

**The 168th Annual Report of the Royal Meteorological Society
for the period 1st January – 31st December 2018**

CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
The Society's Mission	2
Public Benefit	2
The year January to December 2018: A brief review of the highlights	4
Finance	6
Annexes in separate document:	7-36
Annex A - The UK Weather of 2018	
Annex B - Membership	
Annex C - Awards and Prizes	
Annex D – Committee Updates:	
Climate Science Communications Group	
House Committee	
Education and Outreach	
Meetings, Lectures and Conferences	
Professional Accreditation	
Scientific Publishing	
Strategic Programme Board	
Annex E - Reports from Other Representative Bodies	
Annex F - Reports from Local Centres	
Annex G - Reports from Special Interest Groups	
Annex H - Membership of Council (Trustees of the Society) and Committees of Council	
Annex I - Staffing at the Society	
Annex J - Background to the Society	
Annex K - Policy Statement on the Role of the Reserves	

THE SOCIETY'S MISSION

*The Royal Meteorological Society is the UK's Professional and Learned Society for weather and climate and its mission is **to promote the understanding and application of meteorology for the benefit of all**. At the heart of this is the responsibility for the stewardship of both the profession and science of meteorology. The Society has an important role to play internationally as one of the world's largest meteorological societies. The Society is owned by its membership, but exists for the benefit of all.*

PUBLIC BENEFIT

The Royal Meteorological Society is dedicated to providing benefit to the wider public, or sections of it, in achieving its aims. The Charity Act 2016 lists 13 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 partnerships with the General Aviation Safety Council (GASCo), the UK Flight Safety Committee (UKFSC), and the Royal Institute of Navigation (RIN), the Society provides support and advice for weather-related safety-critical issues. The Society holds weather education seminars and events for private pilots and sailors, with the specific purpose of improving safety and reducing the number of accidents relating to flying and sailing in deteriorating weather conditions, which can sometimes be fatal. In 2018, the Society attended four Aviation Safety Information Exchange meetings and hosted a Weather and Sailing event at the National Maritime Museum in collaboration with RIN and the Royal Yachting Association.

The Society is the academic partner with EUROCONTROL to support the SKYbrary website (www.skybrary.aero/index.php/Main_Page) to oversee weather content in order to encourage meteorological exchange of information to enhance flight safety.

While responsibility for implementing and maintaining the Aeronautical Meteorological Personnel (AMP) standards rests with the weather service providers in the aviation sector, the Society continues to provide support and impartial advice where required to enable them to comply with the World Meteorological Organization's (WMO) and the International Civil Aviation Organization's (ICAO) criteria for competence and qualifications.

The advancement of education

The Society's mission has a wide remit that looks to support people's understanding, interest and enthusiasm in meteorology, whether they are research scientists, amateur meteorologists, practitioners, or members of the general public. It goes further, supporting the development of high-quality science, the next generation of scientists, professional development of individuals, accrediting further and higher education courses, informing policy and supporting learning in weather and climate through education and outreach activities. The Society has two dedicated members of staff and an Education and Outreach Committee to oversee this important work. The Committee has representatives from the Institute of Physics, the Royal Geographical Society and the Geographical Association to ensure collaboration.

The Society works with teachers and students at both primary, secondary and higher education levels to promote understanding of weather and climate, and runs interactive projects to both stimulate the interest of students in meteorology and to improve the quality of teaching materials 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 students. In addition, the Society is also freely providing an increasing number of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) opportunities for teachers who have come to teaching meteorology from a non-meteorological background. The educational focus during 2018 was in support of the KS3, GCSE and A-Level specifications, with a particular focus on recent changes to the curriculum. More extensive materials have been made available on the Society's education website, MetLink (www.metlink.org), including the Climate Negotiations resource that simulates a 'World Climate Change Conference' for 14-18 year olds, allowing the students to learn about the impacts of climate change and the politics involved. This resource received a Geographical Association Silver Publishers' Award and was Highly Commended by the

Scottish Association for Geography Teachers. The Society continued to deliver a one-day training course on weather and climate for trainee geography teachers and ran the online 3-week course, delivered in partnership with the University of Reading, '*Come Rain or Shine*', which ran 3 times during 2018 attracting thousands of participants. Primarily designed to meet the needs of secondary geography teachers, it is free and open to all.

At higher-education levels, the Society awards financial support to enable students to broaden their studies of meteorological sciences. It also provides careers information and helps with the development of careers in meteorology through its work on National Occupational Standards in meteorology as part of the Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF), which provides the structure for creating and accrediting qualifications. The Society is recognised in European and UK law as both the Competent Authority and the Regulatory Body for Meteorology in the UK, and offers independent recognition and regulation around training and professional development for meteorology and meteorologists. The Society's accreditation framework offers individuals a range of recognised vocational qualifications, professional registration and chartered status as well as related CPD opportunities.

The advancement of the arts, culture, heritage or science

One of the Society's charitable objectives is to promote the advancement and dissemination of knowledge and education in science for public benefit. The Society aims to advance professionalism in meteorology through the professional accreditation schemes, Chartered Meteorologist and Registered Meteorologist that meet a high professional standard and competence, and follow an established code of conduct. The Society sets standards for CPD, and professional conduct and performance, so that meteorologists are empowered to conduct high-quality, ethical work consistently throughout their careers. The Society works with professional bodies, government, employers and national academies, and aims to ensure the workforce across the meteorological community reflects the diversity of society.

The Society publishes seven world-leading scientific journals, which are made available free to developing countries through publishing aid programmes and to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Regional Training Centres. The Society also has a curation programme for a historical and culturally valuable archive of documentation on behalf of the UK. The Society runs a comprehensive meetings programme, which is open to all with an interest in weather and climate. This includes free public national and local meetings to encourage a focus on global, national and local issues, and also conferences to bring about the advancement in the understanding of meteorology as a science, through its applications and as an interest to all. The Society offers remote participation at its National Meetings to make them more accessible to wider audiences. 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's Special Interest Groups offer meetings and other activities to facilitate the exchange of information and views within specific areas of meteorology. The groups are primarily a way of communicating at a specialist level and include areas such as the History of Meteorology and Physical Oceanography; Atmospheric Electricity; Climate Science; Weather, Art and Music (WAM); and Meteorological Observing Systems.

The Society hosts an annual Student Conference that brings together those involved in graduate and post-graduate studies, as well as early career scientists from the UK and internationally, to create a community of young scientists and to give them experience in active participation in scientific conferences. The 2018 conference was held at the University of York attracting 53 students and young scientists.

The advancement of environmental protection or improvement

The Society is at the heart of the debate on climate change. It plays a particularly important role in communicating some of the more complicated scientific and technical issues to the public at large, enabling them to understand and engage with what is one of the most important global issues that we face today. This role is overseen by the Society's Climate Science Communication Group and the Climate Science Special Interest Group; the latter aims to sustain, encourage and progress activity in climate science and its relevance to society. The Society published two climate science briefing papers

in 2018, entitled '*Modelling the Earth's Climate*' and '*El Niño and the Southern Oscillation*', as well as hosting two meetings on *Meeting a 1.5C Global Temperature Goal* and *Minimising Climate Risks*.

The Society has several popular outreach activities that promote a public interest in the environment. Our Weather Watcher's 3-year log book is used by many people who wish to record and make notes on the weather. theWeather Club www.theWeatherClub.org.uk is the public outreach arm of the Society, engaging the general public on weather and climate, and provides a key framework for delivering greater public information, engagement and dialogue. The Society continues to work closely with BBC Weather as their official academic partner. The Society was involved with a number of public outreach activities in 2018 including 'Gardening in a Changing Climate' events in Manchester, Birmingham and Bristol, run in conjunction with the Royal Horticultural Society. The Society's Weather Photographer of the Year competition runs annually, and was sponsored by AccuWeather in 2018.

The Society's website www.rmets.org has a wide range of information and content that is freely available to all with an interest in the Society, meteorology and climate science. 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. A major web development project was completed in 2018 and the new website was launched in September.

THE YEAR JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2018

A brief review of the highlights

Notable weather events of 2018 in the UK were the *Beast from the East* and the summer heatwave. On the whole, 2018 was warmer, drier and sunnier than average for the UK.

It was an exceptionally busy year for the Society. In addition to delivering the 'business as usual' activities, the Society also delivered on a series of recommendations from a recent Business Development Review, launched its new Strategic Plan and launched a new website. The recommendations from the Business Development Review, refocused across four business areas, required a restructuring of committees and a review of their Terms of Reference, and changes to presentation in financial reporting.

A 2.8% decrease in membership in 2018 was reported, with 3,242 members at the end of 2018. The Society has agreed a series of initiatives for 2019 to stop the drop in overall membership and improve the retention rate. Membership development remains one of the strategic aims of the Society overseen by the Membership Development Board. The Society developed a new Fellowship scheme, which is due to be launched in 2019. The Society also introduced a change in name of 'Associate Fellows' to 'Members'. The main benefit of the change is that it uses a membership category that is more widely understood. It also has the advantages that it brings the Society into line with similar societies and institutions, is gender neutral, provides a clearer distinction between Member and Fellow, and removes a potential barrier to weather enthusiasts joining the Society.

The Society is extremely grateful for the continued support from an active and engaged community of volunteers, with over 250 involved on the Society's committees or contributing in other ways. This important contribution from volunteers allows the Society to successfully achieve many of the activities highlighted in this annual report.

The Society continues to promote two accreditation schemes, Registered Meteorologist (RMet) and Chartered Meteorologist (CMet), as well as ACCSYS, the Society's online CPD and Application tool. Since its introduction in 2014, the use of ACCSYS has steadily increased with the number of records rising from 642 (2014), 1,644 (2015), 4,782 (2016), 7,820 in 2017 to 9,237 in 2018. Users include those applying for and maintaining both RMet and CMet accreditation; it is also used by the wider membership as a means to support and encourage them to keep a detailed record of CPD activity for their own professional use. The work of the Course Evaluation and Continuing Professional Development Panel has expanded as the growing number of RMets submit their CPD Reports for review. Another significant development is that the knowledge requirements for the Society's Accreditation schemes are now linked to the WMO 1083 specification for Training and Education.

Both members and non-members alike engage actively with the Society's full programme of National and Local Meetings. In total, the Society delivered 72 events during 2018 across the country, which is testimony to the support and enthusiasm of Society volunteers. The Society averaged 93 attendees at its National Wednesday Meetings during 2018. It was a record-breaking year for the Society for its National Meetings with the total number of attendees at 1,415, partially due to the number of events hosted but also because some attendees participated in meetings remotely using Facebook Live. The Society also delivered three conferences and a careers day. The Atmospheric Science Conference, hosted annually by the Society and the National Centre for Atmospheric Science, was themed 'Weather, Climate and Air Quality'. The conference was held from 3rd – 4th July at the University of York and was attended by 166 delegates. This was followed by the Society's annual Student and Early Career Scientists Conference on the 'Evolution of Science', also in York from 5th – 6th July, which had 53 attendees. The WeatherLive one-day conference on 'Extreme Weather' was held on Saturday 10th November at the British Antarctic Survey, Cambridge. This included presentations covering storm chasing, working in cold climates and measuring extreme weather using aircraft; the conference was enjoyed by 58 delegates. In addition to the main conferences, the Society hosted a careers focused one-day conference, 'Want to be a Meteorologist?', on 23rd June at the Institute of Physics, London.

The Business Development role is one of the Society's strategic priority areas and does not operate in isolation, rather it seeks to support other areas in the Society through identifying areas for improvement and enhancement and moreover maximising sustainable income to deliver the Society's charitable activities. Recommendations from a Business Development Review were implemented during 2018 overseen by the Thematic and Programming Working Group. Working closely with current strategic partners and engaging with new partners will continue to be a focus for the Society overseen by the Head of Partnerships.

This was another busy year for the Education and Outreach Committee, aided by the virtual committee of teachers and educational specialists, who support the work of the main committee. The Society received a number of awards in 2018 for its educational activities: the European Meteorological Society's Outreach and Communications Award for 'Come Rain or Shine'; a Geographical Association Silver Publishers' Award for the Climate Negotiations resource; and the Climate Negotiations resource was also Highly Commended by the Scottish Association for Geography Teachers. The Society has been working with a Scottish geography teacher to improve our support for Scottish schools, building a dedicated section on MetLink, with a set of teaching resources tailored to the Scottish Curriculum. The Society also ran a free, 3-week online course, entitled 'Come Rain or Shine' which is delivered in partnership with the University of Reading on the FutureLearn platform. This ran 3 times in 2018, attracting thousands of participants.

The Society ran the 'Weather Photographer of the Year' competition, which was sponsored by AccuWeather. The competition received over 4,000 entries, narrowed down to a shortlist of the 30 best images from which seven winners were chosen. The winners were announced at WeatherLive in November and were exhibited at the British Antarctic Survey.

theWeather Club, the public outreach arm of the Society, offers free online registration providing the general public with access to an interactive website www.theWeatherClub.org.uk with weather and climate features and news updates, information about events and meetings and a quarterly e-newsletter full of informative content, all produced in-house. The website has continued to be developed and improved throughout 2018, with the introduction of new guest writers and themes for each newsletter. The website has an average of 4,000 page views per month from an average of 2,000 users, which has doubled from 2017. Social media has continued to broaden the Society's outreach. The Facebook page has over 2,350 followers, 2,295 on Instagram (up from 300 followers this time last year) and our Twitter followers now exceed 9,000. The Society published two climate science briefing papers in 2018. The Society have continued to produce podcasts throughout 2018 which can be found on our website and podcast page. The Society have continued to use Facebook Live for streaming some of its events in 2018 with great success. We continue to support StormHour weather photo competition, which seems to be growing on Twitter. The Society continues to be a popular resource for the press to interview at times of extreme weather events and in 2017 the Society was involved with over 100 press engagements.

The Society's scientific publishing 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. In 2018 a number of activities were carried out around the strategic development of the portfolio including the introduction of a new Scientific Publishing Manager in June. The Society carried out a SWOT analysis for each of its seven journals to determine where to focus attention in the coming years and started to implement activities based on outcomes with Wiley's marketing and editorial teams and our journal editors. The Society also looked at ways to strengthen its portfolio as a whole and carried out a gap analysis and market research around a new open access journal in climate science with a potential launch in 2019. Working closely with Wiley, the Society has focused heavily on ways to reduce all journal publication times. Enhancing author experience remains a key focus, and the Society has listened to author feedback with regards to user experience in the manuscript submission system, Scholar One. The Society has also started a project to simplify and standardise where possible the instructions for authors for its journals. An article transfer option is now available between journals in case a manuscript is a better fit for an alternative Society publication. The community was asked to complete a survey at the end of 2018 about our *Weather* journal, which will lead to some exciting changes to be rolled out in 2019.

The Society continues to be in a good financial position. However, the next few years remain challenging with pressures on income from scientific publishing due to the move to an Open Access model. The Society will enter this period on a firm financial footing and the business plan and budget for 2019 includes Business and Membership Development activities, and continued, planned sustainable growth in the range of charitable activities.

FINANCE

The Annual Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2018 are published separately from this Annual Report in line with the requirements of the Charity Commission. The Auditors' report is on Page 1 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 continues to be in a good financial position and total reserves at 31 December 2018 stand at £1,942,361 (2017: £1,751,277).

The operating surplus of the Society in 2018 was £239,595 (2017: £190,328), this is mainly due to increased publishing income partially offset by costs of the digital strategy project, which was delayed from 2017. Investment losses of £48,511 (2017: gains £43,051) were recognised, this reduction in the value of investments reflects the movement in the FTSE All Share Index during 2018.

The Society's scientific publications continue to make up the largest part of our income, providing £835,501 (2017: £712,344). Non-subscription publishing income from institutions has again made an important contribution to this rise in revenue, and the strength of the US\$ against the £ provided significant exchange gains. Other publishing activities such as the calendar and the Weather Watchers Log Book contributed £10,481 (2017: £6,608). The associated expenditure on publications was £135,218 (2017: £139,767).

The total Membership Subscription income including Gift Aid and accreditation fees decreased from £221,298 in 2017 to £207,744 in 2018, due to the fall in both corporate and individual membership renewals, but also income from accreditation fees. During 2018 resources have been concentrated on developing the strategy and direction for the future, now that this phase is complete resource has been put in place to address the falling individual membership numbers and re-invigorate sustainable partnerships with corporate members.

Staff costs were £464,430 (2017: £423,111), an increase of £41,319 over the previous year, which reflected staff maternity, and a full year cost of the digital strategy role.

The notes in the separate Annual Accounts provide more insight into the detailed figures and the way these have been compiled.