Royal Meteorological Society

Summary Report 2007
Did you know?

As a registered charity we show the Charity Commission each year the public benefits we deliver.

We have 3000 members including practitioners, amateurs, academics and teachers — our first lady Fellow, Dr Eleanor Ormerod, was elected in 1878.

We give over £38,000 in grants and awards each year, particularly in support of young scientists.

We recently received a long service award for our continued contribution to UK Flight Safety.

Our web site receives over 4 million visitors per year and, with our web site development, these figures are rising.

Over 1,200 people attended Society meetings in 2007.

We are the UK’s authority and regulating body for professional qualifications in meteorology, and we develop vocational qualifications through the World Meteorological Organization.

Our education projects are focused in the UK, but also reach schools in some 28 countries across the world.

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From the President

I find it hard to believe that my two years of Presidency have passed so quickly. Perhaps it is because we have achieved such a lot in that period.

I have always been an active supporter of the Society, but before I joined Council, first as a Vice-President and then as President, I wasn’t aware of the wide range of areas in which the Society actively contributes to Meteorology. This Summary Report gives you just a flavour of what we do, and in particular the activities that we were focusing on in 2007; you can find much more information on our web site.

The report emphasizes how much the Society continues to develop as a modern and forward-thinking organization, that is relevant to the changing needs of its membership and stakeholders, and the challenges we face in meteorology today. I must emphasize that it is only through the support of many different people, and in particular the membership, that we are able to contribute in this way and to play our part in advancing the profession and science of meteorology.

It has been a real honour to serve as President and to make my contribution to the future of the Society. I hope you will see the positive results from some of our new initiatives in the coming months, and very much hope you find this report informative and interesting, and that you will learn something more about the Society.

One closing message: why not get involved with the work of the Society, if you are not already? We welcome all those who are keen to contribute and you can help us to make a difference.

Dymuniadu gorau, Y Gymdeithas Feteorolegol Frenhinol.

The Weather in 2007

The weather in 2007 will long be remembered for the summer flooding which affected so many parts of the country, but it was by no means wet throughout. Early spring and most of the autumn were notably dry, and April was an outstandingly warm and sunny month, but May to July was the wettest 3 month period for almost 3 centuries.

The major flooding events were caused by individual downpours which were far from unprecedented. There seemed to be something of a mis-match between these severe but not unprecedented rainfall events on the one hand, and the extreme and destructive floods on the other.

Rainfall, of course, makes a very important contribution to flooding, but it is not the only factor. The wide-ranging human influences on river catchments in general, and flood-plains in particular, also play a major part. The Society played its part in contributing to the various reviews on the 2007 floods.
January - Strategic Delivery Partnerships

The year began with the transition to our new journal publisher partner Wiley-Blackwell. The Society’s four main journals were redesigned to present a more coherent portfolio of publications, which was well received by the readership.

February - Advancing High-Quality Science

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) launched its Fourth Assessment Report. The Society played an active part, by contributing to the report, briefing the media and participating in a variety of events, including the Royal Society’s high-profile, international meeting.

In his Press Statement on the IPCC report, the Chief Executive announced that the Society was committed to meeting the UK’s target to reduce carbon emissions by 20% by 2010.

March - Enhancing Awareness and Understanding

In March the Society held a public event at St John’s College Oxford, in partnership with Sense about Science. It was aimed at helping people to understand some of the myths and misconceptions about weather forecasts and climate predictions. Over 150 members of the public and press attended the event.

April - Raising Professional Standards

The Society’s journals are now circulated to over 120 countries, and are available free to over 70 of the world’s least developed countries, as part of the international publishing aid programmes AGORA (Access to Global On-line Research in Agriculture) and OARE (On-line Access to Research in the Environment).
May - Driving Evidence-Based Policy

The Society continued to contribute to the work of Government, including attending three briefing sessions at No 11 Downing Street, supporting consultations on the Climate Change Bill, the UK’s Civil Space Strategy, the National Curriculum, Charity Commission review of public benefits and the House of Commons inquiry on the funding of Science Centres.

June - Rewarding Excellence

The Society announced its annual awards and prizes for 2007. Professor Sir Brian Hoskins, a past President of the Society, was the winner of the 2007 Symons Gold Medal and also received his knighthood in the Queen's Birthday Honours List. We were also delighted to hear that Dr Geoff Jenkins, the incoming chairman of our Education Committee, received an OBE for his services to climate science.

July - A New Governance Framework

The Society began a major Governance Review and re-organization of Council’s Committees and the staffing structure. These changes were implemented towards the end of the year, including a slimming down of Council, the establishment of a Strategic Programme Board, and individual Council members taking leadership on key strategic projects within the Society’s new Development Programme.

August - Advancing High-Quality Science

The Society was awarded its first externally funded research contract, to work with the National Centre for Atmospheric Sciences (NCAS), and specifically the British Atmospheric Data Centre (BADC), to develop the concept for both a subject-based e-Repository for meteorological science publications and meteorology’s first Data Journal. In addition the Society formed a new strategic partnership with the Royal Geographical Society and Wiley-Blackwell to launch a new Interdisciplinary Climate Change Journal. We also launched our first ever academic book programme.
September - Sharing Enthusiasm among Members

The student and main conferences were held at Heriot-Watt University Edinburgh, with over 370 attendees. We also gave talks to University undergraduate and MSc courses in Reading and Birmingham and held a repeat of a very successful joint meeting with the General Aviation Safety Committee on safe flying.

This year also saw the production of a new format for Society News, which appears more regularly now in Weather, talking about the wider work of the Society.

October - A Meeting Place for Meteorology

This month saw the launch of the new National meetings programme, taking our meetings to meteorological centres around the UK. We also introduced the idea of poster receptions, where attendees can enjoy a glass of wine, discuss the days talks and see poster presentations on related topics. Some 1200 plus people attended Society meetings in 2007 with a number of these supported by Society travel grants and awards.

November - Raising Standards

We take our role as the professional and learned Society for meteorology seriously. This year we launched a major consultation on both the introduction of a Quality Standard for weather service providers and on our new Education strategy, which focused more firmly on providing CPD to teachers. We also represented UK meteorological organizations at the American Meteorological Society’s annual careers fare. Through our membership of the Society for the Environment and the Science Council we were also involved in a number of programmes focusing on professional accreditation, bringing young people into careers in science and the future of science education in secondary schools.

December - Embracing New Technology

The Society’s new web site was launched, including new multi-media resources, a section on weather and climate change, an events list with calendar function, and much more.

The web site not only provides lots more information in a much more user-friendly way, the new technology that underpins it gives the Society a new delivery platform for a range of programmes.
The Society is a registered charity. For management purposes the accounts are broken down into General Activities and Development Activities. The General Activities define our business-as-usual programmes of work and the Development Activities relate to our strategic development programme.

### Where our income came from in 2007 — and how we spent it

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2006</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Income</td>
<td>£725,156</td>
<td>£692,969</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenditure</td>
<td>£793,877</td>
<td>£802,223</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment Gains</td>
<td>£50,288</td>
<td>£97,308</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital Investment</td>
<td>£1,327,994</td>
<td>£1,346,427</td>
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</tbody>
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Where our income came from in 2007 — and how we spent it:

- **Conferences**: 23%
- **Membership**: 20%
- **Investments & Other**: 4%
- **Publications**: 53%
- **Programme Admin & Staff**: 27%
- **School Activities**: 6%
- **Grants & Scholarships**: 6%
- **Conferences**: 28%
- **Publications**: 24%
- **Strategic Programmes**: 9%

**Our Plans for 2008**

A key development for the Society in 2008 will be the launch of its new 3-year Strategic Plan. The coming together of this strategy has involved a fundamental review of the Society’s role as the Professional and Learned Society for Meteorology, including looking at how we can enhance the already significant benefits we bring to meteorology as a science and a community. The Society has an important part to play in the stewardship of meteorology and is ambitious in what it would like to achieve during the course of this 3-year Plan.

It is important to the Society that it is respected for its many values, its professional excellence and independence in all that it does, and that it is accountable to its membership and stakeholders. This new plan sets out a framework that will enable the Society to achieve this and to have greater flexibility to the challenges it will face in delivering the programme of work, facilitate much greater collaborative work with strategic partnerships, and demonstrate clearly how the Society is pushing the boundaries of the profession and science of meteorology, for the benefit of all.

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Join us, get involved, help make a difference