

The Worshipful Company of Water Conservators

and

THE WATER CONSERVATION TRUST

(Registered number 1007648)

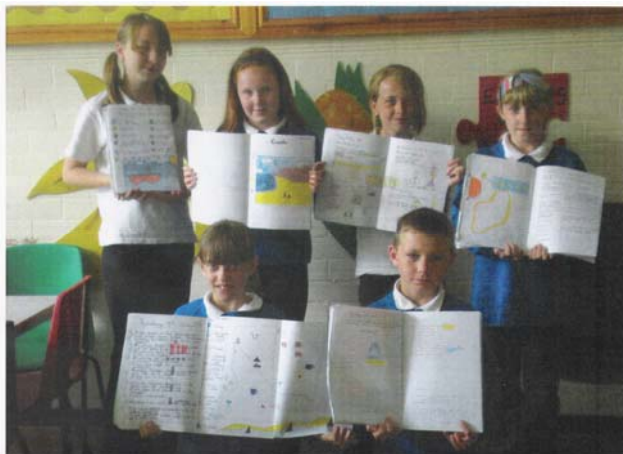
Charity Update – December 2012

The Company and the Water Conservation Trust (WCT) are very active in charitable activities in the water and environmental sector and also in the City of London. *Charity Update* sets out some of the things done in the last six months. To find out more about the WCT and how you can help please use the contacts on page 4.

The main focus of current work is in promoting education and research. This means schools and universities.

The Schools Programme

Engaging with schools in scientific and environmental education has been a priority for many years. The Company has a **Pupils Prizes Scheme** which offers prizes in the form of book tokens to schoolchildren successfully undertaking projects.



Pupil Prizes winners at a local school

In practice, take up is poor and Liverymen are encouraged to ask about the Scheme with a view to making a small difference at their local schools.

More recently, the Company has planned and constructed a pond at Ruislip School. The funding of this project has been partly donated labour and materials via the Company and the AIDU at RAF Northolt, and partly from donations from the WCT and other local charities. Trustees managed the project and handed it over to the school in 2010.



Ruislip School pond before planting-in 2010

The school has written thanking the Company for providing teachers with 'a brilliant teaching tool' and asked whether the Company would consider **funding for an aquarium** to promote biology within the school, but outside the classroom. The intention was that the aquarium would be set up in the school for all students to see on a daily basis, with three objectives: to allow students to take an independent interest in water ecology, to form the substance of an aquarium club where students will have to consider water quality and the need to balance the ecology of water life, and to use it as a teaching tool.

The Company agreed to support it through a collection at the Michaelmas Lunch which was underwritten to £1,200 by the WCT. The project has been supervised by Trustee Rob Casey and the 'opening' ceremony is planned for end-January 2013.

Trustees are well aware of the fact that they can only fund a few projects because of limitation of funding. Therefore great emphasis is placed on replication of the experience. Beneficiaries have agreed to assist any school wishing to install similar resources.

The Universities Programme

The Universities Programme is the Company's principal commitment to post-graduate education in its core business - promoting and spreading awareness of the science and practice of water and environmental management.

The Company is particularly keen to support a new generation of skilled professionals in the water, waste and environment sectors and to be associated with the latest developments in applied science and technology.

The WCT is currently offering 14 **Water Conservation Bursaries** (to supplement course fees) in relevant Masters courses in 12 UK universities. The universities courses and the progress of student beneficiaries are monitored by Company liaison volunteers.

Despite the efforts of universities and the availability of bursaries, there have been reduced numbers of applicants in many universities. The WCT is monitoring this and has asked universities to review whether the availability of bursaries should be advertised earlier, and in a more focused way.

Participating universities have been asked whether there is any data on the perception of jobs in the sector post graduation.

The WCT also offers **Dissertation Support Grants** which contribute to research and dissertation expenses.

Dissertation prize-winner

In addition to bursary awards, the WCT offers the prestigious **Water Conservators' Dissertation Prizes** (for the best dissertation at each institution) to post-graduate students in water and environment related departments in selected UK universities.

At the Installation lunch in July 2012, Lucinda Gale, Institute for the Environment, Brunel University, was presented an award for her dissertation *Empowering individual carbon footprint reduction: Development of a tool to assess the impact of lifestyle choices on carbon footprint and to personalise emission reduction alternatives*.



Lucinda Gale, 2012 dissertation prize-winner with her supervisor Dr Dan Pickford

Currently she is developing her own web based business to help individuals reduce their personal contribution to climate change and reduce their carbon footprint.

Small scale research

The WCT makes small contributions for expenses relating to environmental research. **Yellow rattle** is a grass parasite, moderating grass growth and leading to greater biodiversity. It is controlled by summer mowing which removes the flowers.



Yellow rattle *Rhinanthus minor*, (Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew)

A grant has been made to researchers at Aberystwyth University to investigate its potential for grass control and the consequential reduction in mowing costs on motorway verges and other public spaces.

Maidstone Sea Cadets

The new Trinity 500 rowing boat donated by the Company to the Maidstone Sea Cadets was launched on 4 August 2012. The event was organised by Sub Lieutenant Nick Gilks and attended by Area Liaison Commander Peter Lewis and David Naghi, Chairman of the Maidstone Sea Cadet Unit.



Master Peter Matthews and Court Assistant Trevor Harrington with *Conservator*

The sea-going performance was thoroughly tested



Demonstrating moderate prowess, the Water Conservators team heads towards Maidstone Bridge.

The Company continues to make an annual award towards the cost of a berth on *TS Royalist* to give the *Best Cadet* the experience of a week's sailing on this square rig brig training ship.

Ysgol-y-Gogarth

The Company and WCT have supported Ysgol-y-Gogarth, a day and residential special school in Llandudno, for five years and our teacher contact, Jon Goodwin, has carried out a review of the impact of our assistance.

He writes... "This commitment over the last five years is a big part of why our Eco and Vocational projects have been recognised as 'sector leading practice' by school inspectors."



Early days, 2008, Trustee Ivor Richards and Jon Goodwin

"We have featured on the Royal Horticultural Society website and also on Jamie Oliver's and the Little Growers. We have run training courses for other teachers and skills days for pupils from other schools, to share good practice and to inspire. We have worked with other schools to provide a pond, plant trees and improve the grounds of the local community centre. It's fair to say that many people have been swept along by the enthusiasm that this partnership with the Water Conservators has produced."



Marj Richards

The Trustees and Company were saddened by the death of Marj Richards in August 2012. As well as hosting out-of-town meetings of Trustees, Marj was deeply committed to the work of the Company and WCT, and to the support of Ivor, now Thames Warden.

Ivor and David Richards have asked the WCT to establish a special memorial fund to support the school as it enters the next phase. This will include a pond and sensory garden, a sanctuary, a place for reflection as well as an outdoor classroom. Marj, a friend and supporter of the school, would have liked that.

Donations have already raised over £7,000 to ensure that the school expands its best practice work and the pupils get the best possible start in life.

The Company and the City

Each year the Company and its charity, the WCT, contribute to City fundraising events. In October 2012, the Company again supported the **Magical Taxi Tour** organised by the Worshipful Company of Hackney Carriage Drivers - giving sick children a break from their world of treatment and therapy by going on a trip of a lifetime to Disneyland Resort Paris in a convoy of London Taxis.



The October 2012 send off by the Lord Mayor Alderman David Wootton and the Lady Mayoress

The Company and WCT will be contributing to the 2013 **Lord Mayor's Charity Appeal**.

Elected in November 2012, Lord Mayor



Alderman **Roger Gifford** has chosen five charities – the primary being the City Music Foundation. **The Gifford Wood Appeal** will fund the planting of 4,500 trees on a five acre site recently acquired by the City of London near Epping Forest.

It will be planted mainly with native oak and hornbeam, to reflect the mix of trees in this ancient forest. The project will also provide an opportunity to plant some pioneer species more tolerant of projected changes in climate, and potentially create a seed bank to secure these species for the future.

In 1995, The WCT's predecessor, the Tony Drake Memorial Fund agreed to create a fund for prizes for conservation activities by pupils of the **City of London Freeman's School** at Ashted Park in Surrey. On a number of occasions, the prize has been awarded to a sixth form Biology student for a project with an

environmental theme such as the conservation of key species or the distribution of organisms on a rocky shore and the environmental threats to such organisms. The fund was exhausted in 2009 and the WCT has donated £150 to allow the School to continue for several years.

The Charity and the Company

The WCT has 11 trustees (all Water Conservators' Company Liverymen) chaired by Past Master Colin Bland. Trustees are supported by about the same number of Liverymen who help them manage and deliver activities to meet the Trust's main objectives of education and research in water technology and conservation.

The Trust is supported by a Charity Committee which reviews applications for grants and makes recommendations to the Trust.

Over half the regular funding comes from Company members' giving; the balance comes from investments and donations.

Who to contact:

The Water Conservators Company, The Clerk, Ralph Riley at waterlco@aol.com

The Water Conservation Trust, Hon Treasurer, Peter Hall at peterbhall@gmail.com or Secretary, Mike Williamson at williamson.m@virgin.net

More about the WCT on - <http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk/>

...then enter **charity number 1007648**

