The 161st Annual Report of the Royal Meteorological Society  
for the period 1st January – 31st December 2012

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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 2011 requires all charities to explain in their Annual Report 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. Related events hosted by the Society in 2012 included those covering resilience of transport to severe weather, mountain weather forecasting, weather and climate impacts on flora and fauna in the UK.

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 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, including the loan of instruments to schools, are made freely available to all schools, teachers, parents and school children. 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. The Society also continues its work with a collection of Post-Graduate Teacher Training Centres to ensure student teachers gain a grounding of meteorology in education.

At higher-education levels the Society awards financial support to enable students to broaden their studies of meteorological sciences, it has an active programme of providing careers information, 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 six 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 curation programme for an historical and culturally valuable archive of documentation on behalf of the UK. The Society runs a comprehensive meetings programme open to all with an interest in weather and climate. This includes free public national meetings and local meetings to encourage a focus on global, national and local issues, and also 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 subsidises an annual Student Conference that brings together those involved in graduate and post-graduate studies, as well as early career scientists from across the country, to create a community of young scientists, and to give them experience in active participation in scientific conferences and workshops.

Additionally the Society subsidises an annual Amateur Meteorologists Conference which addresses the needs of the diverse community of weather and climate enthusiasts. This provides a focal point for networking and the delivery and sharing of content that advances the cultural, heritage and scientific aspects of meteorology for practitioners amongst the general public.

**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. This role has been further reinforced by the establishment and activities of the Society's Climate Science Communication Committee.

The Society also has several popular publications that promote a public interest in the environment, ‘theWeather Club’ activity provides a key framework for delivering greater public information, engagement and dialogue on weather and climate.

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 freely available educational, scientific and professional material.

THE YEAR JANUARY to DECEMBER 2012

A brief review of the highlights

The year began with ongoing concerns over long-term drought heightened by a relatively dry January to March but the situation was then transformed by the wettest April to June on record. There has been no modern day precedent for the extraordinary switch in rainfall amounts; the nearest comparison was in 1903.

The Society is pleased to have retained a high level of membership in these difficult economic times (just under 3000), and to have such an active and engaged community of volunteers, but there is still significant potential and a need to grow membership further. This remains a focus of the Society over the medium term.

Both members and non-members alike actively engage with the Society's full programme of National and Local Meetings. The Society averaged 105 attendees at its National Wednesday meetings and 65 at the National Saturday meetings during 2012, and maintained good levels of activity in its Local Centres and Special Interest Groups. In total the Local Centres delivered 47 events across the country which is testimony to the support and enthusiasm of Society volunteers. In addition to the meetings programme of the Society, the Student Conference was held from 9-12 July 2012 at the University of Leeds and again was well attended with the highest number of delegates (91) since the Student Conference programme was started.

In mid 2012 the Society successfully launched a new website which modernised the back-office functions and infrastructure of the website provision, and transitioned the website on to a new server provision capable of supporting the increasing demand for Society website content. This is a major investment for the Society (approximately £50K) and has already been used as a central part of the
membership renewal and joining process with great success. It has already proven to be a lively and well visited platform rich in information and topical content. Additionally the Society's Twitter account gained over 1000 followers giving the Society a new way to interact with members and people interested in meteorology.

The Society’s education programme had another busy year. It has worked together with the Met Office, Royal Geographical Society, Institute of Physics, Geographical Association (including their Physical Geography Special Interest Group), the OCR, Miles Kelly Publishing, Collins, OPAL, AstraZeneca Science Teaching Trust and Science Education Forum and the London Grid for Learning, amongst others. The Society has taken an active role in contributing to academic policy. Significant in 2012 has been the implementation of one day training courses for PGCE geography students. The course includes elements of lectures, practical activities, fieldwork, lesson planning and online resource evaluation. The Society’s website for teachers, www.MetLink.org, continues to be revised and developed. Fieldwork packs to supplement the instruments the Society lends to schools have been developed. The OPAL weather road-show has continued to attend events through 2012 with support from RMetS staff and volunteers. In collaboration with schools, Reading University and software and hardware companies a 3D resource aimed to help school students understand the processes operating within weather systems has been developed for use in 2013.

Over 500 teachers linked to the Society now receive a half-term email update informing them of events and new resources.

The Society's scientific publishing activity is its single largest activity and is a vital contributor to the mission and well-being of the organisation. This has continued to operate successfully with publishers Wiley-Blackwell. There is a portfolio of six journals as well as a book publishing programme with a growing number of titles. In 2012 scientific journals continued to make their presence felt with good and in many cases, improving Impact Factors being achieved. An additional 5 books were published under the Society Book Programme.

theWeather Club is the Society's connected charity for engaging with the general public on weather and climate. Four issues of theWeather magazine were produced during 2012. Media coverage has been overwhelming with over 150 media activities during 2012. These included BBC News24, Al Jazeera TV, Sky News, ITV, BBC Radio 2, BBC Radio 4, BBC Radio 5, the Daily Mirror and numerous local radio stations. Promotional coverage across magazines included Town and Country, and Trail. Despite levels of interest the business model was unsustainable and the RMetS Council decided in November 2012 that the winter 2012 issue of theWeather will be the last issue. theWeather Club itself would continue with a free online registration to provide the general public access to:

- An interactive website with weather features and news updates produced in-house,
- Information about events and meetings on the weather including Saturday Meetings and the Amateur Conference,
- Participation in national activities including Great British Weather Experiment, competitions and speak to experts about the weather,
- A quarterly newsletter full of content on weather news stories and short features.

The Society has continued its programme to reduce carbon emissions. After great achievements in earlier years the Society set itself the target to reduce these by a further 10% by 2014. This is in part being achieved by the installation of Photovoltaic panels at the Society Headquarters in mid 2012. These are already showing an impact and a fuller picture of the degree of this will emerge over time. Encouraging public transport, recycling and waste reduction are central to the Society's corporate social responsibility programme.

Despite the challenging economic times, the Society has managed to maintain financial balance on its General Activities, to continue with a programme of strategic investment in its Development Activities and on maintaining its headquarters facility. The next three years are expected to remain challenging with economic and in some cases public policy pressures on income from membership,
publications and investments. The Society will enter these with a firm financial footing, a budgeted plan for its next three-year programme and a continued, planned sustainable growth of its range of charitable activities.

THE BRITISH WEATHER OF 2012

A YEAR OF TWO EXTREMES: FROM DROUGHTS TO FLOODS

The year began with ongoing concerns over long-term drought heightened by a relatively dry January to March but the situation was then transformed by the wettest April to June on record. There was been no modern day precedent for the extraordinary switch in rainfall amounts; the nearest comparison was in 1903.

January started off with a major winter storm on 3rd affecting southern Scotland with winds gusting to 102mph at Blackford Hill, Edinburgh. It was a relatively warm and dry start to the year. January was the 4th sunniest in UK history and March was the sunniest across England and 3rd warmest in the UK. March also experienced only 39% of the long term average rainfall and after an extended period of dry weather, across parts of England and Wales, water levels were at their lowest for 100 years with many water companies applying for drought orders.

April saw an abrupt shift in weather patterns bringing an exceptionally wet period for most of the country lasting through much of the remainder of the year. England had its wettest year in the series and the UK as a whole had its second highest since 1910. Rainfall records tumbled with the wettest April and June in the England and Wales series from 1766, and the UK had its wettest summer for 100 years. In the 24 hours up to 0900 on the 23rd June, 208.4mm of rain fell at Honister Pass, Cumbria and between 20th and 26th November saw the wettest 7-day period in 50 years.

Temperature

The only months which were warmer than the long-term average were January, February, March, May and August; in fact March was the 3rd warmest since 1910 and set a new maximum temperature record anomaly being 3.2°C above the long term average. March also saw many daily station temperature records being set; and the March and May temperature records for Scotland were broken on 27th March with 23.6°C at Aboyne, Aberdeenshire and 25th May with 29.3°C at Achnagart, Highlands.

The remaining months were colder than average and, despite the mild spring, the UK mean temperature was 0.1 °C below the 1981-2010 average. It is worth noting that only 2 years (2010 and 2012) of the last 16 have had annual temperatures below this average.

The highest temperature during the year was 32.4°C recorded at Cavendish, Suffolk on 18th August and the lowest recorded was -15.6°C at Holbeach, Lincolnshire on the 11th February.

Rainfall

The UK annual rainfall total was 1331mm, the second highest in the series since 1910 and only 6mm short of the record set in 2000. England had its wettest year in the series.

The driest spring for over a century gave way to the wettest April and June in the England and Wales series from 1766, and the wettest summer (June, July, August) since 1912. Rainfall totals from September to December remained above average, leading to widespread flooding in late November and late December.

There were some significant snowfall amounts recorded during February, April and December with the greatest amount being 22cm measured at Whitehilllocks, Angus on 3rd April.

Sunshine

The UK sunshine duration for the year was near average. January was the 4th sunniest across the UK and March the sunniest across England since 1929, whereas April and the summer months were mostly dull.
### Regional Breakdown (data from the Met Office)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Mean Max (deg C)</th>
<th>Mean Min (deg C)</th>
<th>Rainfall (per cent)</th>
<th>Sunshine (per cent)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>UK</strong></td>
<td>-0.1</td>
<td>-0.1</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>England</strong></td>
<td>-0.1</td>
<td>-0.1</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wales</strong></td>
<td>-0.2</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scotland</strong></td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>-0.1</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Northern Ireland</strong></td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### FINANCE

The Annual Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2012 are published separately to this Annual Report in line with the requirements of the Charity Commissioners. The Auditor’s report as usual appears as the front page to the Accounts and certifies that in their opinion the financial statements give a true and fair view of the Society’s affairs and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended.

The Society’s connected charity, the Weather Club, continued to trade at a loss and, by 31 December 2012, the Society’s Trustees agreed to bring the Weather Club’s activities and associated costs under the Society and to write-off the charity’s working capital loan of £398,944 on the basis that all indicators suggested there was no likely repayment possible.

The Society continues to be in a good financial state despite the loan write-off and total reserves at 31 December 2012 stand at £1,115,304 (2011: £1,478,295).

The operating out-turn for the Society in 2012 was a deficit of £7,738 (2011: £54,303). Investments performed well in the year thanks to an improvement in the UK stock market and resulted in gains, both realised and unrealised, of £43,691.

The Society’s publications continue to perform well, contributing £528,308 (2011: £487,756) to our income along with activities such as the calendar and the Weather Watchers Log Book contributing £8,862 (2011: £7,312). The associated expenditure on publications was £150,121 (2011: £156,021). The Society’s scientific publishers, Wiley-Blackwell, account for Society journals in three currencies, US$, GBP and Euros, thus reducing our exposure to currency exchange losses.

The total Membership Subscription income decreased slightly from £192,582 in 2011 to £185,385 in 2012 mainly due to the reduction in income from Gift Aid of £5,098. Interest income remained low as a result of the continuing poor bank interest rates during the year.

During the year Prof. Paul Hardaker, Roy Steven and Sarah Grintzevich left the Society with Chris Holcroft and Viv Silverman joining as Chief Executive and Chief Financial Officer respectively. Staff costs were £388,974 (2011: £375,744), an increase of £13,230 over the previous year.

The notes in the separate Annual Accounts are self-explanatory and provide more insight into the detailed figures and the way these have been compiled.
### MEMBERSHIP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade of Membership</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Honorary Fellow</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life Fellow</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fellow</td>
<td>1795</td>
<td>1747</td>
<td>1704</td>
<td>1672</td>
<td>1662</td>
<td>1633</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate Fellow</td>
<td>852</td>
<td>788</td>
<td>997</td>
<td>1086</td>
<td>1009</td>
<td>914</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate Fellow (student)</td>
<td>174</td>
<td>214</td>
<td>248</td>
<td>215</td>
<td>267</td>
<td>308</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporate Member (including School Member prior to 2011)</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>2953</td>
<td>2885</td>
<td>3088</td>
<td>3096</td>
<td>3020</td>
<td>2939</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This following graph shows how membership of the Society has varied over the past years. In 2010 the Society abolished its Schools Membership category, in order to make the education benefits freely available to all schools, not just members. These were counted under the Corporate Member category, *hence the decrease in this category and some impact on overall numbers from 2011*.

![Total Membership Graph](image)

The Society learned with regret of the deaths in 2012 of the following Members:

AWARDS AND PRIZES

The Society is delighted to have made the following Awards for the year 2012:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Award</th>
<th>Recipient</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Symons Gold Medal</td>
<td>Dr Tim P Barnett</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buchan Prize</td>
<td>Dr Mark Rodwell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Hugh Robert Mill Award</td>
<td>Dr Christopher M Taylor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L F Richardson Prize</td>
<td>Dr Tim Woollings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Michael Hunt Award</td>
<td>Jointly to Dr Paul Williams FRMetS and Dr Andrew Russell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adrian Gill Prize</td>
<td>Prof Dudley Shallcross FRMetS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBM Award for Meteorological Innovation that matters</td>
<td>Old Weather (led by Dr Philip Brohan)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vaisala Award</td>
<td>Dr Ian Strangeways FRMetS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Gordon Manley Weather Prize</td>
<td>Andrew Sibley FRMetS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quarterly Journal Editor’s Award</td>
<td>Prof Peter Jan van Leeuwen FRMetS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Journal of Climatology Editor’s Award</td>
<td>Prof Johnny Chung Leung CHAN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atmospheric Science Letters Editor’s Award</td>
<td>Prof Sat Ghosh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Paton Memorial Prize</td>
<td>Rohan Beyts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jehuda Neumann Memorial Prize (awarded by the History of Meteorology &amp; Physical Oceanography Special Interest Group)</td>
<td>Brian Booth</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Society also appointed the following new Honorary Fellows, the highest award of membership made by the Society, in recognition of a distinguished career and long standing contribution to Meteorology:

Dr Antonio Divino Moura
Prof Akio Arakawa
Prof Harry Bryden FRS

LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES

During 2011 the Society had a major review of its Headquarters archive facilities. The work in 2011 focused on the above ground storage, following significant upgrade to the cellar storage facilities in 2010. The Society then began a project to audit the Society’s archiving activities under Council’s policy and to review this policy to ensure that it is still fit for purpose. Ongoing, this review has taken longer than originally anticipated and is expected to conclude in 2013.
CLIMATE SCIENCE COMMUNICATIONS GROUP

The Climate Science Communications Group was established by Council in the Autumn of 2011 to address what it viewed as an important and continuing need to more effectively communicate the science of climate change.

The Group met for the first time in 2012 under Chair Dr Emily Shuckburgh and draws together a diverse group of climate science expertise and media experience. The 3-Year Strategic Plan for the Society aims to address the public perception of climate change by significantly raising the understanding of and engagement with climate science, particularly amongst the general public and in policy programmes.

This Group will:

- Review the climate communications work being undertaken as one single coherent programme.
- Identify potential collaborators and partners for the Society in delivering this communication programme.
- Help to give direction and focus to the programme.
- Identify when projects should be stopped and when new initiatives are required to meet specific needs.

The Group’s first meeting ‘Communicating Climate Science’ was very successful, held at Imperial College in November 2012, it attracted over 170 attendees.

HOUSE COMMITTEE AND STRATEGIC PROGRAMME BOARD

There are two committees that have a key role in providing advice to Council:

- **The House Committee** reviews and develops the key functions that underpin the general activities of the Society. The Committee meets twice a year and is chaired by the General Secretary.
- **The Strategic Programme Board** reviews the Society’s strategic projects as one coherent programme of work. The Board meets once a year and is chaired by a Vice President.

During 2012 both the House Committee and Strategic Programme Board had to focus on the future of theWeather Club, a charity in its own right and a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Society; Dr Liz Bentley, the Society’s Director of Weather and Climate, is the Head of theWeather Club. Consequently for this year it is appropriate to have a single report covering the combined activities of the Committee and Board.

theWeather Club

A joint meeting of the House Committee and Strategic Programme Board had to consider the future of theWeather Club as it was forecast to make a loss of about £75,000 in 2012. It was the view of theWeather Club Board that the current business model is not viable and must be redefined or wound-up. theWeather Club Board had chosen two future options to be considered:

- Staged exit with the activities of theWeather Club being wound down over a 12-month period.
- Integration of theWeather Club into the Society with a reduced offering.

These options were thoroughly explored, with the emphasis being on trying to find ways to retain the Society’s engagement with the existing members of theWeather Club whilst reducing the cost to the Society and ensuring any transitional arrangements would minimise the potential harm to the
Society’s reputation. The assessment of the House Committee and Strategic Programme Board then formed the basis for Council to make a decision about the future of the Weather Club.

**Investments and financial management**

The House Committee kept under review the Society’s investments. Changes were made to the investment portfolio aimed at providing less volatility and a more predictable annual income. However it is recognised that this may result in a loss of capital growth in the longer term. The Society’s investment portfolio is managed by a long-established investment management company.

The in-year expenditure on ‘business as usual’ activities was monitored. Also the proposed budget for 2013 for these activities was scrutinised before the budget was considered by Council. This was a difficult task due to implications of the changes in the funding of the Weather Club and expected reduction in income from journals.

**Some other House Committee activities**

The following is a selection of the other activities carried out or overseen by the House Committee.

- **Membership.** A thorough review of membership has taken place. This revealed that there are 28 different membership fee rates. It is intended to reduce, simplify and standardise the fee rates for 2014.

- **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, though there are still concerns that a major, sustained crash in equity value would result in a significant loss of Capital Reserve.

- **Insurance portfolio.** The insurance portfolio was kept under review based on advice from the Society’s insurance broker.

- **Health & Safety.** Implementation of the actions from the annual Health & Safety audit was monitored. The last audit identified no issues that needed to be addressed.

- **Staffing and remuneration.** The House Committee reviewed the recommendations of the Salary and Remuneration Committee and monitored the staffing arrangements of the Society.

- **Facilities.** Photovoltaic cells were installed on the roof of the Society. As well as reducing electricity costs this supports the Society’s Corporate Responsibility Programme.
EDUCATION

In 2012, the Education Committee welcomed Jenny Rourke to its membership, and thanked Katherine Giles for her service.

In the past year, DfE and Ofqual have launched a number of consultations on reform of the curriculum and examination system, and the Committee recognises the importance of responding to these. We have commented on the Geographical Association’s proposed geography curriculum and the Ofqual “A” level consultation and are engaging with both the Science Council and the OCR examination board. The Society has made a case to Ofqual that it should be part of any National Committee for geography “A” Level and will continue to respond to consultations for primary and secondary science and geography.

The most important achievement this year has been the implementation of one day training courses for PGCE geography students. The course aims to encourage future teachers to teach about the weather, by improving their subject knowledge and confidence. The course includes elements of lectures, practical activities, fieldwork, lesson planning and online resource evaluation. In the 2012/2013 academic year, over 18 Universities across the UK will make use of this provision. The feedback received from course tutors and students is overwhelmingly positive, with most students saying that they are more likely to teach weather as a result.

Our website for teachers, www.MetLink.org, continues to be revised and developed. Many of the Society's resources can also be accessed via the Times Education Supplement website.

The Society has developed Fieldwork packs to supplement the instruments available to lend to schools. These include investigations of school microclimate for Key Stage 2, Urban Heat Islands for secondary schools and Urban Wind Flow for Key Stage 5. Most of the Society's key instruments are now on loan during term time.

Additionally the Society has delivered cross-school teacher training to two Primary schools and has also worked together with the AstraZeneca Science Teacher Trust to develop further resources to encourage the teaching of weather in primary schools.

Continuing Professional Development sessions have also been delivered to practicing teachers through events organised by the Geographical Association, the Institute of Physics and the Education Show. The Society’s education resources were promoted at the GA and the Association for Science Education’s annual meetings. Events have been supported at individual schools as well as talks for students arranged by the GA in England and Northern Ireland.

Articles have been written for ‘Teaching Geography’ and ‘Primary Geography’. In addition the Society has worked together with the GA to produce a new ‘Barnaby Bear’ resource to support the teaching of weather in geography at Key Stage 1.

The OPAL weather road-show has continued to attend events through 2012 with support from RMetS staff and volunteers. School students, scouts and the general public have had the chance to experience the wonderful range of activities in the trailer.

In collaboration with schools, University of Reading and software and hardware companies we have developed a 3D resource aimed to help school students understand the processes operating within weather systems. We look forward to using this with teachers and students in the coming year.

The Met Office filmed several members of the Education Committee demonstrating some of the experiments described in MetLink, and these can now be seen on the Met Office’s YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/user/MetOfficeLearning.

The short, entry level Open University Course on ‘Understanding the Weather’ which was developed 5 years ago has been turned into 2 separate courses – an identical, but now un-assessed, short course and a longer level 1 course. This course has been very popular and has supplied the Society with a continuous intake of new student members.

Over 500 teachers who have expressed an interest in the education work of the Society now receive a half-term email update informing them of events and new resources.
In 2012, the Society has worked together with the Met Office, Royal Geographical Society, Institute of Physics, Geographical Association (including their Physical Geography Special Interest Group), the OCR, Miles Kelly Publishing, Collins, OPAL, AstraZeneca Science Teaching Trust and Science Education Forum and the London Grid for Learning, amongst others.

Caption: Dr Sylvia Knight, the Society’s Education Officer, takes geography PGCE students at the University of Ulster through an exercise on depressions and fronts.

MEETINGS, LECTURES AND CONFERENCES

A wide ranging programme of local, national and international meetings, lectures and conferences is a core activity within the Society and continues to facilitate communication and collaboration across the Society’s community. 2012 has seen a very active programme of meetings with the highest overall National Meetings attendance of recent years. Many thanks go to the voluntary work of the organisers, the speakers and the Society’s Meetings Committee, as well as the dedication of the Society staff, who together make the meetings programme possible.

National Meetings
The aim of the National Meetings programme is to provide a varied and stimulating programme for discussion of topical matters on ocean and atmosphere weather and climate, providing an opportunity to bring together people from different academic, professional and non-professional backgrounds to interact on topics of common interest. The following “Wednesday” and “Saturday” meetings took place in 2012:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>• Biosphere and atmosphere interaction.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| February | • Postcode forecasting
          | • Understanding the weather of 2011.                                   |
| March    | • Polar ice - Processes and impacts.                                  |
| April    | • Chemical meteorology: Linking weather and atmospheric composition from urban to global scales. |
| May      | • Royal Meteorological Society National Meeting with AGM.
          | • From frost and frogs to heat waves and hawthorn: Weather and climate impacts on flora and fauna in the UK. |
| June     | • Challenges for data assimilation: from convective-scale to climate. |
| October  | • Renewables and the future of energy meteorology.
          | • Weather and sports performance.                                    |
| November | • Communicating climate science.                                      |
|          | • Hot in the city: Advances in urban meteorology, measurement and modelling. |
| December | • Quantifying uncertainties in climate science.                       |
Many of the meetings were held jointly with other societies this year (European Meteorological Society, Institute of Physics, Royal Statistical Society, Royal Geographical Society, UK Wind Energy Society, NCAS, Royal Society of Chemistry) which brings different communities together and encourages transfer of knowledge across disciplines. As well as the usual venues at Imperial College London and the University of Reading, a number of meetings were held in different locations, including the British Antarctic Survey in Cambridge, the Old Town Hall in Stratford, the London Wetlands Centre in Barnes, the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery and the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich for the AGM.

The Society values the feedback from attendees at the meetings to ensure the programme of National Meetings continues to be appropriate, interesting and of high quality. Although slightly lower than the previous year, the feedback continues to be very positive. Of the people that responded on the feedback forms, 98% regarded the meetings content to be very interesting (63%) or reasonably interesting, 89% found the quality of presentations mostly or consistently good, and 86% found the level of specialisation to be about right.

A new initiative to encourage meeting proposals from Society members was launched this year with an online Meetings Suggestion form (http://www.rmets.org/events/meetings-suggestions). Suggestions will be considered and assessed by the Meetings Committee for possible inclusion in the future Meetings Programme.

### 2012 Summary Statistics from National 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>63</td>
<td>Consistently Good</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>Too Specialised</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reasonably Interesting</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>Mostly Good</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>About Right</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disappointing</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Patchy</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Too General</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### Special Interest Groups and Local Centres

Society Local Centres and Special Interest Groups continue to hold active meetings programmes across the UK, providing opportunities for sharing common interests and enthusiasm on a wide range of topics, such as lightning, seasonal forecasting, hurricanes, paleoclimate, clouds, communicating meteorology to the public and many more!
Meetings Committee Changes
There were a few changes to the Meetings Committee membership in 2012. Dr Richard Forbes finished a 5 year term as Committee Chair and Prof Brian Golding took over as Chair in November 2012. Dr Alison Rudd left after being involved for a number of years and Dr Anna Ghelli joined the Committee.

The National Conferences

Student Conference
The student conference was held from 9-12 July 2012 at the University of Leeds and again was well attended with the highest number of delegates (91) since the Student Conference programme was started. The Conference was attended by both national and international PhD students who enjoyed speaker sessions, poster sessions and a range of social activities and careers talks.

Average Attendance at the Main and Student Conferences

![Graph showing average attendance at Main and Student Conferences from 2000 to 2012.]

Student Conference attendees 2012
PROFESSIONAL ACCREDITATION

As illustrated below, while recognition of individual, organisational and service excellence is at the heart of The Society’s long term aim to provide professional accreditation, Accreditation also contributes to our work to raise professional standards; and promote careers in meteorology.

The Society continues to be recognised in European and UK law as both the Competent Authority and the Regulatory Body for Meteorology in the UK with both Government and the Permanent Representative with the World Meteorological Organization looking to the Society for independent recognition and regulation around training and professional development for UK meteorology and meteorologists.

Review of Charter Qualifications

In response to demand from members for professional development and certification, The Society invited tenders for and oversaw a study into the creation of a Chartered Meteorological Technician (CMetTech) scheme in line with the WMO professional framework for meteorologists and a review of the framework for Chartered Meteorologist (CMet). Comment and input was drawn from a broad cross section of the community and each was cognisant of The Society’s accreditation framework, illustrated below, which relates professional development and qualifications to wider national and international frameworks. The CMetTech work strand investigated the idea of introducing a new charter qualification and provided a draft framework and documentation for such a qualification. The review of CMet considered: updates to the syllabus in relation to new WMO Technical Regulations, emerging areas of specialty and to cope with increase in joint degree courses; CPD reviews; the eminent practitioner route; a re-launch of the revised qualification; perception issues; and retention of CMet in retirement. The findings are under review and are to be presented to Council with recommendations in 2013.
Continuous Professional Development
Following the successful redevelopment of The Society’s website, options for a set of online Continuous Professional Development (CPD) tools, available to all members, have been considered. These aim to further integrate The Society’s professional development framework within career structures and to develop the function and applicability of CPD as a component of the Society’s qualifications. Consideration of the requirement has drawn upon experience of CMet CPD activities as well as examples and methodologies of CPD used by other societies and bodies. Development and trials are planned during 2013.

Other activities include:

- Further development of and extensions to The Society’s Vocational Qualifications based on the European Qualification Framework.
- Assessing and recognising the function and cost of the Society’s accreditation to maintain educational standards.
- Addressing how, if at all, the Society should be involved in accrediting the increasing number and variety of courses and provider institutions.
- Assessing the viability of a mentoring and support scheme for those new to meteorology.

Sector Committee Working Group on Vocational Qualifications
Since 2000 there have been, within UK meteorology, formal vocational qualifications at several levels within the (now obsolete) National Vocational Qualifications (NVQ) structure. In 2010, these were subsumed into Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF). There remains a favourable level of engagement with and interest in The Sector Committee’s revised National Occupational Standard (NOS), the unit based syllabus for vocational qualifications, and Units and Qualifications developed under the QCF. Six formal qualifications have been established (awarded under the aegis of PAA-VQ-SET, the “Awarding Body” for the RMetS). These are:

- Level 5 Award in Meteorological Briefing,
- Level 4 Certificate for a Meteorological Forecasting Technician,
- Level 5 Certificate in Meteorological Broadcasting,
- Level 3 Diploma in Observing,
- Level 5 Diploma in Meteorological Forecasting, and
- Level 6 Diploma in Flood Forecasting.

It is unclear how future developments to the roles fulfilled by national and specialist bodies in the administration of vocational qualifications will affect The Society

The Quality Standard Pilot Project
Following concerns raised by Council, further investigation of The Society’s liability has delayed approval of The Society’s Quality Standard Project.

Chartered Meteorologist and FRMetS
The work of the Course Evaluation/Continuous Professional Development Panel continued in assessing the CPD returns from CMets, evaluation of courses, and advising on applications for the use of the appellation FRMetS. This is summarised in the table below, which also provides information on the number of new applications for CMet and their outcomes.
### 2012 Chartered Meteorologist (CMet) Applications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Applications received in 2012</th>
<th>New accreditations granted in 2012</th>
<th>Accreditations withdrawn/resigned in 2012</th>
<th>Applications outstanding at 31/12/12</th>
<th>Total number of CMets at 31/12/12</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>65</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>17</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Applications for the public use of FRMetS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Applications for public use</th>
<th>Applications approved</th>
<th>Applications refused/resigned</th>
<th>Total numbers of FRMetS at 31/12/12</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>39</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>562</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Course Evaluation/Continuous Professional Development Panel has also renewed the accreditation of courses from FOST HM (Royal Navy), University of East Anglia and University of Reading as providing the minimum level of knowledge required by a CMet.

**Chartered Environmentalist (CEnv)**

The Society ended its membership of the Society for the Environment (SocEnv) at the end of 2011 and as such its license to award Chartered Environmentalist also terminated. All existing CEnvS were provided with support to transfer their accreditation to another awarding body.

**Aviation Meteorological Forecasters**

The meeting of the WMO Congress in June 2011 established new competency standards for Aviation Meteorological Forecasters (AMF), in Technical Regulations (WMO No. 49), replacing the guidance in WMO No. 258 (Guidelines for the Education and Training of Personnel in Meteorology and Operational). These standards will come into force from December 2013. The Society has committed to providing a response to the UK Permanent Representative with WMO regarding the requirement for and, if necessary, the nature of an independent accreditation of UK practitioners. Representatives from the three Meteorological Assessment Centres will meet with a representative of the Society, the Chair of the Course Evaluation/Continuous Professional Development Panel and the Vice-President of the WMO’s Commission of Aeronautical Meteorology (CAeM) in early 2013 to review the implementation of the new standards and agree the level of support required from the Society. The UK is expecting to be compliant with these new regulations by December 2013 and until that time the Society will keep in place its current scheme for recognising when meteorologists comply with the guidance in WMO No. 258.
Introduction
The Scientific Publishing Committee oversees the Society’s journal portfolio. Its long-term aim is to grow the circulation and use of the Society’s journals and books, increase the contribution that journals and books make to the charitable work of the Society, and place the journals in the top five most respected internationally (by Impact Factor and reputation) in their respective categories.

During 2012, the Scientific Publishing Committee has focused on raising the portfolio’s international profile, and continued with streamlining the production process and enabling open access publication in Society journals. Below are some of the more specific highlights from the work of the Society’s scientific publishing programme.

Quarterly Journal
The Impact Factor for Quarterly Journal in 2011 was 2.91, a slight decrease on 2010’s 2.97, but still consolidating an upward trend. This follows a number of initiatives the Editorial Board made to ensure the impact factor remains high. The number of submissions remains high (303 in 2012), with a rejection rate of 33%.

International Journal of Climatology
In 2012 the journal published 15 issues. The journal Impact Factor in 2011 was 2.91, up on the previous three years. The journal remains the largest of the Society’s journal publications with 2416 pages published in 2012. After holding the post of Editor-in-Chief for well over a decade, Professor Glenn McGregor has finally stepped down. However, he is not relinquishing his involvement with IJoC as he has agreed to remain as an Associate Editor, along with Dr Jose Marengo, Dr Matthias Roth, Dr Sergey Gulev and Prof Ian McKendry. Professor Radan Huth became Editor-in-Chief with effect from 1st January 2013.

Atmospheric Science Letters
The journal was awarded an impact factor for the first time for 2010 of 1.43, a major achievement which reflects very positively on the growing international recognition of ASL. Its 2011 impact factor rose to 1.932. (The strategy of the journal is to increase its impact factor to 2 in the next three years, and it is clearly on this trajectory.) A total of 120 papers were submitted in 2012, and 47 articles were published. After an extended term of office with the journal, Dr Alan Gadian, stepped down as Editor-in-Chief and Professor Ian James took up the post on the first of January 2013.

Meteorological Applications
The journal maintained its improved impact factor at 1.41 in 2011 (from 1.40 in 2010). The total number of submissions in 2012 was 194, an increase from 146 submissions in 2011. Four issues were published, with one special issue on ‘Monsoons: prediction, variability and impact’, published in June 2012 with guest Editors Anna Ghelli, Hannah Cloke and Ashwini Kulkami. Dr Peter Burt stepped aside as Editor-in-Chief for several months at the end of 2012 to take paternity leave and Dr Anna Ghelli did an admirable job as Acting Chief Editor in that time.

Weather
Weather achieved its first Impact Factor of 0.58 in 2010, and saw an increase to 1.11 in 2011. There was a special issue on ‘The 25th anniversary of the Great Storm of October 1987’, published in October 2012. Editor-in-Chief, Bob Prichard, is coming to the end of his term, so we will be seeking a replacement during 2013.

Geoscience Data Journal
We were pleased to launch a new, fully Open Access title jointly with Wiley during 2012. Geoscience Data Journal publishes short data papers cross-linked with datasets held within trusted repositories. Editor-in-Chief is Professor Rob Allan of the Met Office, and the journal has been greatly supported by its inclusion in the Peer REview for Publication & Accreditation of Research
Data in the Earth sciences (PREPARDE) Project. JISC funded, this international project brings together a wide range of experts in research, academic publishing and data management to produce data publication guidelines applicable across a range of research disciplines and data types.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Impact Factors</th>
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<tr>
<td>Journal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quarterly Journal</td>
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<tr>
<td>International Journal of Climatology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Atmospheric Science Letters</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meteorological Applications</td>
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<td>Weather</td>
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**Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews (WIREs) Climate Change**

WIREs Climate Change, launched in 2010, is a review journal from John Wiley & Sons, co-published jointly by the Royal Meteorological Society and the Royal Geographical Society (with the Institute of British Geographers). The current Impact Factor is 2.913 and internal calculations at Wiley suggest this will increase significantly in the coming year.

Professor Mike Hulme continues as Editor-in-Chief, supported by a team of 14 editorial board members, each responsible for commissioning articles in his or her area of expertise. The majority of articles are by invitation, as intended, but there has been an increase in authors approaching the journal asking to submit an article. These requests are reviewed by the Editor in Chief for approval. Reviewers of WIREs Climate Change manuscripts are recognized each year on the journal’s homepage.

WIREs Climate Change is known for its online “special collections,” many of which are resources for seminar classes and are often made available for free in advance of important academic meetings. Our next special collection, “The history of climate change: ideas, knowledge and expertise,” will post in April 2013 and will be made available for free in July 2013 for the 24th International Congress of the History of Science, Technology and Medicine being held at the University of Manchester, 21-28 July 2013. In addition, we continue to pursue outreach to China and are featuring the article “Detection and attribution of anthropogenic climate change impacts” on the Wiley China blog: [http://blog.scienccenet.cn/blog-822310-672831.html](http://blog.scienccenet.cn/blog-822310-672831.html).

In the coming year, Professor Hulme and the WIREs Climate Change staff look forward to working more closely with the International Advisory Board appointed to the journal by the Royal Meteorological Society and the Royal Geographical Society.

**The Society Book Programme**

During 2012 the Society published two further books in the series ‘Advancing Weather and Climate Science’. These titles were ‘Time Series Analysis in Meteorology and Climatology’ by Claude Duchon from the University of Oklahoma and ‘Operational Weather Forecasting’ by Pete Inness (University of Reading) and Steve Dorling (UEA). Future publications due to publish in 2013 include ‘Fluid Dynamics of the Mid-Latitude Atmosphere’, ‘The Urban Climate System, and ‘Tropical Meteorology’. A new US Series Editor is in the process of being appointed and this will be announced later in 2013.

**Acknowledgements and special thanks**

The Committee would like to thank all the Editors and their Editorial Boards and the staff both at the Society’s headquarters and at Wiley-Blackwell for their hard work and support for this comprehensive programme of work.
REPORTS FROM OTHER REPRESENTATIVE BODIES

Science Council

The Society continued, in 2012, as an active member of the Science Council. Chris Holcroft (the Society's Chief Executive) is the Society's representative and is also a member of the Science Council CEO Forum.

The Society and the Weather Club has furthered the Science Council’s Hidden Science initiative to showcase Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) employment opportunities to those at the beginning or in their early career.

The Society has continued its contributions to the Science Council on Open Access Publishing. Also to the Council's work on defining the role and professional identity of scientists to help address the large expected growth in need for non-academic science positions in the future UK economy and the requirement to be able to articulate the role of scientist as a profession.

The Society has also worked with the Science Council on its contribution to the consultation on the National Curriculum for STEM, and Dr Geoff Jenkins (Chairman of the Society’s Education Committee) has joined the Science Council’s Education Group.
General Aviation Safety Committee (GASCo)

There were three meetings of the General Aviation Safety Council in February, June and November maintaining the change made in 2011 to three meetings a year. GASCo continue to have responsibility devolved from the CAA for the Safety Evening seminars, which are held at various airfield locations in the winter months. This is probably now GASCo’s most important public function and feedback from these seminars continues to be very positive. The purpose of these evenings is to bring pilots up to date with recent airspace and legislative changes and other similar matters as well as to reinforce the safety message of operating light aircraft in UK airspace in often not very encouraging weather conditions.

Considerable time was spent in the first part of the year on contributing to the plans for managing general aviation during the run up to and during the Olympic and Paralympic games. The Government required a controlled environment for the airspace in the vicinity of these, primarily in the London area but it also affected Olympic sites outside London. After some initial teething problems, the control system was generally accepted to have worked well and effectively but overall there was a considerable decrease in general aviation activity over the period partly because some aircraft could not be made compliant with the temporary rules, some pilots were put off by the procedures involved and at times, the weather was distinctly poor for summer flying in visual conditions.

A further ditching and sea survival seminar took place in March and a further meteorological seminar in September, both well attended. Discussion continued on the pilot licensing changes arising from EASA taking over the functions previously performed by JAA (the Joint Airworthiness Authorities) with the compulsory implementation date being put back to April 2014 reflecting a slower rate of progress than originally anticipated. Our CAA has started to issue EASA licences from last September but there is still considerable uncertainty on some licensing aspects and this is likely to remain until shortly before the April 2014 implementation date. The transition to EASA oversight is also having consequential effects on aircraft airworthiness aspects with older orphan aircraft (“Annex II aircraft”) being unable to transfer to EASA oversight and thus having to remain under a different national maintenance regime. In some respects, this is beneficial but it creates further pilot licensing problems since pilots may have to retain their national licences as well as acquiring new EASA ones.

Anthony Bowles, the Society’s Representative on GASCo has come to the end of his term of office and John Gunn has taken over.

UK Flight Safety Committee (UKFSC)

The UK Flight Safety Committee (UKFSC) 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 Military Aviation Authority. Over 2012 the RMetS adviser attended Safety Information Exchange meetings and contributed to ways to improve safety and avoid incidents/accidents resulting from the natural environment.

Space weather has now become a national risk for the British Government, chiefly as a result of severe storms impacting on the aviation sector; the RMetS advisor has kept the committee up to date and in October presented on this theme at the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) in Whitehall, London. The advisor also consulted with the UKFSC members to ensure the UK’s National Risk was appropriately informed by expertise from the aviation community.
In July, the Royal Meteorological Society UKFSC Advisor visited Afghanistan to work with the Afghan government on developing aviation meteorological services critical for the regional and international aviation to and from this land-locked country. A presentation on this work was given to UKFSC highlighting the meteorological challenges associated with aviation operations in developing and conflict affected countries; a business opportunity for airlines / air operators but with substantial safety issues.

Meteorology has been a key component of many aviation incidents/accidents over 2012. Moreover, investigations on accidents that have happened over the past few years highlighted meteorological impacts; such as the report on Air France AF447 which was affected by both the direct and indirect effects of cumulo-nimbus / thunderstorms associated with the Inter Tropical Convergence Zone. In October the RMetS advisor was invited to present to the Royal Aeronautical Society on threat and error management as well as international development.

In December the advisor presented at Airbus in Toulouse on three key strategic subjects:

A. National Risk; strategic impacts of natural hazards on aviation
B. Aviation operational meteorology in developing / conflict affected countries
C. Threat and error management; decision making and meteorological hazards

In 2013, Rob Seaman looks forward to handing over the role to Bob Lunnon.

European Meteorological Society (EMS)

EMS Membership and RMetS Representation
EMS is now an Association of 36 Meteorological Societies from 29 European countries. In addition it has 29 Associate Members made up of National Meteorological Services (e.g. Met Office, Deutscher Wetterdienst and Météo-France), international institutions (e.g. ECMWF and EUMETSAT), research and education institutions, and commercial companies. In the last year there was one new Associate Member: Centro per il Clima e l'Ambiente, Epson Meteo, Meteo Operations Italia.

The RMetS has a permanent member of the EMS Council. At present this is Dr Bob Riddaway who is serving a three-year term as EMS Vice President. Also he is Chair of the EMS Editorial Board.

The following meetings have taken place:
- 26th EMS Council in Brussels on 15–16 March 2012.
- 27th EMS Council and 14th EMS General Assembly in Łódź on 9 September 2012.

Annual Meetings
The 12th EMS Annual Meeting (EMS12) and 9th European Conference on Applied Climatology (ECAC9) were held in Łódź, Poland, from 10 to 14 September 2012. The theme was European Climate Services Capabilities – user needs and communication with stakeholders. There were nearly 400 participants providing about 300 oral presentations and the display of over150 posters. As well as there being a variety of side meetings concerned with aspects of climatology, there was also a workshop on ‘Using CM SAF Data for Climate Applications’ organised in collaboration with CM SAF (Satellite Application Facility on Climate Monitoring), EUMETSAT and EumetCal.

During the Annual Meeting there was the presentation of the EMS Silver Medal to Prof Tim Palmer (past RMetS President). He was honoured for his pioneering work on predictability of weather and climate and for his outstanding skills and commitment in communicating the underlying concepts to non-specialists and the general public in Europe and beyond.
Future EMS Annual Meetings will be as follows.

- **Annual Meeting 2013.** EMS13 will be held in Reading, in conjunction with ECAM11, from 9 to 13 September 2013.
- **Annual Meeting 2014.** EMS14 will be held in Prague, in conjunction with ECAC10, from 6 to 10 October 2014.
- **Annual Meeting 2015.** EMS15 will be held in Sofia, in conjunction with ECAM12, from 7 to 11 September 2015.

**Other activities and developments**

- **Website development.** A content management system has been implemented. The website now contains more information about the EMS membership and their activities.
- **Permanent member fee.** A reduction in the permanent member fee from 5,000€ to 2,500€ index with effect from 2013 was proposed by the RMetS. This proposal has been accepted.
- **Investigation of a COST action.** An investigation has been carried out to assess whether a COST action or other programmes might support a project concerning the collection, provision and sharing examples of "best" practices. It was concluded that, as the community involved currently includes scientists from the area of meteorology, hydrology, climatology and related areas, major efforts to build an appropriate network would be required.
- **Open access publishing.** In response to a paper on Open Access Publishing and the impact on professional and learned societies put forward by the RMetS, it was agreed that a draft position paper – for the purpose of approaching the EC – would be prepared for distribution and discussion by the Member Societies.
- **Awards.** 16 Young Scientist Travel Awards were assigned for participation in six events; two of them are funded by EUMETSAT. Reports of the awardees are provided on the emetsoc.org website.
- **Europhotometeo’12.** The second EMS photo competition Europhotometeo’12 received a large response throughout Europe and beyond with over 400 photos being admitted to the competition. The photo selected as best entry was "The Land of Fairy Tales", taken by Vittorio Poli on the Asiago plateau in Italy. Taken from a mountain top, it shows the small village Conco on this plateau shrouded in fog. The EMS Member Societies have the right to use the admitted photos for non-commercial purposes.
REPORTS FROM LOCAL CENTRES

East Anglia Centre

Committee
Chris Bell (Chair and Treasurer), Dr Steve Dorling (Deputy Chair), Dan Holley (Student Liaison).

The Centre underwent a change in leadership over the summer and would like to gratefully acknowledge James Dent, who passed on the Chair position to Chris Bell and left the East Anglia Centre in a healthy position. We would also like to thank the University of East Anglia for providing one of its new, world-class lecture theatres free of charge to hold the meetings.

Activities
The Centre held 5 meetings during 2012 at which the attendance ranged between 20 and 100. Titles of meetings held during the year were:

- Thursday 19 January, Sea breezes and extreme events - the wind climate of the UK. Research by UEA Ph.D. students, Chris Steele and Nick Earl
- Thursday 8 March, Chronology of Weather and Climate in the British Isles. John Kington - Visiting Fellow CRU, University of East Anglia
- Wednesday 3 October, A welcome from the new chair and Tales from Storm Chasing in The Great Plains in 2012. Chris Bell and Dan Holley, Weatherquest
- Wednesday 7 November, The influence of weather on surfing conditions in the UK and abroad. Steve Smith, A1surf.com
- Thursday 17 November. Dan Harris (a recent UEA graduate) talked about his experiences as a forecaster with the Met Office.

North East Centre

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

Activities
During the year, the Centre held 9 meetings at which the approximate average attendance was 20. Titles of the meetings held during the year were:

- Friday 10 February, Exploring climate modelling uncertainty with 30,000 volunteers: the last 1200 years, Dr. Hiro Yamazaki, University of Newcastle
- Friday 9 March, Atmospheric services: how much is the atmosphere worth? Dr. John Thornes, University of Birmingham
- Friday 13 April, A day in the life of a TV weather presenter, Hannah Bayman, BBC Newcastle
- Friday 11 May, Predicting future climate by looking into the past; cloudy stories from ancient trees, Dr. Mary Gagen, University of Swansea
- Friday 8 June, Communicating meteorology to the public, Professor Paul Hardaker, Chief Executive, Royal Meteorological Society.
- Friday 12 October, A member’s evening to review the weather of the summer of 2012
- Friday 9 November, Whaling logbooks in climate research, Matthew Ayre University of Sunderland
- Friday 14 December, Weather forecasting for winter road maintenance, Dr. Julian Mayes MeteoGroup UK
For the seventeenth year, and together with friends from the Geography Department at the University of Durham, the annual Gordon Manley Lecture was held. This year’s speaker was Professor Ricardo Garcia-Herrera, Universidad Complutense de Madrid, the title of the talk was From Arabic documents to clerical records: climate in historical archives.

(Acknowledgement for the kind assistance of the University of Durham in hosting this undertaking.)

North West Centre

Committee
Dr. Grant Allen (Chairman), Dr. Hugo Ricketts (Secretary), Dr. Tom Choularton (Treasurer), Dr. William Morgan (Web Officer), Dr. Bogdan Antonescu (Meetings coordinator), Dr. Jennifer Muller (Publicity Officer).

Activities
During the year, the Centre held 5 meetings at which the approximate average attendance was 47. Titles of the meetings held during the year were:

- 7 February, Experiences of operational weather forecasting for television and working at the Met Office, Laura Tobin, BBC and more recently ITV weather presenter and employee of the Met Office
- 3 April, Weather Photography, John Mason
- 19 April, Solar variability and climate, Professor Joanna Haigh, Imperial College London
- 2 October, Seasonal Forecasting, Dr. Tom Frame, University of Reading
- 4 December, Lighting the fire within: Experiences of an Olympic forecaster, Professor David Schultz

Following the unsuccessful attempt to launch a weather balloon and camera in 2011 due to CAA restrictions, the Centre will be collaborating with Holy Cross School, Lancashire, to launch a balloon, sonde, GPS tracking device and camera in May 2013 during a day of events at the school. RMETS NW will provide expertise in launch preparation and trajectory forecasting and work with the school and pupils to launch and recover the camera. Cost will mostly be borne by the school (gases, GPS tracker, camera etc) with cost of sonde, balloon, some T&S for committee members payable from NW Centre funds. The Committee will also attend a school assembly to promote the event.
Scottish Centre

Committee
Dr D Stevenson (Chairman and Vice President for Scotland), Mr C Brown, Dr R Essery, Prof. D Fowler, Ms V Ingram, Ms A McLure, Mr G Meldrum, Mr G Monk, Mr D Paterson, Mr M Rogerson, Ms M Roy, Dr J Smith and Mr R Tabony (Secretary).

Activities
During the year, the Centre held 6 meetings at which the approximate average attendance was 27. Titles of the meetings held during the year were:

- Climate change and the built environment.
- Scotland’s semi-perennial snowfields.
- The impact of mega-cities on atmospheric composition.
- The Madden-Julian oscillation and the diurnal cycle of rainfall over the maritime continent.
- The resilience of transport to severe weather.
- The public understanding of science: climate change – a case study.
- Challenges and opportunities for wind energy in Scotland.

South East Centre

Committee
Stephen Burt (Chairman), John Pears (Secretary), Prof Paul Hardaker (Committee member and mentor).

Activities
The SE centre held 9 meetings and arranged one external visit during 2012, as shown below. The average attendance during the year was 45. The centre normally meets at 7 pm on the first Wednesday in the month in Reading Town Hall (Blagrave Street, RG1 1QH, 2 min walk from the railway station). All are welcome: there is no charge for meetings.

During 2012, meetings held were as follows:

- 25 January - What makes a good meteorological photograph? SE Centre annual photographic competition
- 29 February - Dr Richard Cornes, UEA: The London and Paris daily pressure series, 1692-2007: the importance of early instrumental observations in modern-day climatology
- 28 March - Prof. Julia Slingo OBE, Chief Scientist, Met Office: The Indian Summer Monsoon: Past, Present and Future
- 11 April - Peter McLeish: A science collaboration based on red sprites
- 25 April – Dr Richard Forbes, ECMWF: Clouds - a journey from micro-scale to global-scale
- 30 May - Professor Sir Brian Hoskins CBE FRS, Grantham Institute for Climate Change: Forecasting weather and climate, from one day to one century
- 24 September - Afternoon visit to the National Grid Control Centre, Wokingham, with a programme of presentations on weather and energy use
- 3 October - Dr Dennis Wheeler, University of Sunderland: The weather of the battle of Trafalgar - how the Nelsonian tradition helps us understand climate change
- 7 November - Dr Carol Morris and Dr Georgina Endfield, University of Nottingham: ‘Well weather is not a girl thing is it?’ Gender and amateur meteorology
- 5 December - Meteorological research within the University of Reading - a showcase of postgraduate student studies from the Department of Meteorology
We offer grateful thanks to all our speakers, who have provided an interesting and varied programme, and of course to the Society’s staff who provide all the ‘behind the scenes’ work to enable us to run the centre’s activities.

West Midlands Centre

Committee
Dr Ian D Phillips (Chairman).

Activities
During the year, the Centre held five meetings. The attendance at each meeting was as follows: 32, 29, 29, 20 and 23. The average attendance was thus 27. The titles of the meetings held during the year were:

- The urban heat island of London, by Professor Robert Wilby, Department of Geography, Loughborough University, Leicestershire
- The Cumbrian floods of November 2009 and forecasting rainfall enhancement, by Mr Andrew Sibley, Operations Centre, Meteorological Office, Exeter
- Dust Storms in the vicinity of the Emirates, by Dr Michael de Villiers, Senior Meteorologist, Weather Services International Ltd., Birmingham
- Aviation and Meteorology in the First World War, by Mr Brian Booth, Former Chief Forecaster at RAF High Wycombe (the Defence Meteorological Centre, Headquarters Strike Command)
- How storm tracks are influenced by mountain ranges and ocean dynamics, by Dr Chris Wilson, National Oceanography Centre, Liverpool

A 500 word summary of the academic content of each meeting has been placed on the RMetS website.
Yorkshire Centre

Committee
Dr Lindsay Bennett (Chair), Dr Dorian Speakman (Secretary), Dr Victoria Smith (Treasurer), Dr Sarah Norris (Advertising Secretary), Mr Ross Herbert (E-Media Officer), Ms Ann Rook, Mr David Cherry, Ms Jennifer Brooke, Dr Jim McQuaid and Prof. Doug Parker.

Activities
The Yorkshire Centre has had a very busy and successful year, with 8 meetings, a summer social event and its AGM. The social event was held at the Yorkshire Gliding Club at Sutton Bank airfield near Thirsk on 26th May, where 6 members of the group were able to take a flight in a glider, some even accomplishing a loop-the-loop! The fabulous evening finished with a sunset BBQ.

The Centre is going from strength to strength with fantastic attendances at the first two talks of the autumn session, a response to effective advertising through the targeting of specific interest groups. Titles of the meetings held during 2012 were:

- 12 January, Lightning into Space, Dr Martin Fullekrug, Department of Electronic and Electrical Engineering, University of Bath. Attendance~30
- 9 February, Up Close and Personal - Weather from a Gliding Perspective, George Rowden, Yorkshire Gliding Club. Attendance 29
- 13 March, Winter Maintenance Programme, Russell Martin, Highway Maintenance Manager, Leeds City Council. Attendance 18
- 19 April, Two Perspectives of Weather Forecasting: Forecasting for Army Helicopter Operations in Yorkshire by Clive Mills-Hicks and Forecasting for Metra and Weather Commerce by Byron Drew, Forecast Meteorologist, Metra and Weather Commerce Ltd. Attendance 27
- 20 June, Antarctica from the ocean, Dr Sarah Norris, University of Leeds. Attendance ~30
- 16 October, The Great Windstorm of October 1987: 25 years on, Professor Keith Browning. Attendance 62
- 6 November, Mountain Weather Forecasting, Geoffrey Monk, Mountain Weather Information Service. Attendance 81
- 4 December, Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow, talks and pictures from Yorkshire Centre members. Attendance 41

The following Local Centres have nothing to report this year:

East Midlands Centre
South West Local Centre
REPORTS FROM SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Atmospheric Chemistry

Committee
Dr Paul Young and Dr Rami Alfarra.

Activities
During the year, the group held no meetings, but there was a change in the Committee. Prof Mat Evans, University of York left, handing his role over to Dr Paul Young, Lancaster University.

Aviation Meteorology

Committee
Jacob Kollegger (Chair), Bob Lunnon (Secretary), Michael de Villiers, John Gunn, James Morrison, John Greetham, George Anderson, Mike Wickson, Aidan McGivern, David John Gibbs, Andrew Moys, Ian Witter, Rebekah Sherwin, Maurice Crewe, Michael Baker, Richard Griffith, Matt Woods, Anthony Bowles, Jim Squires, Robert Seaman, Geoff Sutton

Activities
During the year, the Centre held one meeting at which the attendance was 6:

- Annual Special Interest Group Meeting at Reading.

Newsletters published on the Society website with the intention to have 3 – 4 newsletters per year of a general nature for a greater audience than just the SIG members or Society members. Facebook page also on-going, most followers of the page are now non-Society members, sparking interest even outside of the Society.

Data Assimilation

Committee
Peter Jan van Leeuwen, Keith Haines, Mike Fisher, Matt Martin, Bruce Ingleby.

Activities
During the year, the Group held one meeting at which the attendance was 75:

- Assimilation of Satellite Data, held at the Met Office, Exeter on 17 April 2012.

The Group also organized the RMetS National Meeting at the University of Reading on 20 June 2012, Challenges for data assimilation: from convective-scale to climate.

Occasional emails are sent to members sometimes mentioning other meetings of interest.
History of Meteorology and Physical Oceanography

Committee
Malcolm Walker (Chairman), Graham Bartlett, Brian Booth, Margaret Deacon, Alan Heasman, Joan Kenworthy, Martin Kidds, Julian Mayes (Secretary), Howard Oliver, Sarah Pankiewicz, David Pedgley, Joan Self, Dennis Wheeler, Mick Wood (Treasurer).

Activities
In 2012, membership of the Group increased by three to 92.

During the year, the Group arranged three meetings:

- Saturday 17 March 2012, Under the weather, a meeting concerned with attempts to link aspects of weather and climate to human disease and well-being, held at the Civil Service Club, London. This was an excellent meeting, full of interest, with much positive feedback. Attendance: 28.
- Saturday 29 September 2012, The use of aircraft in meteorology: Part 2, a meeting concerned with the uses of aircraft for meteorological purposes from the 1930s to about 1970, held at Farnborough. This was another successful meeting, which included a reunion of ten people who had been associated with the Meteorological Research Flight in the 1960s. Attendance: 34.
- Wednesday 21 November 2012, Hot in the city: advances in urban meteorology, measurement and modelling, a Royal Meteorological Society National Wednesday Meeting concerned with advances in knowledge and understanding of urban meteorology during the past 200 years, held at the University of Reading. Again there was positive feedback. Attendance: 55.

Three newsletters were published during 2012. They were distributed to members of the Group and made available via the RMetS’s website. The newsletter continued to include substantial articles and has become a key part of the Group’s activities, attracting many favourable comments. The assistance and support of the Society in printing and publishing the newsletter is greatly appreciated.

The occasional papers published by the Group continue to be available via the RMetS’s website (see http://www.rmets.org/publications/occasional-papers), and paper copies are held in the National Meteorological Library at Exeter. One new paper was published in 2012, Occasional Paper No.11, by Dr Howard Oliver, on ‘The Ripon meteorological data set for 1892 to 1895 as recorded by Charles Piazzi Smyth’.

Meteorological Observing Systems

Committee
Steve Colwell, Mike Brettle, Mark Dutton, Ian Strangeways, Dave Bullock, Keri Nicoll, Stephen Burt, Suzy Bingham.

Activities
During the year, the Centre held 2 meetings at which the approximate average attendance was 26. Titles of the meetings held during the year were:

- Meteorological measurements for dispersion models.
- Weather & Sport.

The Group also sent out Spring 2012 and Autumn 2012 Newsletters.
Physical Processes Group

Committee
There are no committee members, report supplied by John Edwards.

Activities
During the year the group held a meeting on the radiative properties of cirrus clouds, attended by approximately 30 people.

Weather, Art and Music (WAM)

Committee
Pierrette Thomet (Chair), Peter Stott (Secretary), John Thornes (Treasurer)
Liz Bentley, Paul Hardaker, Janet Barlow, Giles Harrison, Charlie Hooker, Holger Zschenderlein, Karen Aplin, Paul Williams, Julia Rogers, Ingrid Jensen, Gavin Pretor-Pinney

Activities
During the year, the Centre held 2 meetings at which the approximate average attendance was 9.

On Jubilee Weekend in June 2012 Reading Town Hall hosted the first ever Festival of Weather, Art and Music or WAM for short, with crucial support from the Society. The festival as a means of public engagement and education was sufficiently successful to warrant further development and a Special Interest Group was set up to support this process.

The newly constituted Special Interest Group met for the first time on 1st September 2012 and proceeded to define the parameters within which it proposes to act. In particular, the importance of collaborations between the three disciplines of meteorology, art and music was stressed, both to create original content for future festivals and to explore new ways to engage with the public on weather and climate change issues.

A second meeting was held on 21st November 2012 at which it was decided to hold a workshop day in April 2013 to begin the process of collaboration between our partner disciplines. It was also decided that WAM should propose contributing to the forthcoming 2nd Amateur Conference in September 2013.

The following Special Interest Groups have nothing to report this year:

Dynamical Problems
Satellite Meteorology and Oceanography
Weather Service Providers

The following Groups are currently looking for volunteers to run them. If any members would like to help with either of these they should make contact with the Chief Executive in the first instance through ‘chris.holcroft@rmets.org’.

Association of British Climatologists
Weather Forecasting
MEMBERSHIP OF COUNCIL  
(TRUSTEES OF THE SOCIETY)  

Patron: HRH The Prince of Wales, HonFRMetS  

From 1 January to 30 September 2012 the constitution of the Council was as recorded in the Annual Report for 2011.

From 1 October 2012 the following Council held office:

**PRESIDENT**  
Joanna Haigh, CBE, DPhil, FRMetS

**VICE-PRESIDENTS**  
Ellie Highwood, PhD, FRMetS (also Chair, Strategic Programme Board)  
Tim Palmer, DPhil, DSc, FRS, FRMetS  
David Schultz, PhD, FRMetS

**VICE-PRESIDENT FOR SCOTLAND**  
David Stevenson, PhD

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

**TREASURER**  
Alan Radford

**COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN**  
Brian Golding, OBE, PhD (Meetings Committee)  
Geoff Jenkins, OBE, PhD (Education Committee)  
Emily Shuckburgh, PhD, FRMetS (Climate Science Communications Group)  
Derek Swannick, FRMetS (Accreditation Board)  
Chris Holcroft, FRGS CGeog (GIS) (Scientific Publishing Committee)

**ORDINARY MEMBERS OF COUNCIL**  
Liz Howell  
Shanti Majithia, FRSS, FRMetS  
David Marshal, PhD, FRMetS  
Jennifer Rourke, PhD  
Dudley Shallcross, DPhil, FRMetS  
Oliver Wild, PhD, FRMetS

**EX-OFFICIO MEMBER OF COUNCIL**  
John Hirst, UK Permanent Representative with WMO
MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2012

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

**Accreditation Board**
Cdr Derek Swannick (Chair)
Dr Andrew Eccleston, Ian Davy, Dr Alan Hisscott, Dr Pete Inness, Aileen Semple, David Richardson, Dr Bob Riddaway (ex-officio).

**Awards**
Prof Jo Haigh (President and Chair)
Dr Mark Baldwin (co-Editor, Quarterly Journal), Prof John Thuburn (co-Editor, Quarterly Journal), Dr Peter Burt (Editor, Meteorological Applications), Dr Alan Gadian (Editor, Atmospheric Science Letters), Dr Jon Eyre, Prof Peter Lynch, Prof Glenn McGregor (Editor, International Journal of Climatology), Dr Neil Wells, Dr Andy White.

**Climate Science Communications Group**
Dr Emily Shuckburgh (Chair)
Dr Ed Hawkins, Prof Tim Palmer, Prof Jon Mitchell, Prof Rowan Sutton, Dr Ian Strangeways

**Education**
Dr Geoff Jenkins (Chair)
Steve Brace (Representative of the Royal Geographical Society), Dr Roger Brugge, Dr Katherine Giles, George Meldrum, Colin Prowse (Teacher Fellow), Dr Bob Riddaway, Paula Richardson (Representative of the Geographical Association), Gerard Rourke (Primary school teacher), Jenny Rourke, Taj Bhutta (Representative of the Institute of Physics), Karl Shepherdson, Martin Sutton (Teacher), M Sutton, Dr A Russell, Jane Varley (Representative of the Met Office)

**House**
Dr Bob Riddaway (Chair)
Alan Radford (Treasurer), Prof David Schultz (Vice President), Chris Holcroft (Chair of Scientific Publishing).

**Meetings**
Prof Brian Golding (Chair)
Dr Karen Aplin, Dr Caroline Bain, Dr Anna Ghelli, Amanda Maycock, Natalie Harvey (Student Representative), Dr Alison Rudd, Dr John Marsham, Dr Hilary Weller, Dr Claire Walsh (resigned during year). Representatives of Special Interest Groups and Local Centres are also invited to attend.

**Scientific Publishing**
Chris Holcroft (Chair)
Dr Peter Burt (Editor, Meteorological Applications), Dr Alan Gadian (Editor, Atmospheric Science Letters), Prof Glenn McGregor (Editor, International Journal of Climatology), Mr Bob Prichard (Editor, Weather), Prof John Thuburn (co-Editor, Quarterly Journal), Dr Mark Baldwin (co-Editor, Quarterly Journal). Representatives of Wiley-Blackwell are also invited to attend.

**Strategic Programme Board**
Prof Ellie Highwood (Chair and Vice-President)
Alan Radford (Treasurer), Dr Bob Riddaway (General Secretary), Liz Howell, (Council Representative)
OTHER REPRESENTATIVES APPOINTED BY COUNCIL

Atmospheric Science Letters
Editor: Dr Alan Gadian

Associate Editors:

GeoScience Data Journal
Editor: R Allan
I Auer, M Brunet, S Callaghan, R Crouthamel, M Daniels, P Fox, H Granados, R Hughes, J Lawrimore, S Levitus, J Lindsey, A Princic, C Reason, J Tedds, S Worley

International Journal of Climatology
Editor: Prof Glenn McGregor

Regional Editors: Prof Andrew Comrie, Prof Nigel Tapper

Associate Editors:

Meteorological Applications
Editor: Dr Peter Burt

Reviews Editor: Dr Lee Chapman

Associate Editors:

Quarterly Journal
Editors: Dr Mark Baldwin and Prof John Thuburn

Associate Editors:

WIREs Climate Change
Editor: Prof Mike Hulme

Weather
Editor: Bob Prichard
G Anderson (Photo Editor), L Baker, A Charlton-Perez, N Emery, B Hall (Weather News Editor), J Hirschi, S Moseley (Letters Editor), N Pepin, H Roberts (Book Review Editor), J Rothwell, J Webb.

theWeather
Editors: Mark Riddaway and Dr Liz Bentley

Associate Editors:
V Richardson, C Finney.

Book Programme Editors
European Editor: Dr Peter Inness
Americas Editor: Prof William Beasley

Course Evaluation and Continuous Professional Development Panel
Andrew Eccleston (Chair)
J Dent, D Gray, H Lawes, N Lynagh, P Jonas, R Varley.

Representative with the UK Flight Safety Committee
Rob Seaman

Representative with the General Aviation Safety Committee
J Gunn

Representative with the European Meteorological Society
Dr Bob Riddaway

Representative with the Science Council
Chief Executive

Representative with the International Forum for Meteorological Societies
Chief Executive
WITHOUT WHOM

During the year the following Officers and Council Members retired from office with our grateful thanks. Their successors are shown above.

- Prof Matthew Collins, PhD, FRMetS
- Vice-President
- George Meldrum, Vice President Scotland
- Dr Richard Forbes, PhD, Chair Meetings Committee
- Jennie Campbell
- Richard Griffith
- Keith Groves, FRMetS, CMet
- Dr Curtis Wood

The Society depends heavily on the valuable and unstinting work done each year by those who hold voluntary office. The Society would like to record its grateful thanks to all of those who give up their time and who contribute with great dedication to the work of the Society. The Society could not achieve all that it does without the kind support of all of its volunteers – 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 on 31 December 2012 is shown below.

*Part-time posts †Based in Manchester

The following staff left the Society during 2012.
- Professor Paul Hardaker
- Roy Steven
- Sarah Grintzevitch
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 TSB Bank plc
         PO Box 1000
         BX1 1LT

Auditors: Porter Garland
         Communication House
         Victoria Avenue
         Camberley
         Surrey
         GU15 3HX

Solicitors: Bristows
           100 Victoria Embankment
           London, EC4Y 0DH

Investment Advisors: Rathbone Investment Management Ltd
                    1 Curzon Street
                    London, W1J 5FB

Investment Powers:

By-Laws (July 2011) 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;
- 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, aside from the capital loan (of £350,000 conditional on achieving business plan targets) made to establish the Weather Club in 2010.

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 and 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 (for example an 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 Strategic Development Programme requirements, the General Reserve will:

- provide some resilience against “single event” failures, for example 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, is 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, bonds 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 strategic 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 Chief Financial Officer.