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THE SOCIETY’S MISSION

*Advancing the understanding of weather and climate, the science and its applications, for the benefit of all*

Public Benefit

The Charities Act 2006 requires all charities to explain in their Annual Reports how their activities provide benefit to the wider public, or sections of it, in achieving their aims. The Act lists 12 main charitable purposes that would be regarded as for public benefit. In the Society’s case the public benefit of our activities falls into four of these categories:

**The advancement of health or the saving of lives**
Through our partnership with the General Aviation Safety Committee and the UK Flight Safety Committee, the Society provides support and advice to weather-related safety-critical issues, and holds weather education seminars for private pilots and sailors. The specific purpose of these events is to improve safety and reduce the number of accidents relating to flying and sailing in deteriorating weather conditions, which can sometimes be fatal. The Society also plays an important role in accrediting aviation forecasters in the UK, who do not have traditional qualifications, to ensure that they meet requirements laid down by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

**The advancement of education**
The Society works with teachers and children at both primary and secondary levels to promote understanding of weather and climate, and runs interactive projects such as its recent work on measuring urban heat islands to both stimulate the interest of children in meteorology and to improve the quality of teaching material and resources in schools. The resources provided by the Society are made freely available. In addition the Society is also freely providing an increasing number of continuing professional development opportunities for teachers who have come to teaching meteorology from a non-meteorological background.

At higher-education levels the Society awards financial support to encourage students to study meteorological sciences, has an active programme of providing careers advice, and has a ‘spotlight on careers’ for a range of people who have come into the profession through different career and educational paths. The Society also helps with the development of careers in meteorology through its work on National Occupational Standards and its award of chartered status both for practising meteorologists and for those involved in support roles.

**The advancement of the arts, culture, heritage or science**
The Society publishes five world-leading science journals which are made available free to developing countries through publishing aid programmes, and to each of the WMO Regional Training Centres. The Society also has a comprehensive meetings programme open to all with an interest in weather and climate, which includes free public national meetings and local meetings to encourage a focus on global, national and local issues, and conferences, to bring about the advancement of the science of meteorology. Grants and bursaries are awarded annually to encourage interaction between scientific groups both in the UK and internationally, and to allow attendance at meetings and conferences.

The Society also subsidises an annual Student Conference that brings together those involved in post-graduate studies from across the country, to create a community of young scientists, and to give them experience in active participation in scientific conferences and workshops.
The advancement of environmental protection or improvement

The Society is at the heart of the debate on global warming and climate change. It plays a particularly important role in communicating some of the more complicated scientific and technical issues to the public at large and enabling them to understand and engage with what is one of the most important global issues that we face today.

The Society also has several popular publications that promote a public interest in the environment. The Society is working on the development of a quality standard for the provision of weather and climate services. The aim of this standard is to ensure a high quality of warnings provided for the protection of life and property, to promote a greater use of high quality services employed in the protection of the environment, and to enhance the UK economy.

The Society’s website has a wide range of information and content that is freely available to all those with an interest and serves all of the categories mentioned above. The Society continues to invest significantly in making its website more accessible and informative, providing a wide range of educational, scientific and professional material. The Society also provides its popular monthly publication *Weather* free to all members.

**THE YEAR JANUARY to DECEMBER 2009**

**A brief review of the highlights**

This has been a busy year for the Society and the first year of our new three-year Strategic Plan. Below are just some of the highlights from the year.

Although many might think of 2009 as a cold year because of the widespread, heavy, record-breaking snowfalls that began and ended the year, in fact eight months of the year were warmer than the 30-year average, making 2009 another warm year. The weather brought much attention from the media and the Society had its busiest year providing support, advice, material and interviews for the media. This included national and local TV and radio, and the broadsheet and red-top newspapers. The Society had film crews from Newsnight, Teacher TV and the EU at its headquarters during the year. The Society also contributed to programmes on the 1987 Storm and filmed material for the MUSICC Project, providing resources on climate change for those with sight and hearing difficulties.

Despite the financial pressures on the Society over the past 24 months, prudent management of the finances by Council has meant that there has been no need to stop or slow down any of the developments outlined within the Strategic Plan and progress against the plan is on track and to budget. The Society’s membership continues to grow, with an increase in members of over 100 in 2009. The attendance at our meetings remains high and the Society was particularly pleased that it held a very well attended joint meeting with the European Meteorological Society in October, with many international scientists attending. We were also delighted to see the opening of our first new Local Centre for some time, the Yorkshire Centre, based primarily at the University of Leeds.

The Society’s biennial conference was held in July at the University of Reading and this time the conference had three themes on ‘The water cycle’, ‘Predicting hazards and risks’ and ‘Ecosystems, atmospheric composition, weather and climate’. The conference had a strong keynote speaker programme and, for the first time, a series of dedicated workshop sessions. The Student Conference followed the main conference and after the conference the students issued a communiqué to the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate on the importance of the science in helping to frame the challenges around climate change.
During the year a programme of work also began on the headquarters building. The basement storage facilities were upgraded and all of the building’s windows renovated. This work will continue into 2010 with the redevelopment of the Fellows Room (the Society’s main meeting room) and internal and external decoration. There were other changes also at headquarters. Two of the team retired in 2009, the Society employed an interim Head of Education to cover maternity leave, and, as planned, a new Public Engagement Programme Manager was appointed on a short-term contract to help with the Strategic Plan delivery.

Education is a large part of the programme of the Society and this year was no exception. The Society’s education team were involved in outreach activities at events such as the Big Bang science and engineering fair, TechFest in Aberdeen and the Cheltenham Science Festival. In an exciting international initiative, the Society, together with the British Council and the Royal Geographical Society, have been working with education authorities and teachers in China, Indonesia, Mexico and the UK to develop climate change resources as part of our ‘climate4classrooms’ project. The project will promote inter-cultural dialogue between classrooms and continents. The demonstration website went live in December.

The Society often loans its instruments out to schools during the year. On this occasion our instruments travelled much further than normal, with the British Schools Exploring Society on their expedition to Ladakh in the Jammu and Kashmir region of India, between the Kunlun mountain range in the north and the Himalayas to the south. The expedition took diurnal weather observations and conducted a very valuable instrument inter-comparison. The Society conducted a measurement campaign of its own in March when we ran a full scale experiment to measure the urban heat island in Greater Manchester, with the help of the University of Manchester and Altrincham Girls’ Grammar School. The experiment involved local schools and members of the public. Over 1,000 data points were collected in the early morning and, despite weather conditions that turned out to be non-ideal, the results show a detailed picture of the city’s urban heat island.

There is often an opportunity for the Society’s Chief Executive to meet with representatives from other international professional and learned societies at the annual meeting of the American Meteorological Society. But this year for the first time some 23 societies came together over two days to formulate a proposal for a new International Forum for Meteorological Societies. The Forum will be an informal grouping to help facilitate the exchange of knowledge, experience and information among the world’s national and regional meteorological societies. The first official meeting of the Forum will be at the 2010 AMS meeting in January and thereafter at two-yearly intervals.

After some time in the planning and preparation, the Society prepared for the launch of its new science journal, in partnership with Wiley-Blackwell and the Royal Geographical Society, the Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews on Climate Change. The new journal offers an authoritative, encyclopaedic resource addressing key topics from across the interdisciplinary field of climate change, including climate science and modelling, policy, economics, and social impact (and a free trial subscription is available on-line to members via the Society’s website). The Society also launched its new academic book programme entitled ‘Advancing weather and climate science’. The programme is looking to publish two-to-three books per year aimed at undergraduate and postgraduate degree courses.

The Society also launched a new award in 2009, sponsored by IBM, on Meteorological Innovation that Matters. The award was made for the first time at the Society’s conference dinner. Caroline Isaacs from IBM presented the award to John Gloster of the Met Office for his work at the Institute for Animal Health on developing a forecast tool for helping to prevent the spread of the Bluetongue virus. We were also delighted to hear that one of the Society’s Honorary Members and a past-President, Sir John Houghton, was awarded the Albert Einstein World Award for Science. The award was presented to Sir John at a ceremony in Liege, Belgium in November.
The Society's policy work is always an important part of our yearly programme, and this year in particular during the run up to the Conference of the Parties meeting in Copenhagen. The Society’s Chief Executive, together with five other Chief Executives from UK environmental professional and learned societies, published a communiqué ahead of the Copenhagen meeting outlining the need for a new agreement on reducing greenhouse gas emissions. In addition this year, the Society’s Chief Executive met both the President of Mexico, during his state visit to the UK, and the Chinese Ambassador to the UK to discuss climate change.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES AND PLANS FOR 2010

During 2009 there was a large focus on the development of new member benefits and in particular for the Society’s amateur members. Much of this work will come to fruition during 2010. In September the Society plans to hold, for the first time, a two-day meeting for amateur meteorologists that brings together the Society’s membership with others from across organisations such as the Climatological Observer’s Link (COL), the Tornado and Storm Research Organisation (TORRO), the Group for Earth Observations (GEO) and the Cloud Appreciation Society. We also hope to be able to announce the details of a new national amateur instrument trial site and towards the end of the year a new portal for data entry, in association with the Met Office. Underpinning this is a continued commitment to strengthen the Saturday meeting programme, with four meetings a year on popular topics of interest to our amateur groups.

This coming year will also see the launch of the Society’s new Education website MetLink. This is a significant redesign of the education web pages, providing new multi-media resources for teachers, teenagers and children. The site will also include careers information for those looking either for employment or higher education courses in meteorology and related subjects.

Professional development remains at the heart of the Society’s programmes of work, as both the learned and professional society for weather and climate. As part of this work, in 2010 the Society will be conducting a major review of the National Occupational Standards for its NVQ in meteorological forecasting and observing. In addition to reviewing the NVQs the Society will also be mapping its vocational qualifications onto the new Qualifications and Curriculum Framework (QCF) for the UK. This will have the added benefit of allowing the qualifications to be recognised across Europe through the link between the QCF and the European Qualifications Framework.

In addition to professional qualifications and accreditation for individuals, the Society is also piloting a Quality Standard for Weather Service Providers. The Met Office, Metra and MeteoGroup volunteered to be the test organisations for this pilot phase and the outcome of the pilot will be presented to the Society’s Quality Standard Council (made up of customer and supplier organisations) in the Spring. If the outcome of the pilot is positive then the Society will implement the new standard before the end of 2010. In parallel to this work the Society is also planning to conduct a review of its CMet qualification to ensure it is still relevant to the meteorological community in its current form. To complement this work the Society will also be running a project to investigate the value in launching a new partner qualification of Chartered Meteorological Technician (CMetTech). This new qualification will provide an opportunity for those in technician support functions to follow a professional development path that runs alongside the CMet qualification. Together both CMet and CMetTech will mirror the WMO’s categories for meteorologist and meteorological technician.

Another major piece of work planned for 2010 is the renewal of the Society’s scientific publishing contract, currently with Wiley-Blackwell. The Society will be signing another five-year agreement with its partner publisher that will look to broaden the international readership of its journals and improve the standing of the journals in the Web of Science impact factor listings.
THE BRITISH WEATHER OF 2009

The most unusual feature of 2009 was the widespread heavy snow at both ends of the year. The last time we had a snowy February and a snowy December was 28 years ago, in 1981. The other main features of the year were the consistently warm and dry spring and early summer, the very wet weather of July and (except in East Anglia and the Southeast) August, and the record-breaking deluge which caused such destructive floods in Cumbria during the third week of November.

January opened with ten days in the deep freeze, but this bitter spell brought little snow; instead, it was characterised by persistent freezing fog. On the 7th the temperature dropped to -13°C at Buntingford (Herts). After the cold start came a spell of very stormy weather; 120mm of rain fell at Shap (Cumbria) in 48h on the 10th/11th, and the year’s strongest winds swept northern Britain on the 17th with a peak gust of 85kn at West Guerinish (Western Isles).

Wintry weather returned for two weeks in early-February, this time bringing frequent and often heavy falls of snow. London ground to a halt on the 2nd following a fall of 15-25cm and at Wisley (Surrey) snow lay 41cm deep. On the 6th a snow-depth of 55cm was logged near Okehampton (Devon). A temperature of -18.4°C was recorded at Aviemore (Inverness-shire) early on the 9th, while that day’s high at Altnaharra (Sutherland) was -5.7°C.

From the middle of February until the first week of July the weather was mostly settled, warm, and generally dry. March was the driest since 2003 and the sunniest since 1929, April was almost as dry and warm as the record-breaking April of 2007, and May was the driest since 1999 and the sunniest since 1997. The second week of June was cold and wet, and snow fell over the northern Pennines, but late-June and early-July delivered the most notable heat-wave for three years, the temperature peaking at 31.8°C at Wisley on June 30.

The rest of July and August were relentlessly wet and gloomy over most of the UK although the southeastern corner of the country became warm and dry for much of August. Rainfall records were broken at several places in western and northern Britain during both months. The rains cleared in early-September, but not before a downpour triggered a serious flood in the north and east of Scotland on the 4th, and localised flooding followed a cloudburst in and around London on the 15th. For the most part, though, September and October were quiet, pleasant, and rather warm months.

November brought an endless stream of Atlantic depressions, each with its own downpour, and between the 18th and 20th a prolonged deluge hit the Lake District, southwestern Scotland, and Snowdonia. At Seathwaite in Borrowdale 374mm of rain fell in just 34 hours, over 1000 properties in Cumbria were flooded, and several bridges in the county were destroyed or seriously damaged. Long-standing UK-wide rainfall records for every period from 24 hours to one month were broken. The unsettled weather continued into the second week of December, but ten days of very wintry weather followed in the run-up to Christmas. Snow was 20-30cm deep in many parts of the country, all forms of transport were thrown into chaos, and the Channel Tunnel was closed for several days. The cold snap relaxed its grip over England and Wales during the Christmas holiday, but Arctic conditions continued in Scotland, and on the 29th the early-morning minimum at Braemar (Aberdeenshire) was -18.4°C and the afternoon high -12.2°C.

Averaged over the entire year, both daytime and night-time temperatures were 0.5-1.5degC above the normal values for the standard reference period 1971-2000. Eight months were warmer than average, two were colder, and two were near normal. Annual rainfall ranged from 20 per cent above average in eastern Scotland and the Central Belt to 10 per cent below in East Anglia. Aggregate sunshine for the year was above normal in all regions, the excess ranging from 5 per cent in the West Country and south Wales to 20 per cent in eastern England.
FINANCE

The accounts for the year ending 31 December 2009 are appended to this Annual Report. The Auditors’ report as usual appears as the front page and certifies that in their opinion the financial statements give a true and fair view of the Society’s affairs as at 31 December 2009. The format of these accounts meets the requirements of the Charity Commissioners.

The Society continues to be in a good financial state with the Reserves being positively affected by investment gains of some £155,000 (2008: £244,000 losses) following the stock-market recovery during the year. This partially redresses the large investment deficit incurred the previous year due to the severe economic downturn. The income for the year exceeded the expenditure resulting in a surplus of £38,000 (2008: gain of £37,000), but after the investment revaluation gains this resulted in a net transfer to the Reserves of £193,000 (2008 transfer from Reserves of £206,000). Also during the year we were grateful to receive the final payments from the legacy donations from the estates of Mr Caswell (£4,610) and of Mr Reynolds (£13,750).

The Society’s journals, published by Wiley-Blackwell, contributed in terms of direct profit share £335,000 to our income (2008: £265,000). The publishers now account for the journals in 3 currencies, US$, GB£ and Euros thus reducing our exposure to currency exchange losses. The journals continue to represent a major source of income for the Society.

Both the income and expenditure from Meetings were substantially higher than during 2008 due to the RMetS conference held at Reading during 2009. With the RMetS main conference being biennial, this is a normal fluctuation. The conference broke even after charging staff costs.

Membership subscription income increased substantially from £139,000 in 2008 to £207,000 in 2009 mainly due to the introduction of the Gift Aid scheme for membership subscriptions. This has been very successful and benefited the 2009 figures by £46,000. This amount covered subscriptions from 6 years in most cases, so the Gift Aid claims in future years will reduce. Interest income was lower due to the reductions in bank interest rates during the year.

During the year two members of the Society’s staff retired; Susan Drew, Administrative Assistant and Alison Hunter, the Publishing Assistant. We welcome Susan Snellgrove and Georgina Lea as their respective replacements. Also during the year Sylvia Knight, the Head of Education Services started her maternity leave and Rachael Fordham was recruited on a one year contract to cover Sylvia’s absence. Sarah Grintzevitch was also recruited on a one year contract as the Public Engagement Programme Manager. Staff costs were therefore some £28,000 higher than the previous year at £343,000.

Development activity expenditure decreased by £10,000 from the previous year. A contribution of £25,000 was made to the climate-change educational project we are developing jointly with the Royal Geographical Society and the British Council. The so-called OJIMS (Overlay Journal Infrastructure for Meteorological Sciences) project was completed earlier in the year with income of £15,000 and expenditure of £5,000, although some of this income relates to work carried out in 2008, but was not able to be invoiced until the end of the project. The membership development project continued during the year with expenditure of £9,000.

During the last quarter of the year most of the windows at headquarters were overhauled and renovated, with the expenditure being capitalised and depreciated over the next 10 years. The final few windows and the planned enlargement of the meeting room will be completed in the first quarter of 2010, the costs of which are again being capitalised and depreciated over 10 years.

The notes to the appended accounts are largely self-explanatory and provide more insight into the way the numbers have been derived.
MEMBERSHIP

The following table shows the Society’s Membership at 31st December 2009 with comparative figures for 2007 and 2008.

<table>
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<th>Grade of Membership</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Honorary Member</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life Fellow</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fellow</td>
<td>1795</td>
<td>1747</td>
<td>1704</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate Fellow</td>
<td>852</td>
<td>788</td>
<td>997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate Fellow (student)</td>
<td>174</td>
<td>214</td>
<td>248</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporate Body</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>2950</td>
<td>2885</td>
<td>3088</td>
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This following graph shows how membership of the Society has varied over the past years and the Society is delighted to have returned membership levels to those of the early part of the decade.

The Society learned with regret of the deaths, as reported to Council, in 2009 of the following:

John Adams, Colchester; Jack Ainley, Derby; Margaret Bushby, Wokingham; Dorothy Chadburn, Grantham; George Cowling, Marlow; Harold Crutcher, Asheville USA; Charles Dixon, Dundee; Joseph Fitton, Rochdale; Raymond Flavell, Wokingham; Kate Furneaux, Brampton; Ronald Greatrix, Garstang; Keith Herrington, Abbots Langley; Mavis Hinds, Bracknell; James Hughes, McLean USA; Eric Illingworth, Chester; David Limbert, Cambridge; Michael McCormack, Karrinyup Australia; Harold Monsen-Fry, Chesham; Calvin Naegelin, Papillion USA; Leslie Press, Bexhill on Sea; John Sampson, Ontario; Frederick Sanders, Marblehead USA; John Scott, Wallingford; Jesus Seco-Santos, Salamanca Spain; Ann Sibley, Sedburgh; Michael Smith, Enfield; Kenneth Symonds, Beccles; Alan Thomas, Bury; Geoffrey Turner, London; Eric Veryard, Cranbrook; Kenneth Woodley, Bracknell.
## AWARDS AND PRIZES

The Society is delighted to announce that it will make the following Awards in 2010 for the year 2009:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Award</th>
<th>Recipient</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Mason Gold Medal</td>
<td>Professor Anthony Illingworth (University of Reading)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Buchan Prize</td>
<td>Dr Olaf Stiller (Met Office)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The FitzRoy Prize</td>
<td>Dr Bob Riddaway (Retired Meteorologist)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The L F Richardson Prize</td>
<td>Jointly to:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dr John Marsham (University of Leeds)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dr Andrew Turner (University of Reading)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Adrian Gill Award</td>
<td>Dr Andrew Staniforth (Met Office)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Society Outstanding Service</td>
<td>Alison Hunter (Retired from Society HQ team in 2009)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Journal Editors Awards:</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Quarterly Journal</strong></td>
<td>Dr Tim Dunkerton (North West Research Associates)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>International Journal of Climatology (Sponsored by Wiley-Blackwell)</strong></td>
<td>Dr Jose Antonio Marengo (CPTEC/INPE, Brazil)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Atmospheric Science Letters</strong></td>
<td>Not awarded in 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Meteorological Applications</strong></td>
<td>Not awarded in 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Gordon Manley Weather Prize</td>
<td>John Prior, Philip Eden and the WeatherLog Team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Paton Memorial Prize</td>
<td>To be awarded by the Scottish Centre in April 2010</td>
</tr>
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The Society also appointed one new Honorary Member, the highest award of membership made by the Society, in recognition of a distinguished career and long standing contribution to Meteorology. This award went to:

Mr C Y Lam, FRMetS, CMet  Former Director of the Hong Kong Observatory
STRATEGIC PROGRAMME BOARD

The Strategic Programme Board meets three times a year to look at each strategic project to ensure that it is meeting its objectives and delivering the desired outcomes to time and to budget. The Board also looks at new development and partnership opportunities and at its autumn meeting puts these together to form the development budget for the coming year. Each of the initiatives included in the budget is reviewed to understand the contribution it will make towards delivering the Society’s Strategic Plan. Below is a brief outline of just some of those initiatives.

Education is a key strand of the Society’s charitable work and a detailed list of activities is provided in the section in this report on Education. However, there were three main development activities this year that looked to underpin the future development of education. The first was the re-development of the MetLink platform as the main delivery mechanism for the education resources. This was a change away from MetLink’s current function which was being less and less used by the teaching community. The second initiative was to change the emphasis more towards resources directly for teachers. This has become increasingly important as more teachers are teaching meteorology across the curricula with a non-specialist background. Thirdly, the Society developed its climate4classrooms initiative with a truly international feel and looks to promote inter-cultural dialogue between children and classrooms across the world on the topic of climate change.

Accreditation is increasingly important in the work of the Society and the Board oversaw the work involved in the development of the Quality Standard for weather service providers, and in particular, the pilot project. The project involved Metra, MeteoGroup and the Met Office and is due to report back in 2010.

The growth and development of membership is also an important topic for the Society. Whilst the House Committee looks after membership as an area of responsibility, the Board keeps under review projects that aim to increase the benefits to members. This year in particular the Board has focused on a number of new initiatives aimed at amateur members which will hopefully be ready to introduce in 2010.

In support of its increasing wide-ranging and wide-reaching activities the Society has put in place an Internship Programme which will be launched in 2010. The aim of the programme is to provide people with an opportunity to come and work with the Society for short periods of time on specific project-based work from the Board’s programme.

This year the Society has also invested in its Headquarters facility in order to equip the building for a more modern and flexible way of working. The archive storage in the basement of the Society has been renewed and significant restoration work took place on the Society’s windows. The next phase of the development work will provide more meeting room space, more flexible office space and modern audio-visual and conferencing facilities.

In addition to the core work on the building, efforts are being made to make the headquarters more energy efficient. New secondary double glazing has been fitted and new low wattage lighting installed throughout the building. This is part of the Society’s move to reduce its emissions by 20% by the end of 2010 in line with Government and EU emissions targets. The Board keeps all of this work under review through monitoring of the Corporate Responsibility Programme.

The Board continued to improve the way in which it looks to bring through and evaluate new ideas and proposals. With this in mind the Board has allocated some £20,000 as part of an Innovation Fund for 2010. This fund puts finances aside within a budget framework to allow the Society to more easily respond to new initiatives within year.
The primary role of the House Committee is to review and develop the key functions that underpin the general activities of the Society. The committee meets three times a year and is chaired by the General Secretary.

**Investments and financial management**
The House Committee kept under review the Society’s investments. The fall in the value of the Society’s equities experienced in 2008 continued into the first few months of 2009. Since then the value has steadily recovered and ended the year at £706K (2008: £523K), making realised and unrealised gains of £148K for the year (2008: losses of £244K).

The in-year expenditure on ‘business-as-usual’ activities was monitored. Also the proposed budget for 2010 for these activities was scrutinised before recommending a budget to Council.

**Membership development**
The Membership Development Project (further details below) aims to increase membership of the Society by 50% over three years. Consideration was given to various proposals from the project board, such as revising membership categories and membership fees. The project board has the primary responsibility for ensuring the success of the project, but the House Committee provides advice and support.

**Membership Fees**
The House Committee recommended to Council a change in the membership fee structure based on a proposal from the Membership Development Project Board. The proposal recognised that, in general, Fellows benefit more than Associate Fellows from the Society’s activities. The new fee structure was agreed by Council in October 2009. Therefore, from January 2011, the Society will be introducing an increased membership fee for those joining as new Fellows of the Society and for Associate Fellows wishing to become Fellows for the first time. The increased fee will not apply to those who have become Fellows before 31 December 2010.

**Work to the HQ building**
The decision was taken to enlarge the Fellows’ Room in the HQ building. This will enable Council and some large committees to hold their meetings on the Society’s premises. In addition the room can be set up to make best use of video conferencing and thereby reduce travel costs and increase participation. There will also be the opportunity to use the state-of-the-art meeting room for other events associated with the Society’s activities.

**Some other activities**
The following is a selection of the other activities carried out or overseen by the House Committee.
- **Employee Handbook.** An Employee Handbook containing important information for members of staff was prepared.
- **Insurance portfolio.** The insurance portfolio was reviewed. Anyone travelling on Society business is now covered by a new travel policy.
- **Pricing of copyright material and web-based advertising.** The pricing policy was reviewed with prices being reduced to bring them in line with those charged by other societies.
- **Risk Register.** The Society’s Risk Register was kept under regular review. At present there are no risks in terms of probability and impact that are causing serious concern.
- **Health & Safety.** Implementation of the actions from the annual Health & Safety audit was monitored.
● **Maternity Policy.** An interim maternity policy was established with the final version expected to be agreed in 2010.

● **Standing Orders and By-Laws.** Amendments to the Standing Orders and By-Laws were kept under review.

**MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROJECT BOARD**

The Membership Development Project has Liz Bentley, Head of Communications, as project manager with Bob Riddaway, General Secretary, as chair of the project board. This project, set up in 2008, aims to increase membership of the Society by 50% over three years. The 2009 membership renewals saw an increase in Society membership of 7% by introducing some ‘quick-win’ initiatives. This increase includes 120 new members who have joined after studying for an Open University weather module. Initiatives that were introduced included an early career discount for graduates, a telephone contact programme with some current and lapsed members and improved communication with all members.

The project board meets two-monthly to consider various proposals, such as revising membership categories and membership fees, provide advice and monitor progress. The project board has the primary responsibility for ensuring the success of the project, with support and guidance from the House Committee.

Promoting Gift Aid actively during the 2009 renewals period was highly successful leading to an increase from 20 members to over 700 members who now provide Gift Aid. The Society also introduced a ‘Friends of the Society’ donation scheme in 2009 which would help to support the work of the Society. This led to a number of small donations throughout the year.

Planning for new initiatives has taken place during the year and includes the introduction of a young membership category and the expansion of school membership. A strategy document for corporate membership has also been developed and will be implemented in 2010. This will provide a framework for organisations to benefit by having employees as Society members.

The Society has also been considering options to expand its membership to a general public audience. Market analysis was completed in February 2009 and highlighted that there is a strong support for developing a general public membership. A series of workshops that ran over the summer started to shape this idea and a full proposal will be put to Council in 2010.

**LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES**

Following the previous year’s large scale review of material held at the Society, this year’s work on archive material has been limited by comparison. However, the Society carried out a major overhaul of the headquarters archive and storage facilities, which is now complete. The Society also completed discussions and signed a new Memorandum of Understanding with the Met Office and The National Archives of Scotland to secure the long-term preservation of the holdings from the Scottish Meteorological Society. Details on the content of the National Meteorological Archive, which includes the other holdings of the Society can be found at: ‘http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/corporate/library/index.html’.
EDUCATION

People
In August 2009, Sylvia Knight began her maternity leave and Rachael Fordham became the Interim Head of Education for this period. The Committee welcomed new members Robert Pugh and Barry Evans (secondary teachers), Gerard Rourke (primary teacher) and Paula Richardson (Geographical Association). John Harris has retired from the committee, and was thanked for the substantial contribution that he made over many years of service.

Internet projects for delivering the Education Programme

- At the October meeting it was decided that our MetLink website, previously limited to weather observations, would be re-launched to incorporate all the educational materials of the Society. The committee approved the site template designed by Kathy Maxwell, Head of IT and Technical Services. New materials aimed at children, teenagers and teachers, will be uploaded throughout the coming 12 months, with a launch date of 1 March 2010. Many of the materials, ranging from weather poems and songs to experiments demonstrating the physics of weather, have already been created by the Interim Head of Education, and others have been updated from our existing website.

- A new teacher internship scheme, in which two secondary teachers are paid an honorarium to develop teaching materials relevant to the national curriculum, was run for the first time in 2009. In one case it produced some high quality classroom resources, which will be freely available on MetLink. The scheme will be run again in 2010 with a more predefined set of topics for teachers to choose from.

- The Society has joined forces with the British Council (BC) and the Royal Geographical Society (RGS) in “Climate4Classrooms”, a project to provide web materials to teach climate change to students in the 11-14 age range in four countries of the world – Mexico, Indonesia, China and the UK. Each of the partners is contributing to the cost, £25k in the case of the Society, and the materials are now available through the website ‘climate4classrooms’. The project has had the welcome side-effect of developing much stronger working relationships with BC and RGS, and the Society is currently seeking funding with the project partners to extend this work to a further four countries.

Links with other bodies

- Sylvia Knight gave a paper on the Manchester Urban Heat Island experiment to the Geographical Association in April, and visited two further schools as part of our programme to better understand the needs of teachers for resources on weather and climate.

- Rachael Fordham met with the Institute of Physics education committee members to discuss the creation of a pack of weather after-school materials and activities, probably revolving around the weather experiments cards which have recently been updated.

- In December, Rachael worked with the Geographical Association to become involved in promoting meteorology through the use of spotlighted career individual profiles which will be used in the classroom and to give careers guidance.

- Greater links with Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Network (STEMNET) have been forged with links to both the Berkshire and Surrey centres. Visits to the STEMNET offices were made in October to understand how we could advertise more widely with them, e.g. the new MetLink website and the availability of Met Ambassadors.

- Throughout the year the Society was involved in a number of educational outreach events which in total reached over 15,000 people. These included the science and engineering faiR ‘The Big Bang’ in March, Cheltenham Science Festival in June, and Tech Fest, the Scottish science festival held in Aberdeen in September.
MEETINGS, LECTURES AND CONFERENCES

Our Meetings, lectures and conferences continue to facilitate communication and collaboration across the Society’s community. Meetings are only possible because of the voluntary work of the organisers, the speakers and the Society’s Meetings Committee, as well as the dedication of the Society staff. Many thanks to all who have contributed in 2009.

Wednesday National Meetings
Wednesday National Meetings are aimed at a broad meteorological audience and are usually held on the third Wednesday of each month. The main London venue for National meetings was Imperial College with just one meeting this year held outside London at the University of Reading. The following meetings took place in 2009:

January MetOp: A new tool for measuring the atmosphere
February Forecasting the state of our seas: The work of the National Centre for Ocean Forecasting
March Insects, weather and climate (including the Margary Lecture given by Professor Philip Mellor on “Climatic effects on arbovirus disease occurrence”)
April The Butterfly Effect: Myth or Reality?
May AGM and talks from the L F Richardson Prize and Buchan Prize winners.
October Evaluating climate processes in West Africa: New perspectives from the African Monsoon Multidisciplinary Analysis (AMMA)
November Dynamicists versus Numerical Modellers: A Growing Divide?
December Climate Reanalysis: Progress and Challenges (including the Symons Gold Medal Lecture given by Professor Adrian Simmons on “Atmospheric re-analysis: Progress and challenges”)

There was no June meeting in 2009 because of the closeness to the date of the Biennial Conference. The October meeting was the first joint meeting with the European Meteorological Society. This had morning and afternoon sessions and a number of participants travelling from across Europe to take part in the event.

2009 Summary Statistics from National Wednesday Meeting Feedback Forms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Content</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Quality of Presentation</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Level of Specialisation</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very Interesting</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>Consistently Good</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>Too Specialised</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reasonably Interesting</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>Mostly Good</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>About Right</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disappointing</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Patchy</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Too General</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The average attendance at the National Wednesday Meetings in 2009 was 92 and the feedback was broadly similar to recent years with 99% of people finding the content “very or reasonably” interesting, 96% finding the quality of presentation “consistently or mostly good” and 88% finding the level of specialisation “about right”. 
Average Attendance at National Wednesday Meetings from 1999 to 2009

Saturday National Meetings
Saturday National Meetings are aimed at the non-specialists and the three meetings held were:

- **April**  
  Art and Skies – Sun, Wind and Rain (In association with the David Cox Exhibition at the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery)

- **September**  
  Interpreting the Weather (Joint with GASCo at Cambridge Airport)

- **November**  
  Weather and Sailing (Joint with the Royal Institute of Navigation at the Royal Thames Yacht Club)

The average attendance at our Saturday National Meetings was 47. This is the first year we have recorded attendance at these meetings and a record of historical attendance is now being compiled going forward. We have less feedback forms from these events but all who returned a form felt that the content was “very or reasonably” interesting, the quality of presentation “consistently or mostly good” and the level of specialisation “about right”.

Other joint meetings with external organisations
A joint meeting on “Quantifying the limitations of models of complex systems” was held with the Royal Statistical Society in April and a meeting on “The Science of UK Climate Projection: UKCP09 and beyond” was held jointly between the Royal Society and the Royal Meteorological Society in October to mark the Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs launch of the UK Climate Projections.

National Conferences
The Society’s biennial conference was held from 29th June to 2nd July 2009 on the topic of “Meteorological Science in time and space – from local weather to global climate”. The conference is one of the UK’s major gatherings of the weather and climate scientists. The conference was organised around three themes (“The water cycle”, “Predicting hazards and risks” and “Ecosystems, atmospheric composition, weather and climate”) with a very strong programme of invited speakers from around the world, thought provoking workshops and a display of posters presenting a wide range of new research. The annual Student Conference, which followed on from the main conference, was well attended by PhD students from across the UK. The conference provides a valuable opportunity for students to, often for the first time, present their work to their peer group, and discuss a wide range of research topics in an informal environment.

Special Interest Groups and Local Centres
Over 30 Special Interest Group and Local Centre meetings were held in 2009 at a variety of locations around the UK. These groups continue to provide valuable fora for sharing common interests and enthusiasm amongst their members in an informal environment.
PROFESSIONAL ACCREDITATION

Meeting the Ambitions of the Strategic Plan
Building upon the Strategic Framework developed to provide a more coherent programme of activities for the Society’s accreditation programme, the Accreditation Board agreed the need to map, and where necessary, develop its functions to contribute to delivering the Society’s Strategic Plan over the next 2 years. Key work strands are:

- The priority review and development of CMetTech to confirm the need for and scope of the scheme and the subsequent review of CMet to enable a more detailed analysis of the future requirement for CMet accreditation and review processes.
- Addressing how, if at all, the Society should be involved in accrediting the increasing number and variety of courses and provider institutions.
- Assessing and recognising the function and cost of the Society’s accreditation to maintain educational standards.
- Assessing the scope for extending the Society’s NVQs based on the European Qualification Framework.
- Developing the function and applicability of CPD as a component of the Society’s qualifications drawing upon examples and methodologies of CPD used by other societies and bodies.

National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs) in Weather Forecasting (Level 4) and Meteorological Observing (Level 3)
In addition to the centres at Met Office and FOST HM (Royal Navy), MeteoGroup has become an Assessment Centre and have enrolled candidates on to the NVQ programme. The Assessment Centres have jointly awarded 14 Weather Forecasting (Level 4) and 7 Weather Observing (Level 3) qualifications, which are now embedded as integral parts of the training programmes of each organisation.

The existing NVQ standards are due to expire at the end of 2010. To date SEMTA has not confirmed how the Meteorology NVQs will form part of the new National Qualification Framework. It is anticipated that clarification will be received early in 2010. The current National Occupational Standards (NOS) for the NVQs are due to be reviewed in 2010, led by the Society, with representatives from the Assessment Centres contributing to the process. Following this programme of work, the Society will then lead an exercise to map the NOS in to the UK’s new Qualifications and Curriculum Framework.

‘Acquired Rights’ for Aviation Forecasters
There is an enduring need to review and recognise candidates without relevant degree qualifications to ensure they meet the requirements for Aviation Forecasting – these requirements are mandated in ICAO Annex 3 for Meteorological Services for International Air Navigation and outlined in Supplement No.1 to WMO No. 258: Guidelines for the Education and Training of Personnel in Meteorology and Operational Hydrology: training and qualification requirements for aeronautical meteorological personnel.

In the UK, the Permanent Representative with WMO delegated this responsibility to the Society under the scheme known as ‘Acquired Rights’. Although the number of people requiring accreditation is small, this will continue until 2016 at which point the ‘Acquired Rights’ scheme will close and all aviation forecasters will need to be fully compliant with the ICAO mandate.

The Quality Standard Pilot Project
The Society is working on a pilot study for the Quality Standard for Weather Service Providers with MeteoGroup, Metra and Met Office. The project will report back to the
Society’s Council in 2010. The outcomes from the pilot are to be presented to Council in 2010. The pilot project is examining in particular:

- the importance of professional qualifications within the standard;
- the need to rationalise overlap between content of this standard and other standards such as the ISO schemes;
- refining the limits of the Quality Standard and articulating how it would be applied in practice within an organisation;
- the need for and value of a stratified accreditation framework within the standard.

Chartered Meteorologist and FRMetS
The Course Evaluation/Continuous Professional Development Panel continues to assess the CPD returns from CMets, the evaluation of courses, and advising on applications for the use of the appellation FRMetS. Details of the status of accreditation for both the CMet and FRMetS are provided in the tables below.

### 2009 Chartered Meteorologist (CMet) Applications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Applications in progress at 1/1/09</th>
<th>New accreditations granted in 2009</th>
<th>Accreditations refused/withdrawn during 2009</th>
<th>Applications in progress at 31/12/09</th>
<th>Total number of CMets at 31/12/09</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CMet CPD Returns**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of returns reviewed</th>
<th>Number of returns not approved</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Applications for the public use of FRMetS – existing Fellows**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Applications for public use</th>
<th>Applications approved</th>
<th>Applications refused</th>
<th>Total numbers of FRMetS (existing Fellows) at 31/12/09</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>422</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Course Evaluation Panel has also renewed the accreditation of courses from Edinburgh University as providing the minimum level of knowledge required by a CMet.

Chartered Environmentalist
The following related to the status of the applications for Chartered Environmentalist.

### 2009 Chartered Environmentalist (CEnv) Applications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Applications in progress at 1/1/09</th>
<th>New accreditations granted in 2009</th>
<th>Accreditations refused/withdrawn during 2009</th>
<th>Applications in progress at 31/12/09</th>
<th>Total number of CEnvs at 31/12/09</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CEnv CPD Returns**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of returns reviewed</th>
<th>Number of returns not approved</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Society for the Environment undertook an audit of the Society’s CEnv processes in December 2009 as part of the license renewal process. The Society will hear the outcome of the audit in March 2010.
SCIENTIFIC PUBLISHING

Introduction
The Scientific Publishing Committee oversees the Society’s journal portfolio and academic book programme, with the long-term aim to produce high quality, respected publications, grow the circulation and use, increase revenue through increased sales, and place the journals in the top five of their respective categories.

There have been three key aspects of the activities of the Scientific Publishing Committee over the past year. The first has been an ongoing review of our portfolio to ensure we are achieving the appropriate scope and coverage, and to assess our performance with respect to our competitors. The second has been to critically analyse the production process to ensure it is as swift and smooth as possible, and that it is in-line with the Society’s carbon-reduction strategy. The third has been to instigate a review of our policies regarding data access and plagiarism, and the trialling of plagiarism-detection software for some of the journals, to ensure we are at the lead of the publishing industry in these regards. In addition, a number of marketing initiatives have been conducted by Wiley-Blackwell’s during the year to promote the journals worldwide and colour page charges have been reduced to enhance the attractiveness of the journal to potential authors. A particular highlight of the year has been the acceptance of Atmospheric Science Letters for calculation of an impact factor in 2010. The Editor, Alan Gadian, should be congratulated for his efforts to achieve this.

As part of the Strategic Plan, the Society has been developing a new journal in partnership with the Royal Geographical Society (RGS) and Wiley-Blackwell – the Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews (WIREs) on Climate Change. This focuses specifically on the interdisciplinary nature of climate change. The first issue is January/February 2010 and potential users and librarians can register for free access for a year. The Society will introduce an academic book programme for meteorological science in 2010, with the aim of producing 2 books in the series per year.

Quarterly Journal
The impact factor for the Quarterly Journal in 2008 (issued in 2009) was 2.050, a drop from 2.893 in 2007. The drop was mainly due to a highly cited paper concerning the ERA-40 dataset no longer falling within the census period, nevertheless, the Editorial Board is actively undertaking a number of initiatives to ensure the impact factor remains high. To improve the attractiveness of the journal for authors, there has been a concerted effort to decrease the time taken in the reviewing process, with impressive results: the average time from submission to first decision is now just 77 days (from 93 days in 2008) and the average time to an acceptance decision being just 194 days (from 239 days in 2008). There are also on-going efforts to broaden the reach of the journal, for example, by encouraging field leaders to write review articles, by improving institutional use in the Far East, and by attracting more North American authors and readers. It has also been decided to encourage the submission of more papers on climate dynamics. There were no special issues in 2009, however there are several in the pipeline. In another initiative, a new page format, designed to provide enhanced clarity for the reader will be trialed from Jan 2010.

International Journal of Climatology
The impact factor for the International Journal of Climatology in 2008 was 1.97, a drop from 2.61 in 2007. However, as for the Quarterly Journal, this was mainly due to a number of highly cited review articles no longer falling within the census period. The reviewing process took on average 62 days to first decision and 226 days to a final decision. There are on-going efforts to speed up this process. There were a total of 338 papers submitted in 2009, with 212 accepted and 126 rejected during the year (representing a mixture of papers submitted in 2008 and 2009). Two successful special issues were on the topics of ‘Climate Extremes: progress and future directions’ and ‘African Climate and Applications’. The overall strategy of the journal is to drive up usage and improve its impact factor and a
number of initiatives are being undertaken to follow this through, including publicising high-impact papers and commissioning review articles.

**Atmospheric Science Letters**
In an exciting development, Atmospheric Science Letters has now been accepted into the ISI Web of Science so will receive an impact factor in 2010 (expected to be around 1.0). This represents a major milestone in the development of this relatively young journal. The numbers of papers submitted has been steadily growing. During 2009, 110 papers were submitted, with 53 accepted (note that the acceptance rate is higher than this number at first implies, due to the increasing number of submissions). There were 4 issues during the year, one of which was a special issue on HEPEX (the Hydrologic Ensemble Prediction Experiment). It is anticipated that the number of submissions will increase by around 20% next year and the emphasis is now being made on increasing the quality of submissions.

**Meteorological Applications**
The impact factor for Meteorological Applications in 2008 was 0.588, broadly in line with the previous year. The total submissions in 2009 were 114; 15 papers were withdrawn prior to peer review and a further 33 were rejected after review. The average time for review of first submission was 42 days. Four issues were published, with one special issue on ‘Forecast Verification’. Dr T Lachlan-Cope and Dr P Ryder completed their terms of office on the Editorial Board and Dr A Ghelli (ECMWF) joined the Editorial Board. There is an on-going emphasis on ensuring a broad representation on the Editorial Board. An important goal going forward is to produce one specialist issue per year, providing a current, state–of–the–art review of more specialist topics relevant to the journal’s themes, and addressing the generalist nature of the journal in the other three issues each year.

**Weather**
Bob Prichard took over as Editor from Julian Mayes at the end of 2008. Weather has now been accepted for calculation of an impact factor in 2010. The submission rate is very healthy and articles are planned for most issues through 2010. The review process has been widened beyond the Editorial Board to include the broader meteorological community and this has been seen to be a positive development. The Editor has made particular efforts to improve the pre-publication process with positive results. A new emphasis has been placed on short pieces on topical weather.

At the beginning of December the responsibility for Society News moved to the Society’s Head of Communications, and the Editor of Weather made the decision to move Society News from near the beginning to the back of ‘Weather’. Society News gives a valuable opportunity to provide information to the Membership on the work of the Society. Throughout the year the aim has been to provide more information to members with appropriate photos and graphics. The feedback indicates this is a positive aspect of Society News as members are able to put a face to a name/event/place etc. We welcome any suggestions from members of what they would like to hear more about.

**WIREs and the Book Programme**
During 2009 the Society worked on the development of its new book programme and the new Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews (WIREs) Climate Change journal, in partnership with the Royal Geographical Society. Both of these initiatives will be launched early in 2010.

**Acknowledgements and Special Thanks**
The Committee would like to thank both Julian Mayes and Penny Tranter for their hard work during their terms as Editor of Weather and Editor of Society News respectively. They, in turn, would like to acknowledge the invaluable support of Liz Bentley and Alison Hunter, who retired from her role in the Society as Publishing Assistant at the end of 2009.
REPORTS FROM OTHER REPRESENTATIVE BODIES

Society for the Environment (SocEnv)

In August, after a long period without a permanent Chief Executive, the Society for the Environment appointed its new Chief Executive Officer, John Carstensen, who joined SocEnv from INTRAC, the international research and training organisation for NGOs, where he was chief operating officer.

Both Dr Bob Riddaway, our Society’s General Secretary, and Professor Paul Hardaker, the Chief Executive, took part in SocEnv’s strategy review workshop, and after three years’ service Paul Hardaker stepped down from his position on the SocEnv Management Committee. James Dent continues as the Society’s Auditor for Chartered Environmentalist, which each member body is required to provide. Paul Hardaker also represented the Society at the SocEnv Annual General Meeting in June, where Lord Chris Smith, Chairman of the Environment Agency, addressed the meeting and presented Honorary Fellowships to both Colin Challen MP, the Chairman of the All Party Parliamentary Group for Climate Change, and Sir Jonathon Porritt in recognition of Jonathon’s outstanding service both to SocEnv and to sustainability more widely.

In July, Paul Hardaker hosted a meeting of Chief Executive colleagues from the other SocEnv founding societies at the Royal Overseas League in London. From that meeting the Chief Executives put together a Communiqué outlining the challenges facing policy-makers ahead of Copenhagen. The Communiqué was published at the Society’s meeting at the Royal Society in October.

In December, the Society had its first audit by SocEnv of its processes and procedures for awarding CEnv. This is part of the regular review programme that comes with the licence to award CEnv. The feedback from the auditing team was very positive and the Society will hear the final outcome of the audit in March 2010.

Science Council

The Society’s Chief Executive, Prof Paul Hardaker, represents the Society at the Science Council’s Annual General Meeting and Council meetings, and in 2009 took up an appointment to the Science Council Board.

During the year the Society has been involved in several of the Science Council’s working groups including its work on the new Science Diploma, the Science Community Partnership Supporting Education (SCORE), and later in 2009 the Science Council’s round table discussion on the future of Science Education. The Society also remains actively involved in supporting the Science Council’s programme on Women in Science and its development of the flagship careers website FutureMorph (http://www.futuremorph.org/).

The Society hosted a stand as part of the Science Council’s contribution to ‘The Big Bang’ in the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, London in March 2009. The event celebrated young people’s achievements in science. The Big Bang was the first UK young scientists and engineers fair for schools and colleges. The Society had a stand providing interactive links to significant weather events, climate predictions and career advice. Over 6,500 young people and teachers attended the event over three days, with displays and demonstrations from over 100 organisations.
There were four meetings of the General Aviation Safety Council in February, May, September and November 2009.

John Thorpe, Chief Executive of GASCo, indicated his wish some time ago to retire and some time was spent in discussing the selection criteria for his successor and subsequent recruitment. A thorny problem is money; GASCo has very limited funds and recruiting the right person would be a significant drain on resources, but it was decided that it was more important to go for quality on the basis that an effective Chief Executive would be able to attract new funding for GASCo. John’s successor is Mike O’Donoghue. Mike gained a flying scholarship with Aer Lingus and subsequently spent 30 years in the Army, working for a time at the Central Flying School. He has both fixed and rotary wing experience.

There has been discussion about reducing the number of GASCo Council Meetings from four to either three or even two a year. Every organisation contributing to GASCo has a Council seat which means that there can be an attendance approaching forty people. There is an increasing view that having four large “set piece” meetings a year has become somewhat unproductive and that reducing the number of full meetings with much of the more routine business devolved to sub-committees would be beneficial. A final decision has been deferred until the new Chief Executive takes office.

In late September, there was a third very successful joint GASCo/RMetS seminar on Aviation Weather at Cambridge Airport courtesy of Marshall Aviation. Once again Penny Tranter was lead presenter with Simon King from the BBC and the Society’s Chief Executive, Prof Paul Hardaker, was co-Chairman. After the somewhat indifferent summer weather, the event took place on a stunning day with clear skies over almost the whole of Europe. As on previous occasions, the seminar was over-subscribed, demonstrating a continuing need for the involvement of the Society in promoting weather education seminars for the General Aviation.

European licensing issues continue to take up considerable GASCo time and will do so until 2012 when the new European Aviation Safety Agency licensing proposals are due to take effect. While it is obviously desirable to have a set of common rules throughout Europe, it is proving difficult to reconcile historically different approaches taken by various countries in the past into one uniform set of rules, particularly for sub-ICAO ratings such as the UK Instrument Meteorological Conditions Rating that allows UK rating holders to undertake some instrument flying in poor weather conditions. It remains to be seen what the final outcome will be.

UK Flight Safety Committee (UKFSC)

The UK Flight Safety Committee is an unincorporated association of professionals dedicated to the improvement of Commercial Aviation Safety. Members include British Airways, Virgin Atlantic, British Midlands, Monarch, British Airports Authority, British International, Civil Aviation Authority, Cathay Pacific, Easyjet, Gulf Air, Lufthansa, Malaysia Airlines, Ryan Air, National Air Traffic Service and the Defence Aviation Regulation Safety. Over 2009, regular day long meetings of the UKFSC and Overseas Facilities Working Group (OFWG) took place at CAA Gatwick, British Aerospace Farnborough and RAF Northolt, during which members exchanged safety information, examined ways to improve safety and avoid incidents/accidents.

Regular communication has been maintained with the UKFSC Chief Executive, ensuring that timely advice is provided on emergent issues, including the World Meteorological
Organization (WMO) proposal for a New Terminal Forecast. Non-traditional icing threats to turbofan powered airframes in the vicinity of Cumulo Nimbus / Thunderstorm (CB/TS) were also jointly presented and discussed. With increasing reliance on Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS) to facilitate safe and efficient navigation, the Society’s representative was keen to highlight the important consideration of space weather and its implications for accurate navigation.

The year saw the mandatory implementation of Safety Management Systems for Air Operator Certificate holders, which includes all airlines and business jet operators. An underpinning philosophy is Threat and Error Management (TEM) which breaks down aviation threat management into anticipation, recognition and recovery phases. The Met Office has been developing a sub-component called Meteorological TEM which aligns the provision of aviation forecasts and observations to the TEM philosophy as well as identifying recovery actions taken to prevent a cascade of weather related errors and undesired aircraft states.

Meteorology has been a key component of many aviation incidents/accidents over 2009, in particular convective weather in the form of CB/TS in association with the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ). A well received two part presentation to the committee covered CB/TS threats, their global extent (including the ITCZ) and Meteorological TEM related aspects – a paper is being prepared for the FOCUS flight safety journal. The Society’s representative has analysed and interpreted the most recent CAA UK registered, ten year reportable incident/accident dataset. The results, within the Meteorological TEM context, have been presented at the UKFSC, General Aviation Safety Council (GASCo) and CAA Flight Instructor Examiner conferences.

The European Meteorological Society (EMS)

EMS Membership and Society Representation
The EMS is now an Association of 36 Meteorological Societies from 30 European countries. In addition it has 30 Associate Members made up of National Meteorological Services (e.g. Met Office, Deutscher Wetterdienst and Météo-France), international institutions (e.g. ECMWF and EUMETSAT) and commercial companies. In the last year there have been two new Associate Members: Department of Hydrology and Climatology, Vilnius University and WeatherBug Professional (USA).

The Society has a permanent member of the EMS Council. At present this is Dr Bob Riddaway who is also the EMS Vice-President and has recently become Chair of the Policy Advisory and Development Group.

The following meetings have taken place:

Annual Meetings
The 9th EMS Annual Meeting (EMS9) and 9th European Conference on Applications of Meteorology (ECAM9) were held in Toulouse from 28 September to 2 October 2009. There were 450 participants providing 400 oral presentations and the display of 200 posters. Future EMS Annual Meetings will be as follows:

- Annual Meeting 2010. EMS10 will be held in Zurich, Switzerland, in conjunction with ECAC9 on 13 to 17 September 2010.
- Annual Meeting 2011. EMS11 will be held in Berlin, Germany, in conjunction with ECAM10 in Berlin from 12 to 16 September 2011.
• Annual Meeting 2012. EMS12 will be held in Lodz, Poland, in conjunction with ECAC10 from 10 to 14 September 2012.

Policy Advisory and Development Group (PADG)
The PADG has carried out three key tasks.
• Considered modifying the EMS constitution with a view to a new constitution being ratified by the EMS General Assembly in September 2010.
• Analysed in detail the results of the questionnaire issued to Member Societies and Associate Members, and identified a set of follow-up actions.
• Reviewed progress with the work programmes of the project teams concerned with education, communications, professional practices and media.

Other activities
• **International Forum.** Fritz Neuwirth (EMS President) represented the EMS at the first meeting of the International Forum of Meteorological Societies. He has become a member of the forum’s Steering Committee.
• **Joint meeting with the RMetS.** The EMS supported a joint meeting with the RMetS: “African Monsoon Multidisciplinary Analysis (AMMA) – Evaluating climate processes and their human dimension in West Africa” on 21 October 2009 in London. Funds to support the attendance of two Young Scientist Travel Awards were approved.
• **EMS Silver Medal 2009.** The EMS Silver Medal 2009 was awarded to Lennart Bengtsson.
• **2008 audit.** The auditor of the financial accounts for 2008 certified that they are consistent with legal requirements and the requirements of the EMS constitution.
• **Photo competition.** A European Photo Competition was established.
• **Advances in Science and Research.** Participants in the EMS Annual Meeting are encouraged to publish their contributions in ‘Advances in Science and Research’. For EMS9 the page charges for four pages of the first 30 papers submitted were covered by the EMS.
• **ems-message.** Four issues of the ems-message were published. These were made available via our Society’s website.

Other developments
• **EMS President.** After a very successful three-year period as EMS President, David Burridge was succeeded in 2009 by Fritz Neuwirth from the Austrian Meteorological Society.
• **RMetS Representation.** Dr Bob Riddaway has been elected as an EMS Vice-President and took over as our Society’s Representative on the EMS Council in 2009.
• **EMS Outreach & Communications Award.** An EMS Outreach & Communications Award has been established to recognise projects that explore new ways to communicate the science and its consequences to the general public.
• **On-line newsletter.** An on-line newsletter “ems-message” has been established.
• **Conference on “Climate Change.** It was decided that consideration should be given to collaborating with EGU on running a topical conference on climate change, though such a conference would not be part of an EMS Annual Meeting.

**International Forum for Meteorological Societies (IFMS)**

In January 2009, at the Annual Meeting of the American Meteorological Society in Phoenix, Arizona, some 23 national Societies and federations of Societies came together to form a
new international grouping, which has come to be known as the International Forum for Meteorological Societies. The Forum was established for the broad purpose of facilitating the exchange of knowledge, experience and information among the world’s national and regional meteorological societies. The Forum will not have official or legal status; it will function primarily to facilitate communication among other member societies and encourage follow-through on action items identified by the member societies. Membership in the Forum will be voluntary and open to all national and regional meteorological and closely related professional/scientific societies.

The first formal meeting of the Forum is planned for 2010 in conjunction with the 90th Annual Meeting of the American Meteorological Society in Atlanta, Georgia. Following this, future meetings will be held every two years, in principle in association with meetings of its member societies. Members can find out more about the Forum from its website: ‘http://www.ifms.org/’.

REPORTS FROM LOCAL CENTRES

Local Centres provide particular opportunities for members to meet and promote the Society’s aims and activities. Annual subventions are provided to encourage and support such activities. None of this could happen without the dedication and initiative of a relatively small number of prime movers – who would welcome offers of assistance.

East Anglia Centre

Committee
James Dent (Chair and Treasurer), Marigold Penkett (Secretary), Vacant (Events Co-ordinator/Deputy Chair).

Activities
During the year, the Centre held 5 meetings at which the attendance ranged between 12 and 25:


A programme of 2 further meetings is arranged over the next 3 months and it is hoped that two more meetings can be arranged for the period May to end June 2010:

- Thursday 21 January 2010. Dr Declan Conway, School of International Development, UEA: ‘Some issues of climate change in relation to development in China’.

Finance
Income for the year was £600.00. Expenditure for the year was £482.05. The current funds in hand and at the bank are £256.90.
East Midlands Centre

Committee
Ernie Pepperdine

Activities
During the year the Centre did not hold any meetings but produced a monthly version of the publication Weather.

Finance
Income for the year was £250. Expenditure for the year was £290. The current funds in hand and at the bank are £299.

North East Centre

Committee
Dennis Wheeler (Chairman), Ken Cook (Treasurer), Patricia Uttridge (Secretary).

Activities
During the year, the Centre held 8 meetings at which the approximate average attendance was 20:

- Friday 13th March. Dennis Wheeler, University of Sunderland: ‘The weather at the battle of Waterloo’.
- Friday 3rd April. Professor Eric Grove, University of Salford: ‘Weather and the WW2 U-boat campaign in the North Atlantic’.
- Friday 13th June. Dr. John Methven, University of Reading: ‘High impact events related to weather regimes’.
- Friday 9th October. Dr. Monica Price, University of Sunderland: ‘Air pollution: the UK smoke record’.
- Friday 13th November. Dr. Philip Brohan, UK Hadley Centre, Exeter: ‘New uses for old weather’.
- Friday 11th December. David Johnston, Northumbria University: ‘Climate and solar power’.

This year’s Gordon Manley Lecture was held on 19th November in the Geography Department of the University of Durham, with some 70 attendees. The speaker was Professor Christian Pfister (University of Bern, Switzerland). His lecture was titled: “France has never experienced such a disaster: the meteorological framework and the cultural memory of severe storms in European history”.

A programme of 5 further meetings is planned over the period to June 2010:

- Friday 9th April. Professor Valerie Hall, Queen’s University, Belfast: ‘Tracing rapid climate change’.
- Friday 14th May, Professor Paul Hardaker, Chief Executive, Royal Meteorological Society, What are the big challenges in meteorology: the climate of the classroom?
- Friday 11th June, Catharine Ward, University of Sunderland, Arctic polar climate change seen through old documents.

**Finance**
Income for the year was £ 2,000.65. Expenditure for the year was £ 2,408.32. The current funds in hand and at the bank are £963.15.

**North West Centre**

**Committee**
Andrew Russell (Chairman)

**Activities**
The North West Centre had one meeting on Climate Engineering in 2009 with 45 attendees.

**Scottish Centre**

**Committee**
Mr G A Monk (Chairman), Mr M Becker, Mr C J Brown, Dr R L H Essery, Prof D Fowler, Ms A McClure, Mr G G Meldrum, Mr D C Paterson, Mr M J B Rogerson (Treasurer), Ms M G Roy, Dr J A Smith, Dr D Stevenson, Mr R C Tabony (Secretary).

**Activities**
During the year, 6 meetings were held at which the average attendance was 27:
- Prof Simon Tett, University of Edinburgh: ‘Why observe climate change?’
- Post-graduate student evening, Laura Wilcox, University of Reading and Owen Kellie-Smith, University of Exeter
- Dr Mike Winter, TRL: ‘Landslides, rainfall and climate change’
- Prof Fred Taylor, University of Oxford: ‘Weather and climate on the planets’
- Terry Marsh, CEH Wallingford: ‘UK floods and droughts–it’s not all about rainfall’
- Post-graduate student evening, Dann Mitchell, University of Reading and Tyrone Dunbar, University of Reading.

A programme of 3 further meetings is planned over the period to March 2010:
- David Cherry, Leeds City Council: ‘The development of a climate change adaptation policy’
- Nigel Bolton, Met Office: ‘Tornadoes in the UK’
- David Reay, Univ. of Edinburgh: ‘Beyond Copenhagen: a new climate change road map’

**Other activities**
- A summer visit to Forth Ports on 12th June was attended by 12 people.
- A lecture proposed by the Local Centre on ‘The technology-policy challenges to address climate change and biodiversity loss’ was given by Prof. Bob Watson at the Royal Society of Edinburgh on 10th December.

**Finance**
Income for the year was £1,002.66. Expenditure for the year was £1,508.77. The current funds in hand and at the bank are £1,044.97.
West Midlands Centre

Committee
Ian Phillips (Chairman)

Activities
During the year, the Centre held four meetings at which the average attendance was 23:

- Thursday, January 15th. Dr Nick Chappell, Senior Lecturer in Hydrology, Department of Environmental Science, Lancaster University: ‘Introduction to coupling meteorology and hydrology’
- Thursday, February 5th. Dr Andy Morse, Reader in the Department of Geography, University of Liverpool: ‘Climate and tropical disease: working towards forecasting epidemics’
- Thursday, March 12th. Dr Eleanor Blyth, Land Surface Modeller, Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, Wallingford: ‘Linking hydrology and meteorology through land surface evaporation’
- Thursday, November 19th. Mr Richard Cornes, Climatic Research Unit, University of East Anglia, Norwich: The London and Paris Daily Pressure Series, 1692-2007’

A programme of four further meetings is planned over the period to the end of March 2010:

- Thursday, February 4th - High flow and long-term flood trends in Britain, by Dr Jamie Hannaford, Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, Wallingford, Oxfordshire.
- Thursday, February 25th - The Buncefield Oil Depot Explosion of December 2005: a meteorological perspective, by Dr Helen Webster, Hadley Centre, Meteorological Office, Exeter.
- Thursday, March 18th - The Weather and Climate of Cumbria, by Mr Peter Johnson, from Levens, near Kendal. Author of Cumbria’s Weather – Your Complete Guide and weather presenter on BBC Radio Cumbria.

Finance
Income for the year was £200.
Expenditure for the year was £227.29. The current funds in hand and at the bank are £87.11.

Yorkshire Centre

Committee
Sarah Norris (Chair)

Activities
During the year the Centre held its first meeting at which the attendance was 85. Paul Hudson, the local BBC Weather Presenter, talked about Climate Change and Prof Paul Hardaker took questions from the floor. A programme of 3 further meetings is planned over the period to March 2010:

- 2nd March 2010 - John Thornes. ‘Atmospheric Services – What does the atmosphere do for you?’
- 15th March 2010 - Dave Cherry's talk is about adapting Leeds to climate change, specifically to the current UKCIP09 projections. He intends to give 3 examples of
applications for transport, e.g. the new trolleybus or bridge investments, and how they are to be adapted in view of future climate.

- 14th April 2010 - Ross Reynolds, A joint talk with the Institute of Physics and Environmental Physics Group. ‘Extreme weather, from Tornadoes to Hurricanes’.

There was no report from the following Local Centres:

South West Centre
Welsh Centre

REPORTS FROM SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Atmospheric Chemistry

Committee
The Group’s convenor is Dr Howard Roscoe (British Antarctic Survey) and local organiser is Dr Paul Monks (University of Leicester). There is not a formal committee, but an ad-hoc group of advisors that includes Dr Hugh Coe (University of Manchester), Dr Robert MacKenzie (Lancaster University), Dr Anna Jones (British Antarctic Survey) and Dr John Remedios (University of Leicester), as well as others from time to time.

Activities
The Group has no formal membership. During the year, the Group held one meeting on ‘The stratosphere - past, present and future’, at the University of Leicester on 7 April. The attendance was 48.

A further meeting is planned in 2010 on ‘New perspectives in atmospheric chemistry measurements’, location and date to be determined.

Finance
There is no annual membership fee for the Group. Income for the year was £469. Expenditure for the year was £950, which included an invoice carried over from 2008. The current funds in hand and at the bank are £1,550.

Data Assimilation

Committee
Prof Keith Haines, Prof Peter Jan van Leeuwen, Mike Fisher, Matt Martin, Bruce Ingleby. The approximate membership of the Group for the year was approximately 100.

Activities
During the year, the Group held one meeting on Tuesday 5 May 2009 at ECMWF, Reading, entitled ‘Comparing observations and models’ (joint with Observing Systems group). The attendance was 60. In addition the group helped to organise the National Meeting on “Climate Reanalyses: progress and challenges”, Wednesday 9 December 2009 in London. A further meeting is planned for Thursday 8 April 2010 at the Met Office, Exeter on ‘Estimating/representing forecast and model error’.

Finance
There is no annual membership fee for the Group and no current funds.
Dynamical Problems

Committee
Prof John Thuburn, Dr Martin Juckes, Prof Peter Haynes, Prof Ian Roulstone, Dr Douglas Parker, and Dr Gavin Esler (replacing Prof Peter Haynes, who retired from the committee during the year).

Activities
During the year, the Group held one meeting on “Views of the equations of atmosphere-ocean dynamics, and various approximations”: A meeting to celebrate Andy White's 60th birthday” at which there was 52 people. A further meeting is planned in 2010 for the 7 January, Blackett Laboratory, Imperial College, London.

Finance
There is no annual membership fee for the Group, no income and no expenditure for the year, and no funds at the bank.

History of Meteorology and Physical Oceanography

Committee
Malcolm Walker (Chairman), Graham Bartlett, Margaret Deacon, Alan Heasman, Joan Kenworthy, Martin Kidds (Secretary), Julian Mayes, Howard Oliver, David Pedgley, Vernon Radcliffe, Dr Dennis Wheeler, Mick Wood (Treasurer). Sara Osman was Secretary until April 2009.

Membership
The approximate membership of the Group for the year was 80.

Activities
During the year, the Group held 4 meetings at which the average attendance was 75:

- ‘Meteorologists and Astronomers’ meeting, at The Royal Astronomical Society, Piccadilly, London, Saturday 28 March 2009. This meeting included the Group’s AGM. 42 attended.
- ‘Agricultural Meteorology’ meeting at Rothamsted Research, on 6 June 2009. This meeting, convened by the Group, was also the RMetS ‘Summer Visit’. 19 attended.
- The second ‘Classic Papers’ meeting, ‘Dynamicists versus numerical modellers: a growing divide?’ Wednesday 18 November 2009, University of Reading. A great success, 161 attended.

A programme of 5 further meetings is planned over the period to Spring 2011:

- Full day meeting to mark the 150th anniversary of the formation of the British Rainfall Organization, Saturday 17 April 2010. Full programme of presentations/papers in place on the history and importance of BRO and its founder G J Symons
- Summer Meeting of the Royal Meteorological Society, Exeter, Sunday evening 18 to Tuesday evening 20 July 2010 based at Exeter University. Including full programme of talks and visits to Met Office HQ, National Meteorological Library and Archive, Barometer World and Norman Lockyer observatory.
- Aircraft in meteorology, autumn 2010, this to mark the centenary of aircraft first being used in meteorology.
● Third ‘Classic papers’ meeting, Wednesday 17 November 2010, based around the subject of turbulence. This will be a National Wednesday Meeting, at the University of Reading.
● ‘Polar meteorology’ meeting at the Scott Polar Research Institute at Cambridge in Spring 2011.

Other activities
Three newsletters published during 2009, distributed to members and available via the Society’s website. The newsletter has included increasingly substantial articles and has increased in size to around 24 pages. The assistance and support of the Society in printing and publishing this newsletter is greatly appreciated.

The following Occasional Papers were published by the group during the year and are available via the Society’s website. Copies of all Occasional Papers will also shortly be held at the National Meteorological Library in Exeter

● Occasional Paper No.7 Weather Services at War by K.D. Anderson, based upon Mr Anderson’s personal diaries during a period on active service in May 1940.
● Occasional Paper No.8 The Met Office Grows Up in War and Peace by Maurice Crewe
● Occasional paper No.9 by Brian Booth ‘An experimental measure’ – The first meteorological office at South Farnborough and the Meteorological Office Radio Station, Aldershot, January 1911 to December 1918’.

Finance
The annual membership fee for the Group is £5.00. Income for the year was £735.98. Expenditure for the year was £644.31. The current funds in hand and at the bank are £2,040.92.

Meteorological Observing Systems

Committee
Mike Brettle (acting Chairman and Treasurer), John Prior (Secretary), Andrew Overton (Newsletter Editor), Steve Colwell, Dick Saffel, Dr Ian Strangeways, Mike Bennett, Stephen Burt and Mark Dutton. Dr Jonathan Shanklin (retiring Chairman) and Jonathan Wright stood down. Steve Colwell and Mark Dutton joined the committee and Steve Colwell is Chairman-designate.

Activities
The approximate membership of the Group for the year was 63. During the year, the Group held 2 meetings at which the average attendance was 30:

● ‘Comparing observations with models’, ECMWF, Reading, 5 May 2009 (jointly with the Data Assimilation SIG).
● AGM and manufacturer’s exhibition, Reading University, 1 July 2009 (part of the 2009 RMetS conference).

A programme of 3 further meetings is planned over the period to December 2010:

● AGM and visit to the Chilterns Observatory, Whipsnade, Bedfordshire, 9 July 2010
● ‘Measuring surface met variables from satellites’, autumn 2010.
Other activities
- Spring and Autumn Newsletters
- Website, with meeting reports etc
- Support to other Society-sponsored activities concerning observations e.g. a weekend meeting in autumn 2010 to mark the 40th anniversary of the founding of COL.

Finances
The annual membership fee for the Group is £5. Income for the year was £211.81. Expenditure for the year was £5.50 (postage). The current funds in hand and at the bank are current account £1,354.39 and deposit account £2,690.70.

Satellite Meteorology and Oceanography

Committee
Dr David Woolf

Activities
The approximate membership of the Group for the year was 50 (based on mailing list). During the year, the group did not hold any meetings.

Finances
There was no annual membership fee for the Group, no income and expenditure and no funds held at the bank.

Weather Service Providers

Committee
Prof Paul Hardaker (Chairman)

Activities
Each year the group holds a spring meeting of the UK’s Weather Service Providers. The meeting provides an informal environment to discuss issues of common interest within the UK provider community. This year the meeting was held on 12 March with a talk by John Hirst, the Chief Executive of the Met Office, followed by lunch. If you are a weather service provider and are not currently on the group’s list of active members and would like to attend a future meeting, then contact Paul Hardaker, the Society’s Chief Executive, at ‘chiefexec@rmets.org’.

There was no report from the following Special Interest Group:

Physical Processes

The following Groups are currently not functioning because there are no volunteers available to run them. If any members would like to revive either of these they should get in touch with the Chief Executive in the first instance.

Association of British Climatologists

Weather Forecasting
MEMBERSHIP OF COUNCIL
(TRUSTEES OF THE SOCIETY)

Patron: HRH The Prince of Wales

From 1 January to 30 September 2009 the constitution of the Council was as recorded in the Annual Report for 2008.

From 1 October 2009 the following Council held office:

**PRESIDENT**
Professor Julia Slingo, PhD, OBE

**VICE-PRESIDENTS**
David Anderson, PhD (also Chair, Strategic Programme Board)
Norman Lynagh, FRMetS, CMet
Professor Tim Palmer, DPhil, DScFRS

**VICE-PRESIDENT FOR SCOTLAND**
Geoffrey Monk, FRMetS, CMet

**GENERAL SECRETARY**
Bob Riddaway, PhD, FRMetS (also Chair, House Committee)

**TREASURER**
David Carson, PhD

**COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN**
Richard Forbes, PhD (Chair, Meetings Committee)
Geoff Jenkins, PhD, OBE (Chair, Education Committee)
Derek Swannick, FRMetS (Chair, Accreditation Board)
Emily Shuckburgh, PhD, FRMetS (Chair, Scientific Publishing Committee)

**ORDINARY MEMBERS OF COUNCIL**
Andrew Charlton-Perez, PhD
Jennie Campbell
Richard Griffith
Keith Groves, FRMetS, CMet
Professor John Pyle, DPhil, FRS
Curtis Wood PhD MinstP

**EX-OFFICIO MEMBER OF COUNCIL**
John Hirst, UK Permanent Representative with WMO
MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2009

The Committees listed below are the standing Committees of the Society. Membership of other sub-committees, working groups and similar *ad hoc* bodies are not detailed.

**Accreditation Board**
Accreditation Board Chairperson
A Eccleston, D Grimes, E McCallum, A Hisscott, D Richardson, D Selway

**Awards**
President (Chairperson)
Nominated Vice-President
Editor, *Quarterly Journal*
Editor, *International Journal of Climatology*
Editor, *Meteorological Applications*
K Browning, J Haigh, P Lynch, A Simmons, N Wells, A White

**Education**
Education Chairperson
General Secretary
Representative of the Met Office Education team
Representative of the BBC Weather Centre
Representative of the Institute of Physics
Representative of the Royal Geographical Society
Representative of the Geographical Association
R Brugge, J Clayton, B Evans, K Giles, G Meldrum, C Prowse, R Pugh, G Rourke, R Reynolds, P Richardson, K Shepherdson

**Meetings**
Meetings Chairperson
B Harvey, J Marsham, A Rudd, S Webster, H Weller, C Wood
Representatives of Special Interest Groups and Local Centres

**Scientific Publishing**
Publishing Chairperson
Joint Editors, *Quarterly Journal*
Editor, *International Journal of Climatology*
Editor, *Weather*
Editor, *Atmospheric Science Letters*
Editor, *Meteorological Applications*
Editor, *Society News*
Treasurer
General Secretary

**Strategic Programme Board**
Nominated Vice President (Chairperson)
Nominated member of Council
Treasurer
General Secretary

**House**
General Secretary (Chairperson)
Nominated Vice President
Treasurer
Scientific Publishing Chairperson
OTHER REPRESENTATIVES APPOINTED BY COUNCIL

**Atmospheric Science Letters**
Editor: A Gadian

**Associate Editors:**
G Austin, A Bott, S Ghosh, W Grabowski,
S-E Gryning, K Haines, C Jones, R Jones,
J McQuaid, G McFiggans, S Malinowski,
A Miller, M Pritchard, A Russell, D
Schultz, J ThieLEN, J Vanneste, D Woolf, Y
Yan

**International Journal of Climatology**
Editor: G R McGregor

Regional Editors: A Comrie, N Tapper
Book Review Editor: C Kidd

**Associate Editors:**
J C L Chan, H F Diaz, Y H Ding,
B N Goswani, S K Gulev, R Huth, I Jolliffe,
R H Kripalani, J A Marengo, J Martin-Vide,
T Mikami, G Mills, E O’Lenic, T Osborn,
D E Parker, A Parker, A Pitman,
C Reason, J A Renwick, H Saaroni,
S A Solman, I Smith, R L Wilby, D S Wilks

**Meteorological Applications**
Editor: P J A Burt

**Associate Editors:**
J Bech, L Carvalho, L Chapman,
C G Collier, J Curtin, A Ghelli, K James,
S Keeling, A Kurkami, G Marshall,
R Potts, C Power

**Quarterly Journal**
Editors: M Baldwin and J Thuburn

**Associate Editors:**
O Alves, P Bénard, A Brown, P Clark,
D Cornford, R Evelyne, M Fantini,
P Francis, H Graf, F Guichard, T Haine,
A Illingworth, D Jackson, A Korolev,
S E Larsen, S Lewis, B Liley,
M Leutbecher, J Methven, M Mu,
J Purser, E Richard, R Seager

**Weather**
Editor: B Prichard

**Associate Editors:**
G D Anderson, L Baker, A Charlton-Perez,
S Davenport, E Hanna, J Fleming,
E Hanna, S Moseley, M Shahgedanova,
B Sinha, N Pepin
Editor of Society News: L Bentley

**WIREs Climate Change**
Editor: M Hulme

**Book Programme**
European Editor: P Inness
Americas Editor: W Beasley

**Honorary Librarian**
E Harris

**Course Evaluation & Continuous Professional Development Panel**
A Eccleston (Chairperson)
N Lynagh, P Jonas, R Varley

**Representative on Flight Safety Committee**
R M Seaman

**Representative on General Aviation Safety Committee**
G A J Bowles

**Representative on European Meteorological Society Council**
R W Riddaway

**Representatives on Board of Society for the Environment**
R W Riddaway
P J Hardaker

**Representative on Science Council**
P J Hardaker

**Representative to the International Forum for Meteorological Societies**
P J Hardaker
WITHOUT WHOM

During the year the following Officers and Council members retired from office. Their successors are shown above.

Vice Presidents:  
Professor Geraint Vaughan  
Mr Philip Eden

Chairman of the Accreditation Board:  
Dr Howard Lyne

Ordinary members of Council:  
Mr Stephen Burt  
Dr Fay Davies  
Professor Liz Morris  
Professor Dominic Reeve

The Society depends heavily on the valuable work done by those who hold voluntary office. We record our grateful thanks to all of those who give up their time and who contribute with great dedication to the work of the Society. We could not achieve what we do without you – thank you.

STAFFING AT THE SOCIETY

The Society has a secretariat that supports the day-to-day running of the Society and carries out its executive functions. A detail of the secretariat team and the organisational structure is shown below.

* Part-time posts  
** Based in Manchester

Sue Snellgrove succeeded Susan Drew as Admin Assistant and Georgina Lea succeeded Alison Hunter as Publishing Assistant, following the retirement of Sue and Alison. Rachael Fordham joined the Society as Interim Head of Education and Continuous Learning to cover Dr Sylvia Knight’s maternity leave, and Sarah Grintzevitch joined the Society on a short term contract as Public Engagement Programme Manager.
Appendix 1: BACKGROUND TO THE SOCIETY

The British Meteorological Society was founded in 1850 and was incorporated by Royal Charter in 1866. In 1883 the name was changed to the Royal Meteorological Society. A separate Scottish Society had existed from 1855, but in 1921 was merged with the Royal Meteorological Society. The Society is a United Kingdom Charity with a national and international reach and reputation.

The Royal Charter states that the Society was established “for the advancement of Meteorological Sciences”. That remains the aim of the Society and includes advancement of applications of the science and related sciences, including climatology and climate science, the interaction between the atmosphere and the oceans, and environmental awareness. Copies of the Society’s Charter and By-Laws are available on request.

The Society’s Annual Report and Annual Accounts are submitted to the Annual General Meeting by the Trustees, the Society’s Council, who are elected or re-elected each year at the Annual General Meeting. The Annual Report illustrates activities during the year which reflect Council’s policies in pursuit of the aim of the Society.

The Royal Meteorological Society (Registered Charity No 208222):

Address: 104 Oxford Road
Reading RG1 7LL
Telephone: 0118 956 8500
Fax: 0118 956 8571
E-Mail: chiefexec@rmets.org
WWW: http://www.rmets.org

Bankers: Lloyds Bank plc
High Street
Bracknell RG12 1BT
Solici tors: Bristows, Cooke and Carpmael
10 Lincoln’s Inn Fields
London WC2A 3BP

Auditors: Porter Garland
Portland House
Park Street
Bagshot, Surrey
Invest ment Advisors: Rathbone Investment Management Ltd
159 New Bond Street
London W1S 2UD

Investment Powers:

By-Laws (May 2009) 82 and 83 read:

82 The monies of The Society which are not subject to any specific trust purpose, and which are not required to meet current expenditure, may be invested in any securities quoted in the official list of any recognised Stock Exchange or placed on deposit with a reputable organisation. Council may only delegate its powers to select and make investments to the extent permitted by the provisions of The Royal Charter and the relevant legislation governing responsibilities of Trustees and Charities¹.

83 The Society’s premises shall not be sold or disposed of except with the sanction of a General Meeting of The Society.

¹ Reference should be made to Part IV, Section 11(3) of the Trustees Act 2000.
Appendix 2: POLICY STATEMENT ON THE ROLE OF THE RESERVES

Principal Objectives
The principal objectives of the Society’s reserves are to maintain and make use of capital reserves to:
- Ensure the viability of the Society on a year-by-year basis and in the long term as an assurance against significant financial risks.
- Enable the medium to long-term development of the Society’s aims and objectives.

Background and Introduction
The Society derives its primary annual income from a combination of members’ subscriptions, sales of publications, and income from investments. The Society holds three types of investments: Tangible Assets, a General Reserve and a Legacies Fund. Council first approved the policy on management of these two last items on 5 December 2001 and this is kept under regular review.

Historically the only major demand (> £100,000) on the reserves has been the purchase of the Oxford Road Headquarters, pending the sale and resolution of the problems with the previous Headquarters (James Glaisher House, in Bracknell). Other demands have been comparatively small (~£50,000 spread over several years) and relate to upgrade of the IT equipment.

The medium and long-term investment strategy of the Society has been formulated by Council, is overseen by the Society’s House Committee and is being implemented by the Chief Executive, who reports to Council four times a year. This policy statement provides guidelines on how the reserves may be used inter alia to fund non-recurring costs resulting from proposals in the Society’s strategic development programme and to mitigate the major risks of the Society. Individual items of expenditure are presented for Council approval in the normal way.

The Annual Budget
The annual budget covers the income and expenditure of the Society in all its activities, including the reserves. Council sets the budget for the Society and at each meeting receives a forecast of out-turn against the budget. For the purpose of the management accounts, the budget and in-year reporting are broken down into two parts: the General Activities, which relate to the day-to-day operational work of the Society, which includes items such as the maintenance of Tangible Assets for example, and the Development Activities, which define the Society’s income and expenditure related to its strategic development programme.

The General Activities will normally be budgeted to balance. The budget for the Development Activities will be set by taking account of the gains on the reserve available for investment in the Society’s charitable objectives. This is informed by the Charity Commission’s guidelines on the ratio of annual turnover to capital reserve.

The Reserves - Tangible Assets
Tangible assets, which comprise the premises, the furnishings and equipment are essential for conducting the business of the Society and are an effective way of providing “rent free” accommodation. These will be routinely maintained primarily through the annual budget at a level appropriate to provide accommodation and facilities to support the normal operational activities of the Society. This includes committee meetings, but not necessarily the regular Society meetings and conferences. Major changes to tangible assets would be funded on a case-by-case basis through the General Reserve and could include external contributions (e.g. on appeal).
The Reserves - The General Reserve
The role of the General Reserve is basically to provide a degree of financial robustness to the long-term survival and mitigation of the major risks of the Society. In line with the Society’s Risk Register and the Development Programme requirements, the General Reserve will:

- provide some resilience against “single event” failures, e.g. a significant failure of a large conference (~£100,000);
- allow front-loaded strategic spend-to-save measures (~£200,000);
- allow some “one-off” expenditures on an opportunistic basis (~£100,000);
- allow a recovery period for significant changes in the income/expenditure balance (~£150,000);
- create a margin for medium term market fluctuations (~£100,000).

For this model to work at these sorts of levels over a long period the fund needs to have a topping up mechanism. This has to be through income or growth in the market. This gives a target value of the General Fund and the Legacies Fund together which is approximately equivalent to the annual turnover of the Society.

The Reserves - The Legacies Fund
The policy for this fund is to protect and grow it. Subject to this policy, capital gains and dividends are used to support, in a sustained manner, benefits primarily to individuals through Grants, Awards and Bursaries. More details on these funding schemes are available on the Society’s website at ‘www.rmets.org/activities/awards/grants/index.php#legacies’.

The number and level of grants and bursaries will be determined by the level of available funds and by second priority call on the General Fund.

The Investment Policy

The Management of Investments
The Council, advised by the House Committee, are responsible for overseeing the Society’s investments. At present the management of investments is delegated by Council to a professional Fund Manager. The House Committee reviews performance of the Fund Manager twice a year and Council reviews investments normally quarterly, but at least annually. The choice of Fund Manager is kept under annual review in line with performance and the Society’s investment requirements.

Choice of Investments
Investments may be made in cash deposits, property, gilts and equities in such proportions as to endeavour to maximise the total return to the Society over the longer term, typically a period of the Society’s Strategic Plan, in order to deliver the required investment for the Society’s development programme and to mitigate the Society’s major risks. To this end investments should not be held in companies whose activities are contrary to the aims of the Society or its social, environmental and ethical responsibilities as the Professional Body and Learned Society for meteorology.

Where investment is made in equity shares, these should be mainly in FTSE-100 companies and no purchase of a single equity should represent more than 5% of the total portfolio value. This guideline excludes shares held indirectly through, for example, Investment Trusts, where there is already an underlying diversity. If any one holding reaches 20% of the value of the portfolio a partial sale should be considered. The portfolio should be diversified over both market sectors and geographic markets, and no one sector should represent more than 25% of the total portfolio value.
**Cash Flow Requirements**

Council, when considering the budget, will identify the likely demand for withdrawing funds from the investments over the next financial year and this will be communicated to the Fund Manager so that they are able to anticipate the requirement for sales of investments whilst maximising profits and minimising losses. Any surplus cash on deposit may also be transferred at any time to the Fund Manager for investment at the discretion of the Society’s Head of Finance and Administration.