

HISTORY GROUP NEWSLETTER



News, views and a miscellany published by the Royal Meteorological Society's
Special Interest Group for the History of Meteorology and Physical Oceanography

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News

Julian Mayes, Secretary / Newsletter editor

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Welcome to the 2nd newsletter of 2023. In this edition we have an account of the Eyemouth storm of 1881 (Alan Heasman), details of the new UK Centennial Observing stations (Adam Barber) and a Viewpoint article on the WMO scheme for recognising these stations (Stephen Burt). We also mark the 200th anniversary of the founding of the first Meteorological Society of London and a short account of the Norfolk climate history mural.

News of the History Group

- Latest Distinguished Voices Podcast

The latest podcast to have been recorded is an interview of the climate modeling expert Prof John Mitchell by Prof. Chris Folland of the History Group. A reciprocal interview of Chris Folland will follow soon. <https://www.rmets.org/distinguished-voices>

- History Group committee

We welcome Dr Richard Cornes of the National Oceanography Centre, Southampton, as a new committee member. A warm welcome also to all those who have joined the Group in 2023. We will distribute a survey next year to help identify priorities for the Group.

- QJ 150

A reminder that the timeline for the QJ 150 research can be found at <https://www.rmets.org/news/qj-150th-anniversary>

- QJ 100 years ago

In January 1924 the *Quarterly Journal* featured articles by such distinguished contributors as Sir Napier Shaw and L. F. Richardson. However, an item entitled 'The Meteorological Services of the British Empire' is of historical interest in attempting to list

the professional meteorologists of each country. The staff of the Meteorological Office consisted of two Assistant Directors, nine Superintendents, five Assistant Superintendents and 22 Professional Assistants at the headquarters. *Quart. Jnl.* **50**, p. 51-52. The link to the whole issue is

<https://rmets.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/1477870x/1924/50/209>

Maureen Sweeney and D-Day

In mid-December the death was announced of Maureen Sweeney at the age of 100. Maureen was the weather observer whose observations from Blacksod Point, western Ireland, on 3 June 1944 indicated the arrival of a North Atlantic depression that led to the postponement of the D-Day invasion of France from the 5th to the 6th June. In 2021 she was interviewed for the 75th anniversary issue of *Weather* (May 2021; *Weather*, 76, p. 175). 2024 marks the 80th anniversary of D-Day.

First Shipping Forecast broadcast

The first Shipping Forecast broadcast by the BBC was issued on 1 January 1924 (source: Catherine Ross, Met Office Archive Manager, interviewed in *Waitrose* magazine earlier this month

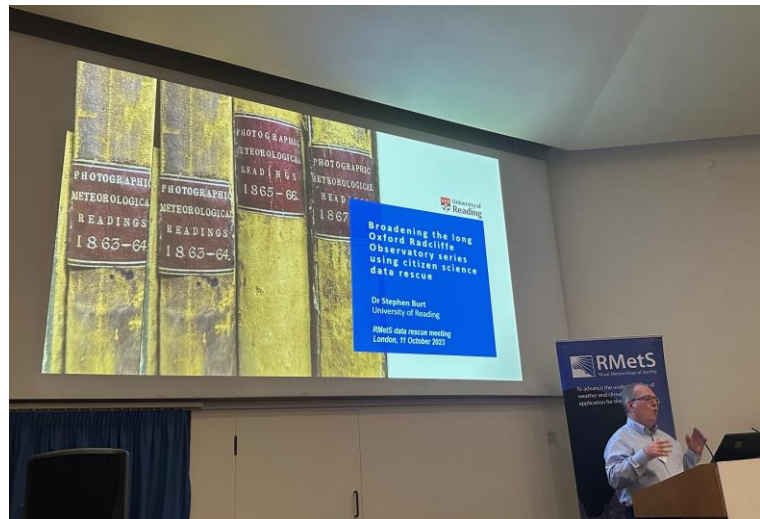
<https://weekend-online.com/issue678/6/>).

RECENT MEETING

History Group Autumn meeting 2023 and RMetS National Meeting *Data Rescue – discovery and recovery of historic climatic observations*

RMetS National meeting organised by Julian Mayes. This took place on the afternoon of Wednesday 11th October 2023 at The Geological Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly in central London. The meeting marked the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Group.

In the opening remarks Julian Mayes argued that data rescue was a natural topic for the Group to focus on in 2023 as it combined the topics of climate change and the history of meteorology / physical oceanography. Topics ranged from the archiving of records and the importance of metadata to the recovery of past observation through Citizen Science projects to the use of recovered observations in national and global data-sets. The meeting served as a networking event for the speakers and on behalf of the Group we extend our thanks to each of the speakers for their contributions on the day. A meeting report has been written by Richard Cornes and this will appear in *Weather* soon.



*Dr. Stephen Burt introducing his presentation
(photo courtesy of Prof. Ed Hawkins)*

FUTURE MEETINGS

Eskdalemuir visit 2024

Visit Organiser: Richard Griffith. Following the successful preliminary visit to Eskdalemuir Observatory in June this year (reported in the last newsletter), a follow-up visit has been arranged for **July 24th 2024**. Numbers are limited, hence the interest in a repeat visit. We hope for better weather next year!

RMetS National meeting: History of climate modeling, winter 2024

Meeting Organiser: Prof. Mat Collins (Exeter University), aided by Chris Folland. This has been accepted as a RMetS Wednesday meeting. Likely date is 4th December 2024; venue, central London.

Evening online meetings will be notified by e mail and in the next newsletter.

Black Friday

Alan Heasman, Aldbourne, Wiltshire

In mid-October 1881, the fishermen of Eyemouth and other small harbours along the Berwickshire coast in southeastern Scotland were desperate to sail because the weather of the previous months had been bad and fishing had been very limited. Now it was the time for fishing haddock and with so little fish recently, those who could get to market first would earn good money. Friday 14 October 1881 dawned fine - almost 'too fine' many said afterwards. There was some apprehension amongst the fishermen and their families as they gathered at dawn by the tiny harbour. One very old and 'crazed' fisherman cried that '...an earthquake was coming'. As was the custom, it required all the boats to agree to sail or none at all. They all sailed. A warning had been received of an impending storm and the harbourmaster raised a storm cone though some say it came after the boats had sailed but crews thought they could be back in the tiny harbour before the storm struck. Initially there was so little wind that many of the sailing boats had to be rowed out. It was getting on for midday, when they were 12 miles out, before the storm sprang up, almost from nowhere with so little warning they had no choice but to try run with the wind or try to return to harbour. Neither strategy worked. That day 129 brave men of Eyemouth were lost and left behind 80 widows and 260 orphans in the small town. In total 189 men were drowned along the North Sea coasts that day. Thus, 14 October 1881 became known for ever more in Eyemouth as 'Black Friday'.

In the early 1880s, the UK Meteorological Office was still based in cramped premises in central London. A few of the staff were from the original Office set up by Vice Admiral Robert FitzRoy in the 1850s. FitzRoy had died by his own hand in 1865. After his death, there followed a debate lasting several years about how the policy and practices of the Office should be 'managed'. In true British fashion, the result was that a 'committee' was formed, followed in the late 1870s by a Meteorological Council of the Royal Society to set the broad policy of the Meteorological Office. That Council did not even feature a meteorologist! Day-to-day operations of the Office were left to senior clerks many of whom were set in their ways. There was very little progress in the science of meteorology. However, at least one very important aspect of FitzRoy's legacy was revived. By the late 1870s, the Office was allowed to resume the 'storm warning' service to British ports and shipping.

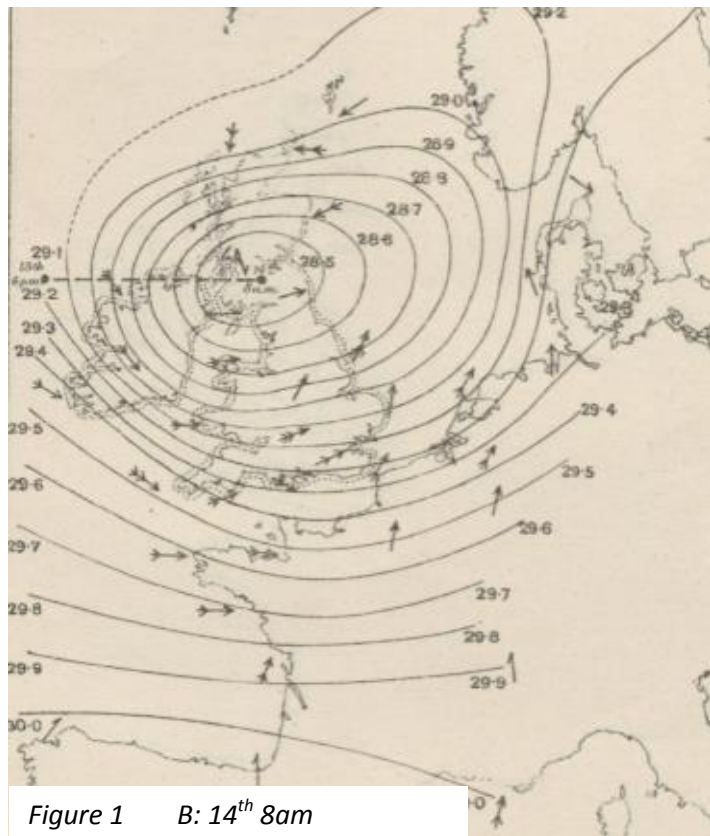
Thus, in 1881, there was the structure in place to issue 'storm warnings' via the telegraph service. However, these warnings were very much based on the long experience and intuition of the Meteorological Office staff in London. Their 'forecasts' depended on the interpretation of existing observations received periodically from observing sites mainly along the coasts of the British Isles and the translocation of that weather to other areas. In

particular, following telegraphed reports of stormy conditions on the west coasts of Ireland, it would be assumed that those conditions would probably transfer eastwards across the rest of the British Isles. In many cases, that crude 'forecast' worked successfully for the seafarers of the English Channel and North Sea. Thus in mid-October, a prime time for equinoctial storms, the Office would have been ready to issue such warnings and indeed they did.

The loss of so many fishermen and other seafarers, as well as extensive damage on land, on or close to 14 October 1881 resulted in the post event analysis and the production of a detailed record entitled '*Report on the Storm of October 13-14, 1881*', published under the Authority of the Meteorological Council and printed by Her Majesty's Stationery Office in early 1882. Fortunately, the report is now available online at the UK National Meteorological Library and Archive (https://digital.nmla.metoffice.gov.uk/IO_0f8a42ee-2c23-4fa0-98e0-cbced822f286/).

The Report consists of 21 pages of descriptive text, two pages of 'Hourly Tabulation of Anemograms' for October 13 and 14 1881 and seven pages of barometric charts timed at 8am, 2pm and 6pm for northwest Europe from 6pm on Wednesday 12 through to Friday 14 at 6pm. Those charts show the isobaric patterns and a selection of wind arrows. The notable absence is, of course, any indication of fronts or troughs – those would not feature on synoptic charts until many years later. Those published charts, drawn after the event, show the progress east-southeastwards of an obviously intense depression, the centre of which tracked from northwest Ireland, across southern Scotland including Berwickshire and thence towards Denmark. Because of the absence of any frontal zones, the isobaric pattern and thus the surface winds around Berwickshire show an over smooth transition of direction through the chart sequence as follows:

- A. Thur 13th 6pm– a weak ridge of higher pressure
- B. Fri 14th 8am - a light southwest wind (Fig. 1)
- C. Fri 14th 2pm- an intense north-northeasterly wind (Fig. 2 overpage)
- D. Fri 14th 6pm – a strong north-northwesterly wind



It appears that the deceptively quiet conditions, with light winds, experienced at Eyemouth early on Friday 14 October were mainly because the 'eye' of storm tracked right over the Berwickshire coast and then raced out across the North Sea followed by the rapid increase of wind from the north-northeast. This rapid change of wind intensity and direction and the resulting chaotic sea state overwhelmed the fishing fleet. There were several coastal synoptic reports of wind speed in excess of 100 mph and a few at 120mph. No match for the small fishing smacks used in those days. A few vessels managed to run

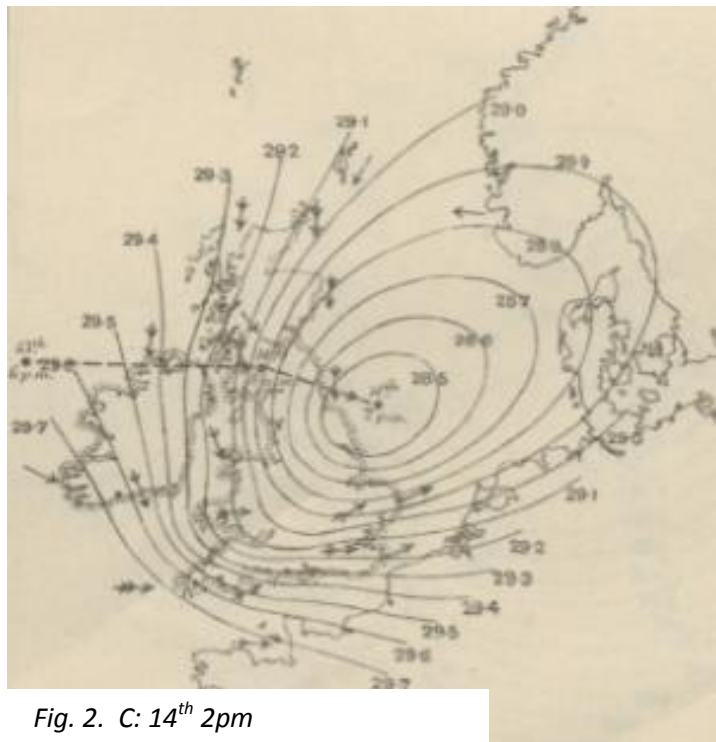


Fig. 2. C: 14th 2pm

before the wind but many sank at sea. A few also managed to struggle back to Eyemouth only to be smashed in the vicious rocks just outside the harbour entrance and their crews drowned in sight of the watchers onshore.

Despite the nationwide extent of this storm's devastation, the official report makes little reference to the enormous loss of life at sea, perhaps understandably sticking to its presumed brief just to report on the weather and not its impact. However, a modern, detailed account of the disaster and the aftermath and social effect on the inhabitants can be found in Peter Aitchison's fine book entitled '*Black Friday- the Eyemouth fishing disaster of 1881*'. For those who might like a 'lighter' read, there is also a semi-fictional account of the effects of the disaster on the families of Eyemouth entitled '*The Storm*' by Elisabeth McNeill which draws heavily on the facts of the event as well as telling an interesting tale [details of both publications can be obtained through online searches and they can be purchased via the usual online retailers – Ed.].

Should readers ever find themselves in the Berwickshire area, it is well worth visiting Eyemouth and nearby St. Abbs to see the evocative memorials at both locations and to feel something of the impact which this terrible storm had on the local communities.

The WMO Centennial Stations programme –

UK nominations

Adam Barber, Observations Quality Manager, Met Office, Exeter

In the 2023 (1) History Group newsletter it was announced that the Met Office was successful in the nomination of both Durham and Sheffield as WMO Centennial Observing stations. Each of these sites has a rich history and it was suggested a few words around the scheme would be welcomed by the group.

The scheme and criteria

Nominations for the WMO scheme are judged on 11 requirements, which, beyond the station being founded over 100 years ago, include:

- a) Activity through at least 90% of the period;
- b) Having captured historic station metadata for the full duration;
- c) Operation in line with WMO observing standards, including inspection and routine recognised documented quality control;
- d) Any known observing station relocation or change in the measurement technique to have not significantly affected the climatological time-series data.

There is also most notably a requirement for nominees to do their utmost to maintain proposed stations. The challenges inherent in successfully achieving this status ultimately underpin why these stations are so unique.

<https://public.wmo.int/en/our-mandate/what-wedo/observations/centennial-observing-stations>

Site challenges

It seems inevitable that each observing station will face threats to its existence and the quality of its data. Those surviving to 100 years will undoubtedly have faced numerous threats and received exhaustive efforts over its lifetime to support.

The largest of these threats come from, but are not limited to, changes in ownership and local support, horizons and landscapes. A common theme is that this can be beyond the control of the observing station, where even exhaustive efforts over numerous years can fail.

Much more typically resolutions are found, but even still can result in the relocation of the observing site, something which appears to occur in many of our longer records.

Nomination challenges

In order to confidently supply the evidence for the nominations a great deal of work has to be undertaken to research the available metadata across paper records, databases in the

Met Office and at site. Only then when sufficient evidence is constructed, can a nomination proceed.

It has been a pleasure to nominate UK centennial stations, in liaison with Stephen Burt of the RMets History Group, judging the evidence collected in order to approve proposals. This has involved working with Sheffield Museum to explore their extensive material and - in the case of Durham - being able to cite reference to the recent volume '*Durham Weather and Climate since 1841*' (Burt and Burt, 2022).

Sheffield (Weston Park)

Weston Park is a public park with an area of just over five hectares in the city of Sheffield, South Yorkshire. It lies immediately west of the city centre, alongside the Weston Park museum. It is situated next to the University of Sheffield Library, Geography department and Firth Court buildings, and across the road from Sheffield Children's Hospital.



Map of Weston Park showing Weston Park Museum on the western edge, close to the site of the observation enclosure (see enlarged map at end of article for details). The blank area to the east is now the site of part of Sheffield University.

The site was founded September 1st, 1882, in order to provide meteorological data to hospitals in Sheffield, to help predict outbreaks of infections. It was started by museum curator and member of The Sheffield Corporation, Mr Elijah "the Prophet" Howarth (so

nicknamed for his ability to predict the weather). The weather station was created to provide meteorological data, particularly air and ground temperatures, in order to help predict outbreaks of bacterial epidemics which had been frequent in Sheffield in previous years/decades. The creation of the station was agreed with the Health Committee and Meteorological Office in April 1882 with instruments being installed 1882.

Museum Curator Mr Elijah Howarth was the first and longest running Observer at Weston Park, continuing observing until 1939, many years after his retirement. The station has seen many long-staying observers. In fact, in the station's history (1882 onwards), it is believed that there have only been five main observers taking the majority of manual readings.

Sheffield has an industrial heritage, being famous as the birthplace of stainless steel. Because of this industry, air pollution was a serious issue which impacted the weather station, depositing soot from the air onto the thermometer screen and likely the sunshine sphere. In 1906 it was stated that "despite the thermometer screen being painted yearly, it is currently black", in 1911 the thermometer screen was described as "almost black", and in 1936 the thermometers were "black with soot" within the screen. There are also occasions where the sunshine sphere was described by inspectors as amber –possibly be due to staining of the glass by pollution.

Enlargement of part of the map of Weston Park showing locations of the sunshine recorder (S), wind vane (WV) and the instrument enclosure (T, R – temperature and rainfall).



Durham Observatory

Meteorological observations in Durham commenced in 1841 in support of astronomical observations made at a purpose-built observatory on the southern side of the city. Climatological observations continue at the same site to the present day, though unlike Sheffield, observations are now from an automatic weather station. In their comprehensive review of the station, Burt and Burt (2022) consider the record to have been relatively unaffected by urbanisation, this possibly accounting for just 0.2degC of the warming

through the record. This benefit arises from the relatively exposed nature of the site on a slight hill and the dispersed pattern of urban development in Durham.

The earliest surviving manuscript records are from 1843 in a register that runs to 1847. Interestingly, this was considered lost for decades but was discovered in 1982 together with a later register. The Department of Geography at Durham University has curated the records for many decades, notably through the work of two academic staff members; Gordon Manley who joined the department in 1928 and Joan Kenworthy, former Principal of St. Mary's College (well known to the History Group) who has published widely on the history of the site and its records (see for example, Kenworthy, 1994).

JM

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Kenworthy, J. M. (1994) The Durham University Observatory meteorological record: 150 years of Durham weather, in *Observatories and Climatological Research*, Chapter 3. B. D. Giles and J. M. Kenworthy Editors, University of Durham, Dept. of Geography Occasional Publication No. 29, pp. 12-22,

Viewpoint: The WMO Centennial Stations programme

Stephen Burt, Department of Meteorology, University of Reading

During the course of preparing the first edition of *The Weather Observer's Handbook* (Cambridge University Press, 2012) I attempted to compile a list of the longest-running climate observation sites in Europe and the United States. Little did I realise beforehand how much research it involved! It was surprising to me that no such international listing already existed, and even at national level within English-speaking countries detailed information on long climate records was very hard to find. My list of a dozen or so locations was duly published in Chapter 1 of my book: top of the list was Uppsala in Sweden, where an almost unbroken record exists for sites within a kilometre or so of the original location since January 1722. (This remarkable 300 year record was commemorated in September

2022 with a meeting at Uppsala University which I had the pleasure of attending: my meeting summary appeared in *Weather* in January 2023).

Just possibly my efforts were noticed by WMO, because in 2013 WMO initiated a formal process to identify and recognise long-period observing sites. The programme was formally announced in June 2016, and the first awards were made under the Centennial Observing Stations programme the following year.

In brief, the criteria for recognition/inclusion in the programme are as follows:

- Currently operational sites whose records commenced at least 100 years ago, observing at least one meteorological element (thus including rainfall-only and streamflow sites);
- Records must be made within the appropriate WMO observing standards and site classifications (for obvious reasons, this may not have been so during earlier parts of the record), and subjected to appropriate quality control checks;
- Gaps in record during the observation period must not exceed 10 per cent of the record;
- Countries commit to ‘best efforts’ to ensure site records continue in future;
- Station metadata must include complete latitude, longitude, altitude, station name(s) and observing schedule of all sites. Any minor changes of site should ideally not introduce changes in record homogeneity, although appropriate homogeneity adjustments to a record to derive a homogenised version (for example, allowing for changes in instruments, exposure or site) are permissible where fully documented (presumably alongside retention of original data).

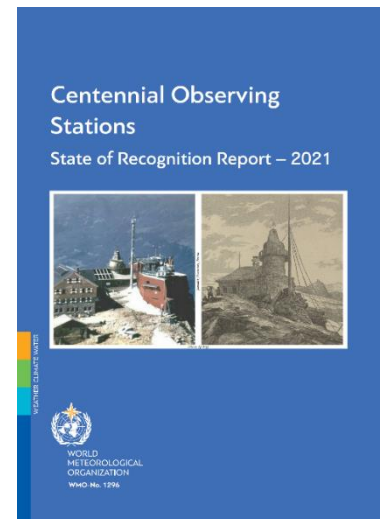
Limited details of the programme can be found on the WMO website at wmo.int/centennial-observing-stations. The site currently includes an interactive map of all such sites worldwide; the original ‘climatological’ site category has since been broadened to include ‘hydrological’ and ‘marine’ long-period records. Centennial sites within the UK and Ireland are shown in Table 1.

Table 1. WMO Centennial sites within the UK and Ireland, as at 2023, listed by country and then in order of first year of record. All of the following are identified as ‘Meteorological’ sites; in addition to these is included the Thames at Kingston streamflow record, which commenced in 1883.

<i>Country</i>	<i>Site name per WMO listing</i>	<i>Altitude (m)</i>	<i>First year of record</i>
Ireland <i>7 sites</i>	Ireland – Phoenix Park [Dublin]	48	1829
	Valentia Observatory	24	1868
	Foulkesmill (Longraigue)	66	1874
	Mullingar	101	1898
	Athlone	37	1902
	Meelick (Victoria Lock)	32	1902
	Glengariff (Illnacullin)	15	1914
UK <i>10 sites</i>	Oxford	63	1772
	Armagh	62	1836 ¹
	Durham	102	1851 ²
	Rothamsted	128	1872
	Balmoral	283	1882
	Sheffield	131	1882
	Llysindnam	196	1882
	Jersey, Maison St Louis Observatory	55	1894
	Morpeth, Cockle Park	95	1897
	Eskdalemuir	236	1908

NOTES: 1. The Armagh record began in December 1794, but there is a gap in the record 1825-33.
2. The Durham record commenced in July 1843.

Good news, surely? But only so far. A previous version of the web page had much more detail, including a listing of basic details of the sites themselves: that has since been removed. The only information now shown is station name, altitude and commencement of record, and even then that is only by clicking on markers on the map on the web page. Currently, the website contains only the map and a link to a 2021 report, which includes a summary of the programme and a list of the 291 sites worldwide at that date. The station listing therein includes only site location by country and start date of the record, but other than a few highlighted sites with photographs, there are no further details – not even latitude, longitude or altitude, or site authority. The document itself is available as a downloadable PDF from <https://library.wmo.int/idurl/4/58048>.



The criteria for inclusion also state, and I quote:

“Most importantly, all historic observational data and metadata have been digitally archived or will be rescued. Members shall share their plans for data rescue, if applicable. Historic observation data and metadata have been made available for scientific research, consistent with Resolution 40 (Cg-XII) – WMO Policy and Practice for the Exchange of Meteorological and Related Data and Products Including Guidelines on Relationships in Commercial Meteorological Activities, and Resolution 60 (Cg-17) – WMO Policy for the International Exchange of Climate Data and Products to Support the Implementation of the Global Framework for Climate Services, or will be made available. Members shall share their plans for data availability, if applicable.”

Such metadata and evidence of the meteorological records are therefore mandated by WMO as part of the nomination process. Having assisted in the preparation of the UK Met Office submission to WMO for the nomination of the Durham Observatory in 2022 (where records began in 1843, and continue today), I can say from experience that this requires submission of a considerable amount of detail on sites, instruments, records and observing practices. It is therefore a great shame, and in my view a wasted opportunity, that none of this important and useful site and metadata information (or indeed the long series of climatological records themselves) has found its way onto the WMO website, not even as links provided to the originating country organisation or citations to published work. That this is the case even where records from the site have been published and are readily available – such as in the UK for the Centennial Sites at Oxford (records from 1772, awarded Centennial status in 2017, reference 1) and Durham (records from 1843, awarded Centennial status in 2023, reference 2) – is a poor show indeed. I would even question whether it is worth countries investing in the time and effort required to generate nominations to the programme if none of the detailed information provided is ever likely to see the light of day.

The WMO Centennial Stations programme could achieve so much more by making available online citations and links (whether within WMO or the country originators) where all of these data and metadata could be more quickly and easily accessed by legitimate researchers. As it stands, it is impossible to qualify or verify the details that are currently included. As just one example, one of the oldest sites – those with 250 years or more of records – called out by WMO in their 2021 brochure referred to above is apparently a record for Beijing, China, from 1724. Curiously, the oldest Beijing records listed in Bronimann et al’s 2019 survey of the world’s oldest climate series [3] include only one of a few months within 1743 together with a short record recently published covering 1757-62 [4]. Aside from these two short records, the oldest known Beijing record is one commencing in 1841. Can this 1724 record really be from a single site, homogenised as necessary, or is it perhaps a composite record from numerous sites, in the same vein as Manley’s Central

England Temperature series? Without background metadata or a citation, it is impossible to check its veracity, or even its existence.

Over the past few months I have completed a thorough revision of *The Weather Observer's Handbook* for its second edition, which will be published by CUP in May 2024. The existence of the WMO Centennial Stations website certainly made it easier to track down the world's oldest continuous weather records – and that revised list in my new book now includes almost 50 sites in a more complete global listing. It is a pity, though, that extracting any information beyond the minimum (station name, country and start date of record) via the WMO Centennial Programme made confirmation and verification of important details so difficult. Let us hope that WMO will take the hint and act to expedite data access and availability of these important records.

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- [1] Burt, Stephen and Timothy Burt, 2019: *Oxford Weather and Climate since 1767*. Oxford: Oxford University Press 544 pp.
- [2] Burt, Stephen and Timothy Burt, 2022: *Durham Weather and Climate since 1841*. Oxford: Oxford University Press 580 pp.
- [3] Ren, Yuyu, et al., 2022: The 1757–62 temperature observed in Beijing. *Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society*, **103**(11): pp. E2470-E2483 doi: 10.1175/bams-d-21-0245.1.
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The Meteorological Society of London, 200 years on

In February 1823 the editor of the '*Monthly Magazine*' called for a 'meteorological society' to be established in the UK. Two months later the following letter was published from Mr. James Tatem in which he highlighted the need for a society to oversee the collection of weather observations:

“from registers thus formed, the meteorologist would receive information and pleasure, the man of science amusement, the valetudinarian¹ benefit, by being able to select a residence where the climate suited his constitution – a thing of no small consequence, and no little difficulty in the variable temperature of the native isle.” (Monthly Magazine, 1 April 1823, p. 207).

¹ Valetudinarian – one who is infirm, sickly or concerned about their own health.

This letter was followed by a meeting at the London Coffee House on 15 October 1823 (Walker, 1993) at which those present included Luke Howard. The aim of the new society was along the lines suggested by Mr. Tatem, namely to collect observations from “Great Britain and its colonies” and to have a meteorological observatory in the metropolis (Symons, 1881, p. 75). Another meeting was held in November 1823 and several more early in 1824 took place at which scientific papers were read. However, the society soon became dormant before a revival in 1836. The society had a number of bases in London and unfortunately also acquired debts. A final meeting was held in 1843.

A clue to the short life of the society lies in extracts of meeting minutes quoted by Symons (1881). In June 1838

“Lieut. Morrison described a storm in London on May 31 which he had predicted from the square of the Sun to Jupiter. I may here remark that although the Society did not itself publish any astro-meteorological papers...Lieut. Morrison was allowed to bring forward his own views. There is evidence to show that these facts seriously damaged the Society, more than one member resigning on that account.” (Symons, 1881, p. 79).

A second Meteorological Society of London was formed in 1848, some of the founders having been members of the first society. However, with an elusive president, this soon died out.

In April 1850 the British Meteorological Society was formed at the well-known meeting at Hartwell House near Aylesbury, the society that evolved into the Royal Meteorological Society. This was established with seemingly no reference to the earlier societies. Symons suggests that the “astro-meteorological tendencies” of the latter may have been to blame (Symons, 1881, p. 89). Corless (1950) refers to “leanings towards a belief in the influence of the moon and stars upon weather, and perhaps as a result the more emancipated members lost interest” (Corless, 1950, p. 78). A few months later the Meteorological Society of London was dissolved for the final time.

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Symons, G. (1881) The history of English meteorological societies 1823 to 1880; President's Address at the Annual General Meeting. *Quart. J. R. Meteorol.*, **7**, 65-98.

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A climate mural for our times

This is the story of a mural depicting the history of weather events in Norfolk from 66 million years ago through the Holocene to 2200. It is the result of a collaboration between the artist Gennadiy Ivanov, Norwich City Council and the city's Climatic Research Unit and was produced in 2022 on the occasion of the Unit's 50th anniversary. It now hangs in the council chamber of Norwich City Hall providing a reminder to the council of the impact of climate change on the county and city. The story of the mural is explained in the following website; <https://crudata.uea.ac.uk/cru/climate-mural/>



Each panel highlights the scenes on the coast of Norfolk with notable events in local history shown together with Ed Hawkins' climate stripes. The website shows each panel in greater detail than is possible here. Each panel of the mural is accompanied by a painting which can be viewed by scrolling through the website. The final section of the site - 'The science behind the paintings' - shows scientific evidence for the major changes in global climate. *With thanks to Gennadiy Ivanov and Dr. Michael Taylor (CRU).*



We welcome membership enquiries from RMetS members (membership is free) and also offers of submissions to this newsletter.

If you are on Twitter, please follow us at #RMetS_HistGroup. If not, you can still view tweets at https://twitter.com/RMetS_HistGroup. Contributions can be made via the e-mail address below.

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All enquiries please to history@rmets.org

