

The Water Conservation Trust Expands its Activities at Oxford

The WCT set up its first bursary and dissertation grant programme five years ago to support the MSc in Water Science, Policy and Management at Oxford University, with bursary students being members of Wadham College, Oxford. This formed a model for similar successful schemes at Brunel and elsewhere. At the time of writing we support students at some seven universities. What started as a few drops of support has now turned into a definite trickle or even a stream!

Since its inception the whole issue of water has achieved higher profile and Oxford University in particular has significantly expanded its activities not least with a major international conference on Water Security, Risk and Society taking place as I write. Whilst WCT cannot claim to have caused this, at least we have been able to contribute to this success in our small way. We have ridden the wave so to speak.

In February Colin Bland, Chairman of WCT, and Trustee Colin Drummond had lunch with Sir Neil Chalmers, Warden of Wadham, Dr Rob Hope the Course Director, and no less than three bursary students from this and previous years, Alexandra Girard, Helen Parker and Patrick Thomson. See photo. Our current student Helen Parker is attending our Election Court Lunch on 17 April and Sir Neil Chalmers is being presented with the Honorary Freedom of our Company at Michaelmas Court. (Some readers may recollect his entertaining speech at one of our lunches in 2008)

Given the success of the link, at the recommendation of our Chairman, the WCT has agreed to double its support to the course. We will now be supporting two bursary students a year and providing dissertation grants for up to eight students at Oxford. Whilst the amounts of money are small they are sometimes the difference between a student being able to undertake a course or not. Let's keep our charity flowing on!

