



Understanding the Weather of 2018

University of Reading, The Meadow Suite, Park House, Whiteknights, Reading, Berkshire RG6 6AH

Saturday 23 March 2019, 10.30pm – 4.00pm

Weather-wise 2018 was a globally memorable year. The tropics saw examples of record intensity tropical cyclones including the USA and, perhaps more unusually, Oman and Yemen. Massive flooding occurred in Kerala, India, some Chinese provinces, parts of the Philippines and in Japan. At the other end of the scale, record drought was experienced in parts of Europe, Argentina and Uruguay, India and Sri Lanka, all of which suffered significant impact on agricultural productivity.

Intense, record-breaking cold spread across parts of the USA and Argentina and Uruguay and of course was associated with Arctic-style wind chill over the UK and Ireland in late February and early March. In stark contrast, the UK experienced a markedly hot summer on a par with three other, mainly recent seasons. June and July in particular were notably warm and very dry, particularly in the South-East. They were also very sunny, making for a memorable period. In association with the hot, dry conditions, record wildfires wreaked havoc in California and other parts of the western USA and western Canada, Greece, Portugal, the UK and, more rarely, Sweden into the Arctic Circle.

This meeting will outline many of these events, ranging from the global picture to the details of Reading's observations. It will also involve the impact of weather on the UK's pollen year and on the nations rivers, concluding with a discussion on the interpretation of the summertime extreme temperatures.

Meeting Chair – Prof Liz Bentley FRMetS, Royal Meteorological Society

10.30	Arrival, Registration, Tea/Coffee	
11.00	Welcome	Prof Liz Bentley FRMetS Royal Meteorological Society
11.05	Discussing extremes such as Summer 2018	Prof Sir Brian Hoskins CBE Hon FRMetS Grantham Institute, Imperial College & Department of Meteorology, University of Reading
11.25	Global Climate and Extremes	Dr Freja Vamborg ECMWF
11.55	Global Tropical Cyclones	Jo Camp Met Office
12.25	The South Asian Summer Monsoon – A Personal Perspective	Dr Arathy Menon University of Reading
12.55	Lunch	
13.55	Review of the UK weather during 2018 - a warm, sunny and eventful year	Dr Ian Simpson Met Office
14.25	2018 in Reading: Weather Highlights and Statistics	Dr Roger Brugge FRMetS University of Reading
14.55	The pollen season in the UK in relation to weather parameters and how a new generation of atmospheric models may improve current pollen forecasting	Carsten Skjoth University of Worcester
15.25	UK Hydrological Summary	Simon Parry Centre for Ecology & Hydrology
15.55	Meeting Close	

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This meeting is part of the Royal Meteorological Society National Meetings programme, open to all, from expert to enthusiast, for topical discussions on the latest advances in weather and climate. Non-members are welcome to attend these meetings.