

The Conservator

The Newsletter of the Worshipful Company of Water Conservators

Master's Letter, Autumn 2010

Dear fellow Water Conservator

Having become a Freeman of the Company in 2002, it is the ultimate honour and privilege for me to be the Master of your Company.

Following my early career as a mechanical and civil engineer in the heavy engineering, chemical, construction and water and effluent treatment sectors, I have spent the last 30 years largely in wastes management, managing several of the leading companies both internationally and in the UK.

In addition to my role as Executive Chairman of Castle Environmental, I am a non-executive director of a number of companies in the wastes management and renewable energy sectors.

I am a past Chairman and Treasurer of the Environmental Services Association and am Chairman of the Waste Management Industry Training & Advisory Board. Having been its President from 2000 to 2001, I am now Honorary Treasurer of the Chartered Institution of Wastes Management.

Professionally, I am a Chartered Engineer, a Chartered Waste Manager, a Chartered Environmentalist, a Companion of the Chartered Management Institute and a Fellow of the Institutions of Mechanical Engineers, Civil Engineers, Engineering and Technology and Wastes Management. I am also an Honorary Fellow of the Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management.

My wife, Rosemary, and I have three children and five grandchildren. My interests include military and political history, watches and clocks, and clay pigeon shooting.

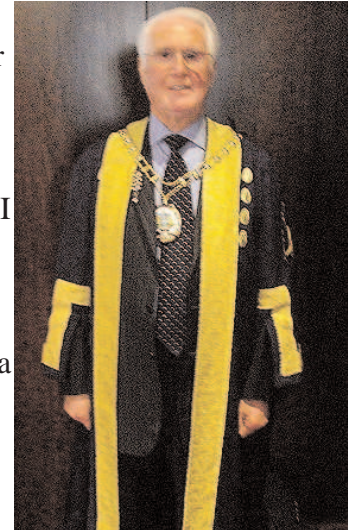
With the mandatory biopic out of the way, now for the important part - my aims and ambitions for the year ahead.

FIRST: to continue to engage the Company in its traditional areas of involvement in the City and beyond.

SECOND: to build upon its strong core base and to engage with other relevant economic and business sectors to boost membership. Recruitment is key to the growth of the Company and if we are to attract new members, we must be seen to be of relevance and of wider interest than simple social events. The Company is neither a professional body nor a trade association. Our primary objective is to promote the development of the science, art and practice of water and environmental management and to do so we need to be involved in fronting key issues of the day and in attracting other leading industry figures to our membership.

THIRD: to engage with the Membership and with the charitable and education/training aspects of the Company. One of the key functions of the Company is the Water Conservation Trust and related charitable activities. We must develop the substance of the WCT and this relies heavily on wider engagement and growth in membership.

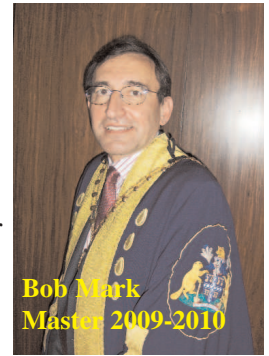
Roger Hewitt
Master



Deputy Master's report

Reflections on a Year as Master

It has been both a privilege and a pleasure to serve the Livery as your Master in this our 10th anniversary year, which we celebrated so splendidly in the presence of the Lord Mayor at Trinity House in January. Our Company has come a long way since 25 January 2000 when the Company was admitted to Livery. We have established our presence through a mature network of relationships with fellow Liveries and established a rhythm of events which chart the course of a Master through his or her year. The theme of Water is of course ever-present.



My duties have ranged from presenting the incoming Lord Mayor with a jug of water through to escorting, (in our beautiful cutter, shown on the right),

a piece of Tudor Water Pipe: the Tudor "Stella", which is carried in the Queen's barge from Hampton Court to the Tower of London. This is an annual event in which we Water Conservators play a significant part to mark the undiminished importance the River Thames still has in the Life of the City.



Another highlight associated with the River has been to present the annual Bio-Diversity Prize in the Thames Fisheries

Experiment on a rather cold, damp morning near Gravesend, but one warmed by the cheerful enthusiasm of the hundred or so fishermen taking part.

I have also represented our Livery in upwards of a dozen or so Livery functions graciously hosted by Actuaries, Launderers, Plumbers, Master Mariners and Watermen amongst so many others.

A very great privilege has been to introduce our speakers this year. I decided to give prominence to our university affiliations and we were greatly honoured to welcome Sir Neil Chalmers, Warden of Wadham College Oxford and Professor Chris Jenks, Vice-Chancellor of Brunel together with some of their MSc students, whom our bursaries support. Admiral Sir Ian Forbes gave a very lively and thought provoking discourse on the UK's place in the World which I know was much enjoyed.

We have contributed in our own field through sponsorship of the "Wet - 10" dinner-debate, where 50 participants listened to the lively discourse of Jonathan Porritt CBE, formerly a Director of Friends of the Earth, and Ken Harvey the Chairman of Pennon Group.

I was delighted that 200 industry professionals attended this year's annual Water Conservators Lecture given by the Chair of the DEFRA Independent Review on Competition and Innovation in Water Markets, Professor Martin Cave. The lecture was generously sponsored by Costain and supported by Brunel University and such was the enthusiasm, three of our audience that evening submitted membership applications. On a personal note, my wife Wendy and I were delighted that so many of our chose to join us during the Portsmouth Livery weekend, the Trafalgar Night dinner in HMS Warrior was delightful but confirmed by wife's belief that I should not take up singing sea chanties professionally. Throughout the year we have both been warmed by your kindnesses and friendship. I end as I began with my thanks for your support and confidence in electing me as your Master last year.

For those of you contemplating service on the Court and possible future election, may I commend both to you.

The Water Conservation Trust

The WCT is the Company's charity, with over half the annual income coming from members' contributions. The Trust focuses on the water and environment sector and has a number of projects related to the education of young people. Because the Trust is small, the Trustees work hard to identify cases of special need and where any grant can have a significant impact or large multiplier effect. The Trust also looks for projects where Company Members can get involved, using their professional and practical skills.

The main schools project run by Company members is *Pupils Prizes*, for schoolchildren who successfully carry out an environment-related project as part of their normal curriculum work. The idea is that a member of the Company 'adopts' the school and helps the teachers to set up and monitor/assess project work. 'Projects' are a very important element of school work and we can all appreciate that studying the environment fits very neatly into this aspect of education.



Two recent projects illustrate the range of other assistance provided to schools.



Three years ago, the Trust made a grant to Ysgol y Gogarth, a special school in Wales, to buy greenhouse equipment to enable the disabled children to develop and use gardening skills. A wide range of disabilities is addressed at the school. The initiative has been very successful and the Trust continues to support the school as its reputation amongst local education providers expands. An exciting development at Gogarth is that other schools are sending teachers along to study what Gogarth is achieving. This is the multiplier effect being put to good use.

Following a Company initiative, Trustees have planned and implemented a scheme to provide a pond for children to develop their appreciation of things ecological at Ruislip High School. The Company donation and the Trust grant have attracted other donors, and manpower support has been provided by our colleagues from the AIDU at RAF Northolt.



The Company has close links with Maidstone Sea Cadets and the Trust makes an annual award to an outstanding cadet to pay for a berth in the training ship, T S Royalist.



THE WATER CONSERVATION TRUST

(Registered number 1007648)

GIFT AID DECLARATION

If you are a UK tax payer you can increase your donation by at least 25% by completing the following Gift Aid form

One declaration can cover all future donations

(Please print)

I (full name including title).....

of (full address including post code).....

.....
 wish all donations I make including those under the standing order mandate below in favour of the Worshipful Company of Water Conservators 'Water Conservation Trust' to be treated as Gift Aid donations. I want the Water Conservation Trust to reclaim tax on my donation and I confirm that I pay income tax or capital gains tax equal to the tax that will be reclaimed.

Signed.....

Dated.....

Please send completed form to:
Peter Hall, Hon Treasurer Water Conservation Trust
6 Bluebell Drive, Burghfield Common,
READING, RG7 3EF
 Email: peterbhall@hotmail.com

**Please do not
 send the form
 to your Bank**

Bursary News

The Company and the Water Conservation Trust have established close links with the postgraduate water and environmental sciences departments of three universities: Brunel, Oxford (Wadham) and Sheffield. These linkages provide the Company with the opportunity to work closely with some of the most accomplished research units in the UK and to organise events on matters of mutual interest.

The Trust provides a limited number of bursaries for M. Sc. students who are selected by the university on the basis of quality and financial need. The Trust also provides smaller grants towards the cost of dissertations and, with the Company, awards prizes for the best dissertations, as judged by the university.

The 2010 Brunel prize-winner is Nigel Hargreaves for his dissertation - Sustainability: A New Approach in which he argues that funds should be invested in a truly sustainable electricity infrastructure using solar energy. His prize, an engraved water jug and glasses, was awarded by the Master, Roger Hewitt, and the Chairman of the Trustees, Jeff Rasbash, at the Installation Lunch in July 2010.



BANK STANDING ORDER MANDATE

Please make payments detailed below, debiting my bank account, until the last payment has been made or until earlier notice.

SORT CODE..... **ACCOUNT NUMBER**

Please pay to:

Lloyds TSB, Southampton Row Branch, Victoria House, Southampton Row, London, WC1B 5HR

SORT CODE 30-97-81 **ACCOUNT NUMBER** 00156817

On the day of 20..... the sum of £..... (in words.....)
and the same sum on each day **ANNUALLY/ QUARTERLY/ MONTHLY** (*please delete as appropriate*)
for the following years, makingpayments in total.

To: (*please print the name and address of your bank*)

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Donor's name and initials (*please print*) Mr/Mrs/Ms/Other

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Address.....

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Signature of donor.....Dated.....

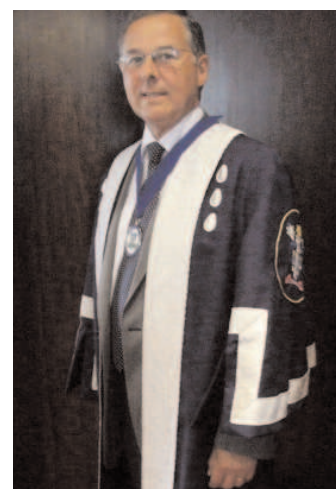
THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF WATER CONSERVATORS WARDENS 2010 - 2011

Barry Dennis FCIWM, CEnv, became a Freeman and Liveryman in 1985 with the Builder's Merchants Livery Company and joined the Water Conservators in 1999. He has worked in the waste and resource management sector since 1964, starting with the Deards Group of Companies where he became a main Board Director responsible for the group's subsidiary companies dealing with all types of wet and dry waste. He has also done work for various Government departments for many years. Barry is currently Director General of the Environmental Services Association, the trade body that represents companies in the waste and resource industry. He also holds other directorships of companies in the sector. In October he will become President of the Chartered Institution of Wastes Management.

A Court Assistant for the past seven years, he has also been Honorary Treasurer. Barry is married to Jan and they have two sons Toby and Rufus, both now working in Australia. Barry also has three daughters and four grandchildren.

Barry's hobbies include sports and gardening (grass cutting!). He represented the FA English schools at football, is a playing member of MCC and a member of Royal Wimbledon Golf Club, where he held a single figure handicap for many years.

**THAMES WARDEN
BARRY DENNIS**



Prof. Peter Matthews OBE, Ph. D, FRSC, FCIWEM, joined the Company in 1996. He is a Chartered Scientist, Environmentalist and Water and Environment Manager. After a career in the water industry of almost 35 years, he retired from Anglian Water International as Deputy MD in 1999. Since then he served on the Board of the Environment Agency for six years and is now on the Board of the Port of London Authority and is the Chair of the Northern Ireland Utility Regulator and the Sustainable Organic Resources Partnership.

He is a member of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution and is also on the governing boards of the Institution of Water and Environmental Management, European Water Association and the Society for the Environment; and has been the President /Chair of all three.

He is Chair of his own consultancy Pelican Portfolio.

Peter is Visiting Professor at Anglia Ruskin University, a Past Pitt fellow of Pembroke College Cambridge University. He was awarded an OBE in 2007 and the Dunbar Medal of the EWA in 2010.

**FLEET WARDEN
PETER MATTHEWS**



Ivor Richards OBE B.Sc. CEng. MICE FICE, joined the company in 1994 - the year he was awarded his OBE

A chartered engineer since 1972, he is Chairman and Managing director of Richards Moorehead and Laing Ltd (RML). RML is an engineering and environmental consultancy that Ivor and his wife Marjorie established in 1984.

He and Marjorie spent 11 years in the water industry in South Wales which included recovery work at Aberfan in 1966. The realisation that mineral exploitation did have serious consequences and this has dominated Ivor's work to the present day.

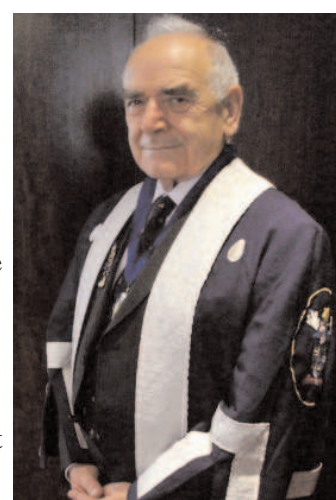
In 1972 he joined a consultancy that sprang out of the work at Aberfan. Much of the work was innovative. Having studied geography and geology at UCL Ivor expanded the engineering office into a multidisciplinary one.

Ivor's career has been spent producing and diffusing guidelines of good practice in mineral working and land reclamation in the UK and Europe. A favourite book, *Working with nature - a low cost approach to land reclamation* was first published in 1982.

With Mervyn Bramley, a fellow Water Conservator, Ivor was responsible for the 1990 CIRIA report on *The use of vegetation in civil engineering*. Recent interests have involved research and construction involving live willow as an engineering material, the development of low weight structural panels and a process that destroys Japanese Knotweed.

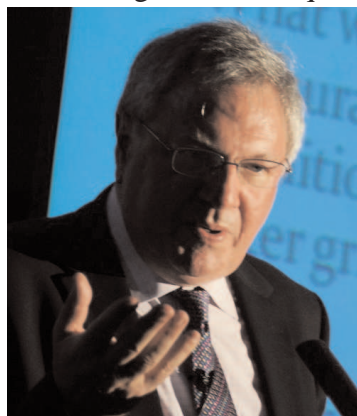
Ivor's current interests include a new hydrocarbon-free porous material for use in footpaths and lightly trafficked areas and low maintenance grasses that will create carbon sinks in public areas.

**WALBROOK WARDEN
IVOR RICHARDS**



Water Conservators' 2010 Lecture *Innovation and Competition in UK Water*

Professor Martin Cave, delivered the keynote speech to an audience of 200. He set out his assessment of the findings and consequences of H.M. Treasury's review of competition and innovation in water markets.



If the water market was to become efficient, changes were inevitable in the way we value water taken from the environment. The commodification of water would be the first step towards the rational use of an increasingly scarce natural resource. Differential pricing may also be needed to address scarcity, and to encourage the export to other retailers of raw and treated water.

Changes were needed to the water services regulatory structure in England and Wales which, he argued, had overseen substantial price rises and conferred a rigidity in the provision of retail water services.

Market research had indicated that some 70% of customers would like to choose a different retailer, and a gradual relaxation of the control on takeovers should be implemented to encourage more efficient companies to expand.

The present regulatory system appeared to have acted as a constraint on research and innovation. Investment in research and development (R&D) and in skills training was very low considering the importance of the industry. Compliance with legal requirements had led to a significant rise in the industry's carbon footprint. Incentives should be available to increase strategic sectoral R&D and, in particular, to identify low carbon technologies and cost-effective responses to climate change issues.

The issues raised by Professor Cave were hotly debated, both at the question time and later in the networking session.

Conservators' Past Master Bob Mark thanked Vice Chancellor Chris Jenks for the use of the superb facilities, Costain for its support for the venture and, particularly, Professor Cave for a challenging address.



Calendar of events 2010 - 2011

Date	Event	Venue
23/09/10	Michaelmas Court Lunch	Saddlers Hall
29/09/10	Election of Lord Mayor	Guildhall
10/10/10	Fish Harvest festival	St. Mary at Hill
27/10/10	Members Carvery Lunch	Butchers Hall
04/11/10	Annual Banquet	Stationers Hall
10/11/10	Committee Meetings	John Street
12/11/10	Silent Ceremony	Guildhall
13/11/10	Lord Mayors Show	City of London
24/11/10	Past Masters Meeting	Guildhall
22/11/10	Ceremony of the Keys	Tower of London
02/12/10	Carol Service/Supper (with Fuellers)	St Michaels Cornhill
14/12/10	Christmas Court	Guildhall
19/01/11	Myddelton Lunch	Trinity House
16/03/11	Committee Meetings	John Street
16/03/11	Members' Dinner	Brewers Hall
08/04/11	United Guilds Service	St Paul's Cathedral
24/05/11	Election Court Lunch	Cutlers Hall
25/05/11	Past Masters Meeting	John Street
01/06/11	Committee Meetings	John Street
19/6/11	Patronal Service	St. Michael's Cornhill
24/06/11	Election of Sheriffs	Guildhall
06/07/11	Installation Lunch	TBA