

The Worshipful Company of Water Conservators and THE WATER CONSERVATION TRUST

(Registered number 1007648)

Charity Update – October 2010

The Company and the Water Conservation Trust (WCT) continue to be very active in supporting charitable activities in the water and environmental sector. This Update highlights some of the excellent work that members' kind donations and personal involvement have helped make possible. A consistent theme has emerged - a little can go a long way.

Visit to Chelsea Physic Garden

In 2008, the WCT donated £1,500 towards the cost of a new pipe network and borehole to partly replace tap water for general garden watering. The conducted tour at that time was oversubscribed and Rosie Atkins (Curator) has asked whether we should like another tour. In the meantime, the borehole saga has itself become something of a hardy perennial as a straightforward plan to reduce dependence on treated tap water has still to be implemented.

One thing has emerged; a suggestion that the Company nominates a member or partner to act as liaison person. This has been agreed. The connection with Conservators' broader interests was evidenced by the number signing-up as Friends of the Garden following the 2008 trip, and the demand for another visit.

Maidstone Sea Cadets

The Company has a long-established link with the Maidstone Sea Cadets. Every year the WCT grants the cost of a berth on the training ship, TS Royalist, to the Best Cadet of the year. This year was no exception and the winner was Leading Cadet James Weaver. The presentation took place in glorious weather at the beginning of August at the Cadets' summer camp on the River Medway. The cadets and their officers made their visitors most welcome among the tents, marquees and boats.



Maidstone Sea Cadets - award ceremony, August 2010.

L to R. Trevor Harrington (WC Liaison) Jeff Rasbash (Chairman of Trustees); Lt Peter Lewis (Regional CO Sea Cadets); James Weaver (Winner of Best Cadet 2010)

The guests, suitably attired, were also treated to a delightful voyage along the River Medway and a great time was had by all.



Maidstone Sea Cadets -August 2010.

L to R Annette Harrington, LC James Weaver, Trevor Harrington, Jeff Rasbash, Lt Peter Lewis, CPO Nick Gilks (CO Maidstone Cadets)

Ruislip School Pond

This project started as an initiative from (now) Deputy Master Bob Mark at the end of 2009, and has been delivered by Ivor Richards - ably supported by physical help from our partners at No 1 AIDU Northolt, Company members, business contacts and, of course, Ruislip School staff.

An under-utilised area at the school has been transformed into a valuable ecological resource to supplement class-room teaching. It now provides an excellent introduction to the natural world for all children, particularly for those with special needs.



Ruislip School - a hive of activity in Spring 2010

The project started after a collection at a Company lunch of just over £500. This has triggered financial contributions from others (apart from gifts in kind) in excess of £2,000 (including £500 from the WCT for the cost of security equipment).



Ruislip School pond - planting out, August 2010

The pond is filled by rainwater harvesting, and planting out has started. The WCT would

like to foster further development of this resource, especially encouraging the school to develop the educational component. A local Company member is currently being sought to maintain and develop the Company's relationship with the school.

Ysgol-y-Gogarth

This is a major success for the Company and the school staff. What started as a collection of polytunnels and raised beds is now an excellent example of what can be provided for children with special needs.

Ysgol-y-Gogarth is a day and residential special school catering, at present, for approximately 170 pupils aged between 3 and 19. All the pupils attending the school are "statemented" and have a very wide spectrum of additional learning needs.

The WCT's annual grant, together with Company Members' personal support, has led directly to further funding and others getting involved.

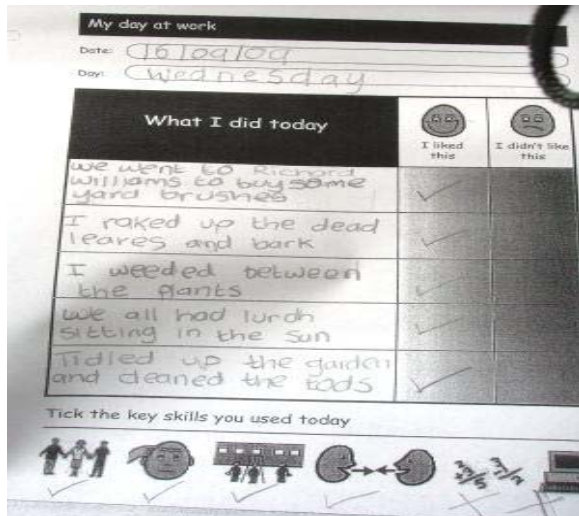


Ysgol-y-Gogarth - "the start" in 2008.

The school is being used to demonstrate what can be done. It ran an environmental and gardening teacher training course for 25 teachers from other schools on 29 April 2010.

The course material and records of the pupil's work have been developed by Gogarth School as a Vocational Learning Contract, including sections on health and safety on work experience, risk assessments, personal skills assessment,

and a diary covering the café, gardening, and maintenance.



Ysgol-y-Gogarth - a pupil's daily activity record.

The Bursary Programme

The Company and WCT currently offer Water Conservation Bursaries (to supplement course fees); Dissertation Support Grants (which contribute to research and dissertation expenses); and the prestigious Water Conservators Dissertation Prize (for the best dissertation at each institution, each year) to post-graduate students in water and environment related departments in Brunel, Oxford and Sheffield universities.

Dissertation Prizes

Two awards have recently been made for the best MSc dissertation in the water and environment sector. Abstracts and the dissertations themselves are available to members of the Company. The participating Universities are always very interested in practitioners' ideas and topics for students' dissertations. If, as member of the Company you would like offer a topic, please contact the University Co-ordinator.

Nigel Hargreaves won the Brunel University Water Conservators Dissertation Prize for 2009. He was presented with his specially engraved water set and certificate by the Master at the Installation Lunch in July 2010.



Brunel University Dissertation Prize Winner 2009
The Master (Roger Hewitt) and Nigel Hargreaves at the 2010 Installation Lunch

The second presentation was to Sam Boardley, a Canadian. Sam won the Oxford University Dissertation Prize in 2007, but never received it as she is rarely in the UK. Tenacious to the last, the WCT caught up with her three years later! She was presented with her prize, rather fittingly, under Bazalgette's memorial, on the Thames Embankment.



Oxford University Dissertation Prize Winner 2007.
Jeff Rasbash and Sam Boardley (with her water jug) under the gaze of Bazalgette's ever watchful eye, in August 2010.

Bursary awards

During the year, post graduate Water Conservation Bursaries have been awarded to Tim Foster, Christopher Pembroke, and Edna Wolferrmann.



Bursary recipient Edna Wolferman with Trustee Mike Williamson, at a recent Company lunch.

University Links

Students and university staff are encouraged to play a full part in our affairs, including attendance at Company functions. Following on from the success of the Company / Brunel Annual Lecture, Sheffield University are discussing the prospect of a joint University / Water Conservators lecture in the next six months, to be held in Sheffield and aimed at members and the water and environment community in the north.

The Magical Taxi Tour

The collection after the Installation Lunch in July raised £800 for the annual Magical Taxi Tour - giving very 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. This is the second year that the Company has donated to this charity at the Installation Lunch.

The Charity and the Company

Like all other livery companies, ours has charitable giving as a major part of its *raison d'être* and has established **The Water Conservation Trust** (the WCT) to provide focus and funding of its projects.

WCT Trustees

There are seven trustees, all Company members, who are appointed by the Master, in consultation with the Chairman of the

Trustees, to provide the balance of skills necessary to run a modern trust.

Trustees are actively involved in the projects, supported by Company representatives and volunteers. Individual grants are small and the trustees are particularly interested in a strong multiplier effect and replication.



WCT Trustees and school staff on a site inspection at Ysgol-y-Gogarth in Sept 2010.

L to R Peter Hall; Ivor Richards; Colin Bland; Jon Goodwin (Ysgol-y-Gogarth); Mike Williamson; Jim Urquhart; Jeff Rasbash (Chairman of Trustees).

WCT Objectives and Funding

The activities of the WCT reflect the objectives set out in the trust deed:

- Grants to individuals in need, and
- Education and Research.

Over half the funding (£15,600 in 2009-10) comes from Gift aid from Company members and other donations. The balance comes from dividends and interest from investments.

Who to contact:

The Company – The Clerk, Ralph Riley
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The Water Conservation Trust, Hon
Treasurer, Peter Hall.

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