

## News

Julian Mayes, Secretary / Newsletter editor

### News from the committee

It is, perhaps, a little cheeky to call this the Christmas issue of the newsletter but I was determined to issue three newsletters in 2016 and have just about managed it. This issue also features some distinctly seasonal content – thanks to Brian Booth for that and to all others who have contributed to the newsletter in 2016.

Norman Lynagh, our Chairman starts this issue off with a regular column starting on this page. This newsletter also features the first in a series of articles on favourite publications in historical meteorological. This was the idea of Chris Folland, the author of the first article. We look forward to receiving more submissions – either for this series or for the newsletter generally. My contact details are on the final page, as usual.

A Happy New Year to all History Group members.

*Julian Mayes*

#### Malcolm Walker Prize

The History Group committee have agreed to inaugurate a Prize in memory of Malcolm Walker. Full details and the terms of reference will be published next year.

#### Challenger Society History Special interest group

The Challenger Society for Marine Science (<http://www.challenger-society.org.uk/>) was founded in 1903 and is an advocacy group for all

aspects of marine science in the UK. At its November 2016 Council meeting the Society agreed to re-instate its Special Interest Group on History. A dedicated tab will be established on the Society's web site in early 2017. There is clear potential for collaborative work in this area between the CSMS and the R Met Soc.

#### Science museum Wilton Gallery

This permanent gallery devoted to mathematics opened on December 8<sup>th</sup>. It includes Lord Kelvin's (1871) tide prediction machine and an electric analogue computer developed in the 1950s and 60s by Shikuo Ishiguro (father of Kazuo Ishiguro - "The Remains of the Day") at the National Institute of Oceanography (NIO). The exhibits can be viewed online at (<http://www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/>).

### Chairman's Chatter.....

The last issue of the Newsletter contained an article from me comparing manual weather observing from times past with the largely automated observing network that we have today. In this issue, I would like to expand on the need for 'observing' the weather rather than merely 'measuring' it.

Recently, in an overseas city, there was a serious accident at a major construction site which caused substantial loss of life. (I regret that confidentiality agreements preclude me from identifying where and when). Initially, there was considerable uncertainty as to the

cause of the accident but anecdotal evidence indicated that severe weather – very high winds and torrential rain – were the primary cause. I was engaged as a consultant to investigate the relevant meteorology.

My first thought was that this would be a relatively straightforward investigation as there were two SYNOP stations close to the city providing hourly SYNOPSIS. The two stations were about 13 km apart and the alleged incident took place approximately mid-way between them. Examination of the SYNOPSIS for the period of interest showed that the investigation would be rather less straightforward than I had thought as no strong winds occurred at either station. Both reported thunderstorms but no particularly large amounts of rain.

Fortunately, several people who were at the scene of the accident, or close to it, recorded video of the event on their mobile phones. These videos told a very different story from that told by the SYNOPSIS. There was, indeed, a very severe wind event, accompanied by torrential rain. While it is very difficult to be precise, my impression from the videos is that the wind was at least Force 12 for a period of 1-2 minutes. The cause, of course, was a microburst. By chance, it happened mid-way between the two SYNOP stations without affecting either of them, even though they were only 13 km apart. From the evidence that I have seen, there is absolutely no doubt that an extremely severe event did occur yet to any future researcher, using only data from the formal observing network, it will not have occurred.

Could a similar severe event be missed by the ‘official’ observing network in this country? Of course it could and such instances are probably quite frequent. One only has to think of tornadoes, for example.

The ‘official’ weather observing network in this country, and in most other countries, will provide a pretty good record of what occurs during broadscale weather events but for smaller scale events no observing network is ever dense enough. In my work as a Forensic Meteorologist I often have to make what I can from anecdotal evidence of varying reliability.

Occasionally, very useful gems can be found in the form of unofficial weather records kept by individuals purely out of interest. Generally, such individuals ‘observe’ the weather rather than just ‘measure’ it and the descriptions of events in narrative format can add much to the basic instrumental readings. I know that some members of the History Group, myself included, do keep some form of weather diary or weather log. I urge those who currently do not, to think about doing so. Remember that today’s weather observations are tomorrow’s historical record. Our knowledge today would be all the poorer were it not for those dedicated individuals who maintained weather diaries in past centuries. Equally important is that weather logs and diaries must survive in a retrievable format after the death of the observer. With so much now being recorded electronically this becomes a more achievable task. It is a subject that I shall be investigating over the coming months, hopefully in collaboration with other organisations.

***Norman Lynagh***

# MEETINGS

## □ From Stevenson to AWS Sensors

15<sup>th</sup> October 2016

This was a RMetS National meeting organised by the History Group and the Met. Observing Systems SIG. Richard Griffith was Meeting Manager. History Group member John Goulding reports on the meeting on this page.

The Society's AGM will also take place during the afternoon, the Society's annual Awards and Prizes will be presented, and a drinks reception will provide an opportunity to network.

As usual with RMetS meetings, registration is required via [www.rmets.org](http://www.rmets.org).

## FUTURE MEETINGS

## □ The Power of the Written Word and the Royal Meteorological Society's AGM 2017

**Date:** Wednesday 17 May 2017

**Time:** 13:00 - 19:00

**Location:**

St Brides Foundation  
Bride Lane  
Fleet Street  
London, EC4Y 8EQ

The minutes of a meeting on 3 April 1850 capture the formation of what is now the Royal Meteorological Society and declares 'to form a society, the objects of which should be the advancement and extension of meteorological science by determining the laws of climate and of meteorological phenomena in general.' This meeting will look at many of the historical papers and books that capture the evolution of meteorology over the last 160 years or so, including: Annual Reports in the 1850s which include James Glaisher's illustrations of snowflakes; Proceedings of the Meteorological Society, the fore-runner to the Quarterly Journal which was first published in 1871; the International Cloud Atlas, first published in 1896 with colour images, that is being relaunched in 2017; and the monthly Weather magazine published since May 1946. Nowadays the Society's publications are available online or via Apps to your mobile device so you can keep up-to-date while on the move. The meeting will also look at the role the media has to play in communicating meteorology.

## □ Plans for future meetings

The History Group committee have a number of meetings topics in preparation and details of forthcoming Group meetings will be reported in future issues of this newsletter.

## MEETING REPORT

## □ From Stevenson to AWS Sensors

This RMetS National meeting was held jointly between the History Group and the Special Interest Groups of Physical Oceanography and Met Observing Systems on 15th October 2016 at the London Mathematical Society. It was organised and chaired by Richard Griffith and there was an attendance of 33 including a number of amateur observers.

The talks not only covered historical aspects of screens and thermometry but dealt with the implications of the forthcoming mercury ban and the resulting impacts on temperature measurements and their shielding.

**Marjory Roy** described the development of the louvered screen by Thomas Stevenson in the 1860s and its performance in comparative trials, and its subsequent adoption to enable comparable temperature observations to be made throughout the world. **Stephen Burt** brought the evolution of the Stevenson screen up-to-date and then gave a description and summary of his comparative trials on passively ventilated Stevenson screens, alternative plastic variants, small AWS screens and aspirated sensors. These concluded that for accurate

temperatures a continuously-powered aspirated shield was best; for compatibility with existing measurements liquid-in-glass thermometers or electronic sensors within a Stevenson screen were well suited; and 'good enough' temperature measurements could be acceptable in small plastic shields with sensors.

**Jonathan Wright** of *Metspec* followed with an explanation of the development and manufacture of the new style plastic screen which is a low-maintenance long-life equivalent to the Stevenson screen. It is in use by the Met Office, with a matt black interior which reduces internal reflected light. A sample louvered panel from one of these was used to display the details. **Ian Strangeways** gave an illustrated talk showing screens from around the world with an interesting variety of types and sizes, noting variations in height to accommodate snow depths. The majority of those still in use had louvered sides for shielding and ventilation. A series of photographs of screens at observing sites in many countries were on display and provoked much discussion between the delegates during refreshment breaks.

**Mike Molyneux** from the Met Office outlined their network's transition from mercury-in-glass thermometry to electrical based measurements noting that the different characteristics of modern sensors needed careful consideration to minimise the risks in making the changes. An overlap period was necessary for comparative purposes, but the change to electronic sensors was made without changing screens.

**Steve Colwell** from BAS gave a well-illustrated talk on the difficulties and practicalities of screen use in polar environments, with extreme cold, snow and strong winds, causing very significant issues to be overcome in order to gather accurate and consistent measurements in these hostile conditions.

Material properties in these severe climates are degraded by combinations of very dry air, and both solar and ultraviolet radiation. Where access to equipment is expensive it was stressed that it was false economy to re-use old screens.

**Geoff Jenkins** lamented the paucity of affordable screens available to amateur enthusiasts, and results were shown of his trials carried out on a reasonably-priced thermometer screen and a number of DIY screens, and compared their performance with a fan-aspirated Davis AWS in conditions of strong sunshine and light winds, using a suite of small temperature dataloggers. In summary, the DIY screens were variable and up to 6 degC higher than the Davis in the worst case. The bigger the size of screen, the comparability improved; some simple DIY additions were described that could halve the error difference on budget-priced AWSs. **Paul Copping** of *Fairmount Weather Systems* spoke about the need for calibration and traceability in thermometric instrumentation, and outlined some of the benefits of electronic sensors, but stressed that metadata was essential to ensure quality of data.

It is intended to publish full details of the meeting in a forthcoming issue of *Weather*.

**John Goulding, Normanby**

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## A seasonal contribution from our Chairman....

**OLGA:** *I think it's going to snow.*

**RUDOLPH:** *No, it's going to rain.*

**OLGA:** *I don't think so, I'm sure it'll snow.*

**RUDOLPH:** *No, you're wrong. It's definitely going to rain.*

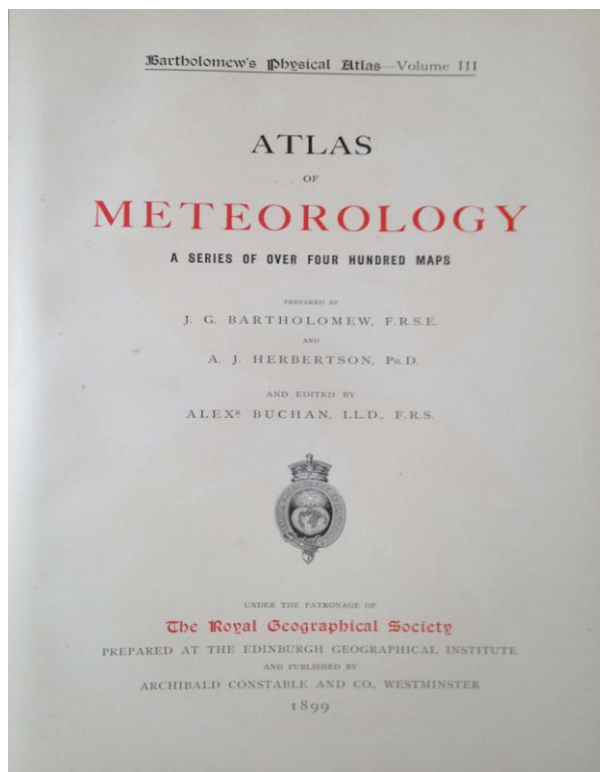
**OLGA:** *How can you be so sure?*

**RUDOLPH:** *Because Rudolph the Red knows rain, dear!!*

## Reviews of key historical publications in Meteorology

### *Bartholomew's Physical Atlas: An Atlas of Meteorology. Vol. III. A series of over four hundred maps.*

Prepared by J. G. BARTHOLOMEW, F.R.S.E., and A. J. HERBERTSON, PH.D., and edited by Alexander Buchan, F.R.S. Under the patronage of the Royal Geographical Society. Edinburgh, 1899.



This is the first of a regular sequence of reviews of influential or otherwise interesting historical publications. We start with a very sumptuous atlas in A3 format which is still available from a number of sources from the internet at prices up to at least £200. Published in full colour to a very high standard for the late nineteenth century, this atlas, published in 1899, celebrates meteorology at the end of the nineteenth century. It had some very good reviews soon after publication, the most informative being by J. Paul G. (full name not given) in *The Journal of Geology*, Vol. 8, pp. 573-577, 1900, available at <http://www.jstor.org/stable/30056969>, as at 24 July 2016). A brief review can be found in the

*Monthly Weather Review* in January 1902, p29 by another nearly anonymous reviewer, H.H.K. J. Paul G. noted it was the first of a planned set of seven physical atlases to be published by Bartholomew, even though it is listed as Volume III. This appears to be because the amount of geographical information based on meteorological observations in many parts of the world, including parts of the Southern Hemisphere, was probably the most extensive of any major physical subject in 1899. Indeed the Atlas has a very full list of source data and publications, and it is clear that there had been a major increase in worldwide observations of air temperature and precipitation in the previous 15-20 years.

Especially for surface air temperature and sea surface temperature, we benefit today in our global surface temperature data sets from this great late nineteenth century expansion of global data collection which benefitted from a collective near global reach, including the oceans, of the European Empires. Unfortunately most of the other atlases in this series that were planned by Bartholomew never materialised and only Vol V, *The Atlas of Zoogeography*, was eventually published in 1911. This is explained by Douglas Allan in 1960 writing in the *Scottish Geographical Magazine* (Vol. 76, pp. 85-88) on the centenary of the birth of John George Bartholomew, FRSE (1860-1920) one of the United Kingdom's most distinguished map makers, who commissioned the Atlas series ([http://www.johnbartholomew.com/JGB\\_A\\_Centenary\\_SGM1960.pdf](http://www.johnbartholomew.com/JGB_A_Centenary_SGM1960.pdf), as at 24 July 2016).

It seems that the less complete global information for the other topics at the turn of nineteenth century, described in the above reference and including Vol II, orography, hydrography and oceanography, was subsequently incorporated in numerous other Bartholomew publications.

The very large number of 400 maps in the Atlas are grouped under the headings Climate and Weather though we would now include the



latter, such as storminess or individual extreme seasons, under climate. These beautiful full colour climate maps summarize observations for much of the world down to about 50°S, with more detailed studies of selected regions with more data, particularly UK, Europe, USA, South Africa and Australia. Monthly and annual maps and some other types of diagrams are for shown for surface air temperature, pressure at mean sea level, winds, cloud, sunshine, and rainfall. The “weather” maps show characteristic weather types for given periods over specific regions and maps of extreme seasons for Europe. Of particular interest are the maps of storm tracks, very much a key element in current meteorological research.

contributing meteorological services with lists of stations and publications. A frontispiece shows a map of the spatial distribution of observations over the globe where India, Europe, and the United States stand out with a high density. A selection of maps is shown in the figure below. The Atlas finishes with a glossary of terms and quite an extensive bibliography. The level of detail available even at this relatively early time is reflected in the quite large number of stations available. J. Paul G. estimated from statistics in the Atlas the total number of land meteorological stations. These would have mostly have measured both temperature and rainfall and sometimes other variables like sunshine or cloudiness also mapped in the atlas.



Atlantic storm tracks lack data over the ocean near Newfoundland but are recognisable, while the detail in the South Pacific may surprise some. Staying with the Southern Hemisphere, the annual rainfall map of mainland Australia with superimposed isobars is surprisingly good.

Before each set of maps there is an introductory article, and a discussion of each map. Appendices give a comprehensive list of the

The number of highest quality stations was about 380 (Order I) followed by 2620 of Order II and 6600 of the Order III. In addition there were about 19,400 rainfall stations and about 2000 stations for crop reports, giving a total near 31,000. This omitted millions of observations that already existed from ships, though only a limited number of those that we now know exist from that time would have been available to the compilers.

**Chris Folland, Met Office Hadley Centre, Exeter**

# News from the National Meteorological Library & Archive (NMLA) December 2016

## Digitisation Update

Our digitisation program has this year seen us focus on the quality control activity having had a lot of material digitised the year before.

The QC is on-going with a number of publications being checked or waiting to be checked prior to upload to the archive. These include:

- Minutes of the Meteorological Committee.
- Met Office Annual Reports from 1857
- Professional Notes Nos.1-126
- Weekly Weather Report
- Monthly Weather Report 1884-1993

## Materials that have been uploaded to the digital archive since our last update include:

- Report of the Met Dept Board of Trade 1862.
- Geophysical Memoirs.
- The Weather Map
- Handbook of meteorological instruments
- Meteorological Glossary
- Handbook of Aviation Meteorology
- A course in elementary meteorology (1962)
- A century of London weather (1952)
- London weather (1968)
- Forecasters' reference book
- Meteorology for mariners
- Marine observer's handbook
- Observer's Handbook
- Handbook of Weather Forecasting
- The practice of weather forecasting
- Scientific Papers Nos.1-42 (1960-1989)
- Short Range Forecasting Div. Scientific Paper 1-14 (1991-1992)
- Forecasting Research Scientific Paper 15-71 (1992-2002)
- Climate Research Technical Note 1-85 (1990-1998)
- Dynamical Climatology 1-85 (1984-1989)
- Daily Weather Summary 1981-2002
- Scientific and Technical Review

- British Antarctic Expedition Polar Logs (Terra Nova Expedition) 1911 – 1913
- Meteorology of England, Glaisher
- Private Weather Diaries for Modbury, Stroud and Cobham
- WW1 forecast diaries of Ernest Gold

We have also continued to enlarge our range of Archive Treasures pages with new additions including:

- Private Weather Diaries
- The weather on the first day of the Somme
- The Met Office in WW1

## The Scottish "Red Book" series 1857-1913 held at the Edinburgh Archive

The QC work on the loose forms which cover the period 1857-1866 is complete but their upload will await the completion of the QC checking on the main volumes 1866-1913.

## British Rainfall

We have donated a number of spare issues of British Rainfall to RMetS members but still have the following spare copies available. If anyone is interested in receiving these please get in touch with Sarah Pankiewicz at [metlib@metoffice.gov.uk](mailto:metlib@metoffice.gov.uk). They will be offered in a first come first served basis.

- 1929
- 1931
- 1936
- 1939
- 1940-1951
- 1955
- 1957
- 1958

## Accreditation

We are pleased to announce that following application and audit the National Meteorological Library & Archive has been awarded archive service accreditation by The National Archives. This represents the culmination of a lot of work and preparation over the last couple of years. Archive Service Accreditation is a UK-wide standards scheme which supports improvement and development for archive services. It is an externally validated standard which provides a badge of recognition for accredited archive services and is

supported by the National archives services of England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Accredited archive services provide a high level of service to their stakeholders, preserve their collections in line with national and international standards and are robust, sustainable services which plan and deliver ongoing improvement. The report particularly praised our early moves to digital preservation I think this sets us apart from quite a few others. It also stated that 'The Panel was pleased to see this service working well for both its parent organisation and its public remit'

The award provides an independent level of assurance to the PWS Customer Group and other stakeholders (including the Met Office itself) that we are managing our tasks to a high standard with appropriate professionalism. It is a standard that will have to be maintained and is reviewed every three years.

We are amongst the earliest archives to achieve this new national standard and were awarded Accredited status in the same assessment round as several well-known national institutions including the Imperial War Museum and the Victoria and Albert Museum.

### **Edinburgh**

We have put significant resource into maintaining the project to transfer our Scottish records to the National Records of Scotland whilst our member of staff based in Edinburgh is on maternity leave. Two members of staff have each spent two separate weeks up in Edinburgh re-organising and cataloguing records ahead of transfer and excellent progress has been made. The library and archive in Exeter is managing the transfer project and, as with records for Northern Ireland held at the Public Records Office Northern Ireland (PRONI), will continue to support all enquiries relating to our Scottish records whether at the Met Office or transferred.

### **Historic Data Capture**

The archive has supported a project to digitise data from climate returns for 40 sites across England, Wales and Scotland so involving records from our archive in Exeter and also Edinburgh. The project was run from Met Office Edinburgh and an external

company were contracted to scan and key data from a series of station climate returns.

There were 37 different types of climate forms encountered by our data entry company – mostly clear and legible but some entries requiring re-interpretation at various stages of conversion. Basic climate quality control checks were carried out on all values and further more detailed quality checks will be part of the on-going process to check the majority of historic data in MIDAS (Met Office observations archive).

All the data has now been added to MIDAS comprising 40 sites, 10 elements equalling 2.5million observations. The estimated % change in site data availability per decade after sites added to MIDAS ranged from 10% to as much as 56% for some Scottish sites.

*Sarah Pankiewicz*

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## **A tribute to Malcolm Walker**

*We received this letter from History Group member Bob Gilbert recently. He speaks for many, no doubt.  
- JM*

Although I never got to meet Malcolm Walker in person, I owe him a tremendous debt for assistance he freely gave me beginning in the Spring of 2008. I was in Europe researching the rather large international weather service, having identified historic meteorologists by letters addressed to General Albert James Myer on file at the National Archives in College Park, Maryland. Malcolm understood my quest for one clear photo and a biographical summary for each meteorologist whom General Myer thanked for cooperating with the U.S. Army 'Division of Telegrams & Reports for the Benefit of Commerce'.

Thanks to Malcolm's emails, I was able to visit almost a dozen countries in less than two weeks and come home to the USA with enough material to fill a book. Each person I met around Europe was as helpful and supportive as Malcolm predicted they would be. While many people would have stopped helping me at this point, Malcolm showed how special he was by re-visiting my research project in the Spring of 2013.



Malcolm asked me to write an article for the History Group Newsletter in 2013 (issue 2) and appreciated what I wrote and the images I supplied. It was with great pleasure that the article appeared exactly as I wrote it. The reaction I received later, however, was even more gratifying and very unexpected.

In 2015, two Vietnam War veterans genuinely concerned about the loss of the precise nature of the founding of America's first federal weather service contacted me out of the blue. It would have been impossible to have met these veterans in Wisconsin without the article that Malcolm requested and an illustrated article posted on a friend's website: [www.civilwarsignals.org](http://www.civilwarsignals.org). (This article is entitled 'General Albert J. Myer's Contributions to Meteorology'.)

This year, I drove more than 2,000 miles to deliver three boxes of my research to Wisconsin. The effort to duplicate, arrange and deliver 5,200 sheets of paper in more than 40 three-ring binders using 2,600 sheet protectors was worth every cent and mile driven. None of this would have happened without Malcolm Walker's support.

I sincerely miss Malcolm, and will never forget how he directed me to subject matter experts around Europe and supported my research unlike any civilian scientist or scientific organization in the United States. Malcolm's loss is a huge void in our community. I will be forever in his debt.

***Bob Gilbert, Orange, Virginia, USA***

## **A historical data-series proves its worth**

In the closing days of December 2016 I see that my monthly rainfall total in north Surrey stands at just 6.6mm. The total at Heathrow has reached 10mm making it the second lowest in their record commencing in 1946. But what about London as a whole? Other sites in London have recorded figures between these two values. Surely a historically dry December for our capital city is worthy of media interest and we should have the data to demonstrate whether records have been broken.

Some Group members will recall that the late Brian Wales-Smith of the Met Office devised a Kew Observatory rainfall series that extended back to 1697. Updating the Kew Observatory series with data for neighbouring sites since the closure of the Observatory in 1980 identifies drier Decembers in 1926 (6.1mm), 1835 (6.6) and most remarkably 1788 which appears to have had no measureable rainfall.

This demonstrates that most climatic records are broken by very small margins and highlights the importance of maintaining consistent climatic records and protecting historic observing sites. Great care has to be taken in compiling composite records.

***Julian Mayes***

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## **Update to the National Institute of Oceanography web site**

A web site (<http://www.oceanswormley.org>) is maintained by former staff of the laboratory. The site is devoted to capturing the history of the laboratory that was the centre of UK deep sea marine science from the early 1950s until 1994. Among the material on the site are short articles about technology development made there. These include articles on the development of the Ship-borne Wave Recorder, the UK data buoy (DB1), the neutrally buoyant (Swallow) float that now forms the basis of the global Argo array. The most recent addition describes the development of the Multimet shipborne meteorological package.

The work of the laboratory is described in the book "Of Seas and Ships and Scientists" published in 2011 by Lutterworth Press. ([http://www.lutterworth.com/product\\_info.php/products\\_id/1398](http://www.lutterworth.com/product_info.php/products_id/1398))

***John Gould***

## Christmas and New Year Greetings from the past

In years gone by, long before computers and automatic weather stations were created, observations were made by real human beings. Often working alone on near-deserted airfields at night, their only communication with others was by teleprinter on which observations were sent and received.

It might seem a lonely, perhaps soul-destroying existence to those using PCs in warm and comfortable surroundings today, but that was never really the case for the teleprinter was the conduit along which a camaraderie developed throughout the Met Office. This was never more evident than at Christmas and the New Year when gaps in the teleprinter broadcasts were filled with greeting, both long and short, so one never felt alone.

### Christmas Eve 1941

From Rudloe  
*WAAF Lament on Christmas Day*

*There was a young WAAF at Rudloe  
Who simply couldn't say No  
When they hung up the holly  
And began to make jolly  
She said "Nuts, give me mistletoe"  
When they said "Will you plot the chart?"  
She said "Give us a kiss for a start"  
Said the forecaster on duty*

*"Get cracking my beauty,  
Or you'll get my boot, not  
my heart".*

### New Year's Eve 1941

From Moreton-in-the-Marsh

*From one well versed in numerology  
Although alas with slight theology  
At this famed time of sociology  
Happy days, with no apology  
To all engaged in meteorology*

From Oban

*To ETA, all stations and DDMO*

*All charts and forms completed quite  
Each one a joy, a thing of beauty,  
It looks like being a dirty night,  
For the lucky so and so's off duty*

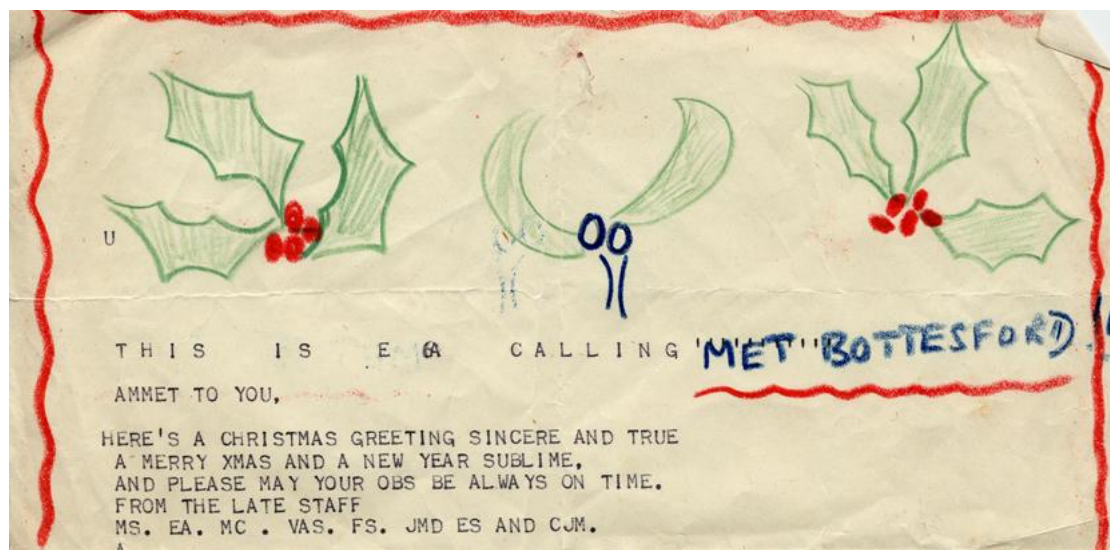
*But we on duty, we the mugs,  
We here at Oban think you oughter  
Come one and all lift up your jugs  
And drink with us a glass - of water?*

### Christmas Eve 1942

From Bedford

*A Merry Xmas from BFD met  
The hole in the mud whose obs you can bet  
Are always on time and exceedingly good  
Although there's no turkey and no Xmas pud.*

From ETA, aka Central Forecast Office (artwork added by the Met WAAF at Bottesford)



(This is ETA calling

Here's Christmas greeting sincere and true  
A Merry Xmas and New Year sublime  
And please may your obs be always on time.

From the late staff  
MS, EA, MC, VAS, FS, JMD, ES and CJM)

### New Year's Eve 1942

From Manston

Oh they've wiped me a beauty, they put me on duty  
When I wanted to go on the booze  
But it's easy to see things just happen to me  
Cause I'm always the one that they choose.

Here I sit all alone and I bind and I moan  
As I think of the fun that I'm missing  
And I think as I see this New Year 43  
Of the lassies and lads that are kissing.

Though at times it's a bind still we really don't mind  
For we know we are pulling together  
But when we are out of the Met we will soon darn forget  
How we dabbles about with the weather.

Well I wish you good cheer in this dawning New Year  
And I really have got to depart  
For it's sad but quite true I've the filing to do  
Before starting the 2 o'clock chart.

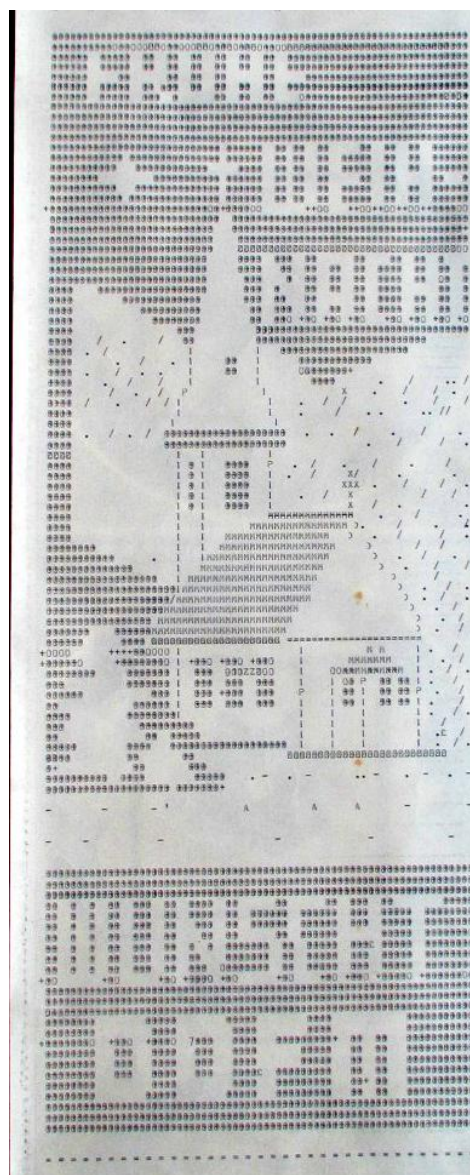
From the Group Met Office, Bawtry

Greetings to all Met WAAF

The Met WAAF onward plot their weary way  
Till final victory has been our gain  
And Hitler leaves this world to freedom, you and me  
Oh may this be One Nine Four Three.

The practice continued for several years but, as the Met Office contracted and stations closed, messages became ever fewer in number. However, by the early 1960s those with an artistic bent had devised a technique of sending images by teleprinter.

By the 1980s seasonal greetings were still sent by teleprinter, albeit mostly brief and basic, but a message from the DMO and CFO was always broadcast on Christmas Eve.



**Frohe Weihnacht Wünsch (Merry Christmas wish).** I'm not sure, but believe the greetings came from **Frankfurt-am-Main** meteorological office between 1961 and 1963. (I suspect the DDFM was an early version of the ICAO code for the station.)

My recollection is that even these disappeared during the early to mid-1990s as teleprinters were phased out, leaving staff at the remaining manned stations to wonder if anyone knew they were there.

**Brian Booth, Devizes**

## HISTORY GROUP MEMBERS

Rob Allan (Exeter)  
Alberto Ansaloni (Milan, Italy)  
Catharine Bailey (Richmond, Surrey)  
Hannah Barrett (Sheffield)  
Graham Bartlett (Slough)  
Austen Birchall (Exeter)  
Rodney Blackall (Buckingham)  
Brian Booth (Devizes, Wiltshire)  
Ron Bristow (Maidstone, Kent)  
Tony Brown (Exeter)  
Stephen Burt (Stratfield Mortimer)  
Anna Carlsson-Hyslop (Manchester)  
Jacqueline Carpine-Lancre (Beausoleil, France)  
Mike Chapman (Nuthampstead)  
Andrew Cook (Newport on Tay, Fife)  
Stan Cornford (Hayling Island)  
Maurice Crewe (Watford)  
B D Dagnall (Lymington)  
Stephen Davenport (Indianapolis, USA)  
Peter Davies (Reading)  
Tony de Reuck (London)  
Federico de Strobel (La Spezia, Italy)  
Margaret Deacon (Callington)  
Storm Dunlop (Chichester)  
Philip Eden (Luton)  
Tom Fitzpatrick (Glasgow)  
Chris Folland (Exeter)  
Paul Fuller (Southampton)  
Robert Gilbert (Orange, Virginia, USA)  
Brian Giles (Auckland, New Zealand)  
Roger Goodhew (Shrewsbury)  
John Gould (Southampton)  
John Goulding (Middlesbrough)  
Valerie Green (Bushey)  
Richard Griffith (Horsham)  
Margaret Haggis (Cuxton, Kent)  
Alan Heasman (Marlborough, Wiltshire)  
Althea Howard (Reading)  
A M Hughes (Oxford)  
Lord Hunt of Chesterton FRS (London)  
Jane Insley (London)  
Geoff Jenkins (Yateley)  
Alexandra Johnson (London)  
Arnold Johnson (Maidenhead)  
Keith Johnson (Twatt, Orkney)

Simon Keeling (Wombourne, Staffs)  
Elizabeth Kent (Southampton)  
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Mick Wood (Bracknell)

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**We welcome all offerings, from letters, to brief articles – it does not take long to write a short item – just drop me an e mail. Finally, I would like to thank all those who have contributed to this issue. My contact details are as follows:**

✉ MeteoGroupUK, PA NewsCentre, 292 Vauxhall Bridge Road, LONDON SW1A

✉ [julian.mayes@meteogroup.com](mailto:julian.mayes@meteogroup.com)

*Julian Mayes, London, Boxing Day 2016*