

WATER CONSERVATION TRUST BURSARY RECIPIENTS RECEIVE MEDIA COVERAGE FOR WORK ON THE SMARTPUMPS WORK IN KENYA.

Patrick Thomson of Oxford University was recipient of a bursary from the Company of Water Conservators and has recently received noteworthy media coverage for work on the Smart Handpumps project.

Patrick spent five years defusing land mines over the world when it became apparent to him that water and sanitation was more important to people than living near land mines. He joined Oxford and is now using his significant engineering skills (Oxford Engineering Science) along with the skills developed during his MSc to develop the mechanism for the smart pump.

The project is led by Rob Hope who is personally leading the other side of the project which uses mobile phones to help water services such as paying bills for those living in rural areas. This is having significant improvements such as providing more funds to expand services.



Another researcher on the team, Tim Foster is also a student supported by the Water Conservators and is keen to continue work on the project for a D.Phil if he can get funding

Water Conservators might be interested that the project recently received media coverage on BBC World Service, Farming Today as well as Today on Radio 4 and the BBC website – see links below.

Hundreds of millions of people in rural Africa who depend on hand pumps for drinking water could soon benefit from mobile phone technology when the "smart" hand pumps will be trialled shortly in 70 villages in Kenya.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-18358766>

http://news.bbc.co.uk/today/hi/today/newsid_9726000/9726772.stm

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio/player/p00stmxr>

www.ox.ac.uk/news

Details of the new approach are also published in the [Journal of Hydroinformatics](#).