provide an insight into the future, and our support to Master's students connects us to state of the art thinking about issues in our sector. The Company has examined ways in which the close contact with students during their period of study could be maintained. We now have a programme of events designed to retain the interest of students and enable them to participate in Company events as Associate Members.

