The 161st Annual Report of the Royal Meteorological Society
for the period 1st January – 31st December 2011

CONTENTS

The Society's Mission 2
Public Benefit 2
The year January to December 2011: A brief review of the highlights 3
Major Activities and Plans for 2012 5
The British Weather of 2011 6
Finance 7
Membership 8
Awards and Prizes 9
Strategic Programme Board 10
Library and Archives 10
House Committee 11
Education 12
Meetings, Lectures and Conferences 13
Professional Accreditation 17
Scientific Publishing 19
Reports from Other Representative Bodies 21
Reports from Local Centres 25
Reports from Special Interest Groups 30
Membership of Council (Trustees of the Society) 34
Membership of Committees of Council as at 31 December 2011 35
Other Representatives Appointed by Council 36
Without Whom 37
Staffing at the Society 37
Appendix 1: Background to the Society 38
Appendix 2: Policy Statement on the Role of the Reserves 39
THE SOCIETY’S MISSION

Advancing the understanding of weather and climate, the science and its applications, for the benefit of all.

Public Benefit

The Charities Act 2011 requires all charities to explain in their Annual Report how their activities provide benefit to the wider public, or sections of it, in achieving their aims. The Act lists 12 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 our partnership with the General Aviation Safety Committee and the UK Flight Safety Committee, the Society provides support and advice to weather-related safety-critical issues, and holds weather education seminars for private pilots and sailors. The specific purpose of these events is to improve safety and reduce the number of accidents relating to flying and sailing in deteriorating weather conditions, which can sometimes be fatal. Other events hosted by the Society included the use of atmospheric dispersion modelling in improving animal health, flash flood, hail and lightning, catastrophe risk modelling, the Eyjafjallajökull eruption, planning for coastal flooding and reducing the impact of emissions from aviation and shipping.

The Society also plays an important role in accrediting aviation forecasters in the UK, who do not have traditional qualifications, to ensure that they meet requirements laid down by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

The advancement of education

The Society works with teachers and children at both primary and secondary levels to promote understanding of weather and climate, and runs interactive projects to both stimulate the interest of children in meteorology and to improve the quality of teaching material 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 children. In addition the Society is also freely providing an increasing number of continuing professional development opportunities for teachers who have come to teaching meteorology from a non-meteorological background. The Society also worked with a collection of Post-Graduate Teacher Training Centres and is supporting the work of the Astra Zeneca Science Teaching Trust.

At higher-education levels the Society awards financial support to enable students to broaden their studies of meteorological sciences, it has an active programme of providing careers advice, and has a ‘spotlight on careers’ for a range of people who have come into the profession through different career and educational paths. The Society also helps with the development of careers in meteorology through its work on National Occupational Standards and its award of chartered status both for practising meteorologists and for those involved in support roles.

The advancement of the arts, culture, heritage or science

The Society publishes six world-leading science journals which are made available free to developing countries through publishing aid programmes, and to each of the WMO Regional Training Centres. The Society also has a curation programme for an historical and culturally valuable archive of documentation on behalf of the UK. The Society runs a comprehensive meetings programme open to all with an interest in weather and climate. This includes free public national meetings and local meetings to encourage a focus on global, national and local issues, and also conferences to bring about the advancement of the science of meteorology. 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 also subsidises an annual Student Conference that brings together those involved in post-graduate studies from across the country, to create a community of young scientists, and to give them experience in active participation in scientific conferences and workshops.

**The advancement of environmental protection or improvement**

The Society is at the heart of the debate on global warming and climate change. It plays a particularly important role in communicating some of the more complicated scientific and technical issues to the public at large and enabling them to understand and engage with what is one of the most important global issues that we face today.

The Society also has several popular publications that promote a public interest in the environment, and the launch of the Society’s new subsidiary charity ‘theWeather Club’ provides a key framework for delivering greater public information, engagement and dialogue on weather and climate.

The Society is working on the development of a quality standard for the provision of weather and climate services. The aim of this standard is to ensure a high quality of meteorological services provided for the protection of life and property, to promote a greater use of high quality services employed in the protection of the environment, and to enhance the economy.

The Society’s website has a wide range of information and content that is freely available to all those with an interest and serves all of the categories mentioned above. 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. The Society also provides the popular monthly publications *Weather* and *theWeather* free to all respective Society and theWeather Club members.

**THE YEAR JANUARY to DECEMBER 2011**

**A brief review of the highlights**

The weather of 2011 gave us another cool summer, but a very warm spring and autumn. The year as a whole was warmer than the thirty-year average, with nine of the twelve months warmer than average.

The Society’s new charity ‘theWeather Club’ completed its first full year of operation and demonstrated its value in communicating aspects of weather and climate to the general public and interested reader. theWeather Club has remained continually involved with the media over the year, providing support to the public understanding of a wide range of national and international weather events. Membership increased to over 1,300 members at the end of 2011 and this growth shows no sign of slowing down. It was very pleasing to note that theWeather Club won the European Meteorological Society Outreach and Communication Award, and the magazine theWeather won the independent publisher award for launch magazine of the year, writer of the year and editor of the year, and was shortlisted for designer of the year.

The Society removed its School Membership category in order that all schools could have free access to all of the Society’s education resources. This did have the effect of reducing Society membership numbers slightly in year; however membership has remained at just over 3,000 for the past three years. The Society is pleased to have retained a high level of membership in these difficult economic times, and to have such an active and engaged community of volunteers, but there is still significant potential to grow membership further, and this will be a focus in 2012. By the end of 2012 the Society and theWeather Club combined membership is targeted to reach over 5,000, well over any previous membership numbers.
Both members and non-members alike actively engage with the Society’s full programme of National and Local Meetings. The Society averaged 92 attendees at its National Wednesday meetings and 71 at the National Saturday meetings during 2011, and had one of its most active years ever in its Local Centres and Special Interest Groups. The new Yorkshire and South East Local centres continue to grow participation and the new Special Interest Group on Aviation will only serve to strengthen the Society’s aims to improve aviation safety and reduce the number of weather-related accidents. In addition to the Meetings programme the Society also hosted the International Weather Radar and Hydrology Symposium, on behalf of the UK, and held a National Conference and Student Conference at the University of Exeter. This year saw a truly international attendance with one of the Society’s strongest programme of international keynote speakers.

The Society launched its second major web development project, which is looking to modernise the back-office functions and infrastructure of the website provision, and transition the website on to a new server provision capable of supporting the increasing demand for Society website content. This is a major investment for the Society and the first phase of this project will be completed in the second half of 2012. Once in place it will provide a platform for the delivery of a new generation of content and services for the Society’s membership and wider stakeholders.

The Society’s Education programme had another busy year. This began with detailed input to the Government’s Curriculum review, with input provided for both Geography and the Science. The Climate4classrooms project (a partnership with the Royal Geographical Society and the British Council to deliver schools resources on climate change) increased its participating countries from six to twelve with the intention to grow still further in 2012. This year the Society delivered its first full year of training for trainee teachers, at PGCE training centres across England, on resources to help teach meteorology. The Society’s Education and Outreach team as well as its Meteorological Ambassadors provided an astonishing 68 hours of support to the work of the OPen Air Laboratories (OPAL) roadshow at events and science fairs across the UK. The sort of meteorological equipment used at the OPAL roadshows was also loaned out to schools under the Society’s equipment scheme, and as well as being used by schools in the UK, accompanied school expeditions to Greenland and the Himalayas.

Schools as well as the Society’s growing amateur community actively participated in providing observations for the new Weather Observation Website. The site went live in June 2011 and at the end of 2011 this new initiative (a partnership between the Met Office, the Society and the Department for Education) had in excess of 12.5 million weather observations, from over 900 separate observing sites across 116 countries. The initiative has already proved itself to be a valuable national resource.

The Society was delighted to see the positive trend in Impact Factors for the journal portfolio, with Atmospheric Science Letters and Weather receiving their first Impact Factors (both higher than expected). The new WIREs Climate Change journal (a partnership with Wiley-Blackwell and the Royal Geographical Society) increased its readership worldwide and the Society’s new book programme launched its third new book. The popularity of the book programme has greatly exceeded our expectations and a further five books are planned to be completed during 2012.

The Society continued to show strong leadership in its programme to reduce carbon emissions. The Society set itself the target of reducing emissions by 20% by 2010, and this was achieved. At the end of 2011 the Society had achieved a reduction of 56% in emissions, and has set itself the target to reduce these by a further 10% during the next three-year period. This will in part be achieved by the installation of Photovoltaic panels at the Society Headquarters.

Despite the challenging economic times, the Society has managed to maintain financial balance on its General Activities, to continue with a programme of strategic investment in its Development Activities and on maintaining and improving its headquarters facility. The next three years are expected to be even more challenging with pressures on income from membership, publications and investments, but the Society will enter these with a firm financial footing, a budgeted plan for its next
three-year programme and a continued, planned sustainable growth of its range of charitable activities.

More details on all of the Society’s achievements during 2011 are provided in what follows, but first something to look out for in 2012.

**MAJOR ACTIVITIES AND PLANS FOR 2012**

The Society launched its new 3-year Strategic Plan in January 2012. This Plan, which was put together following the Society’s most comprehensive stakeholder review to date, sets the strategic framework for the Society’s programme of work for the next three years. Although, unsurprisingly, the long-term aims of the Society remain unchanged, in this Plan the Society defines five priority areas over the next three years:

1. **Making a step change in how the Society engages with the public and its general interest stakeholders, particularly through the development of the Weather Club.**

2. **Enhance the benefits given to all our membership groups, but in particular broaden the involvement of Schools, Businesses and Amateurs. We would expect this to result in a notable increase in membership numbers.**

3. **Address the issue of the public perception of climate change by significantly raising the understanding of and engagement with climate science, particularly amongst the general public and in policy programmes.**

4. **Ensure there is greater linkage between the Society’s professional qualifications, that this actively supports the growing demand for accreditation, and that continuing professional development is at the heart of this.**

5. **Identify new ways in which the Society can diversify income streams in order to support our ambitious strategic development programme.**

Underpinning these priorities is a significant new investment in the Society’s web delivery platform and related upgrade to our server provision. Our website capability is critical to our ambitions for improving our communications, and as such we need to make sure this is fit for purpose. The new platform will give the Society the opportunity to exploit new ways of delivering content and benefits to the wider membership and stakeholders. This will include making more information available via mobile devices (including phones, tablets and e-readers).

As the President and Chief Executive say in the introduction to the new Plan, it builds on the many achievements and the momentum of change from the last three years; but it is evolutionary and not revolutionary. The Plan encapsulates what the Society believes should be at the heart of a modern and progressive Professional and Learned Society. This is a challenging Plan, but with the support of the membership and our growing number of delivery partners it is achievable and we believe will make a real, tangible and important contribution to meteorology.
THE BRITISH WEATHER OF 2011

VERY WARM SPRING AND AUTUMN; COOL SUMMER

The winter of 2010-11 will be remembered by many as a cold and snowy one, but practically all of that season's snow had fallen before Christmas, and temperatures rose progressively during the remainder of the winter. During January and February snowfalls were infrequent and mostly transitory, and there was less frost than usual. High pressure affected much of the country for long periods between March and mid-May, and also from late-September to November, but pressure was often rather low during the summer months. As a consequence the year had a most unusual 'shape' to it, with some exceptional heatwaves during spring and autumn, but comparatively little warmth during the summer.

Temperature

The only months which were cooler than the long-term average were January, June, July and August. All the rest were warmer than average, several of them by wide margins, and as a result the year 2011 was second warmest in the entire 353-year long Central England Temperature record, with only 2006 ahead of it. April was the warmest on record, having eclipsed even April 2007 which many thought would be a long-standing record, while November was the second warmest, beaten only by 1994. February was also the warmest for nine years, and October and December both the warmest for five years. By contrast, the summer quarter (June, July, August) was the coolest since 1993. The year's lowest temperature was minus 13.0°C at Altnaharra (Sutherland) on January 8, while the highest was 33.1°C at Swanscombe (Kent) on June 27. Several sites in southern England logged their highest temperature of the year in early-October – a rare though not unprecedented event.

Rainfall

There was a sharp contrast between much of eastern, central and southern England where there was a marked shortage of rain in most months of the year, and Scotland and northwest England where there was often an excess. The drought over England was particularly serious in Shropshire and Herefordshire, but other parts of the Midlands and eastern England were also badly hit. Averaged over England and Wales, the spring quarter (March, April, May) was the driest since 1893, while the autumn quarter was only slightly less dry those of 2007 and 1985 in recent times. The summer, although ten per cent wetter than the long-term average, was much less wet than those of 2007, 2008 and 2009.

Sunshine

Sunshine hours were well above the average in the eastern half of England, but all other regions of the UK had relatively small excesses, and averaged nationally it was slightly less sunny than either 2010 or 2009. February was the gloomiest since 1980, and August, too, was a very cloudy month, though not as bad as that of 2008. These were offset by April which was the sunniest since 1893. (Please note: 1981-2010 averages are used to give a comparison with the most recent 30-year climatology).

Regional Breakdown

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Relative to the average (1981-2010)</th>
<th>Mean Max (deg C)</th>
<th>Mean Min (deg C)</th>
<th>Rainfall (per cent)</th>
<th>Sunshine (per cent)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scotland (Highlands and Islands)</td>
<td>+0.3</td>
<td>+0.6</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scotland - Central Belt and east coast</td>
<td>+0.4</td>
<td>+0.9</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northeast England</td>
<td>+1.2</td>
<td>+0.7</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Anglia</td>
<td>+1.6</td>
<td>+0.9</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midlands</td>
<td>+1.6</td>
<td>+0.9</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southeast England</td>
<td>+1.3</td>
<td>+0.9</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northwest England and North Wales</td>
<td>+0.6</td>
<td>+0.7</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southwest England and South Wales</td>
<td>+1.2</td>
<td>+0.9</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Ireland</td>
<td>+0.3</td>
<td>+0.4</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irish Republic</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>+0.4</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FINANCE

The Annual Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2011 are published separately to this Annual Report in line with the requirements of the Charity Commissioners. The Auditor’s report as usual appears as the front page to the Accounts and certifies that in their opinion the financial statements give a true and fair view of the Society’s affairs as at 31 December 2011.

The Society’s subsidiary charity, the Weather Club, continued to trade at a loss and by 31 December 2011 the Society had funded it with loans totalling £299,000 (of which £164,000 was committed in 2010 and £135,000 in 2011).

The Society continues to be in a good financial state despite the Reserves being affected by investment losses of some £36,000 (2010: gains of £81,000) following the global effects of the Euro debt crisis, although there was a small recovery towards the end of the year. The income for the year exceeded the expenditure resulting in a surplus of £54,000 (2010: surplus of £64,000), but after the investment revaluation losses this resulted in a transfer to the Reserves of £19,000 (2010: £144,000). The total Reserves of the parent company at 31 December 2011 was £1,478,000 (2010: £1,460,000) of which £299,000 is the loan to the Weather Club.

The Society’s journals and book publishing continue to perform well, contributing £488,000 to our income (2010: £546,000 but this included a one-off early contract renewal fee of £70,000). The associated expenditure on the journals was £146,000 (2010: £160,000). The Society’s publishers (Wiley-Blackwell) account for the journals in three currencies, US$, GBP and Euros, thus reducing our exposure to currency exchange losses. The journals continue to represent a major source of income for the Society. Other income from publishing activities such as the calendar and the Weather Watchers Log Book totalled £7,000 (2010: £10,000).

The Society holds its main conference biennially, the last being at Exeter in 2011. This introduces a biennial variation in both the income and expenditure streams for Meetings and explains why those streams were substantially higher in 2011 than in 2010.

The direct income from Membership Fees was slightly higher than in 2010. However, the total Membership Subscription income decreased slightly from £195,000 in 2010 to £193,000 in 2011 mainly due to the reduction in income from Gift Aid as a result of HM Treasury moving from financial year to calendar year. Interest income remained low as a result of the continuing low bank interest rates during the year.

During the year Rachael Fordham and Georgina Lea both left the Society towards the end of the year and have not yet been replaced, but Sarah Grintzevich returned to work following her maternity leave. The Staff costs were £376,000 (2010: £361,000), an increase of £15,000 over the previous year.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade of Membership</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Honorary Fellow</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life Fellow</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fellow</td>
<td>1795</td>
<td>1747</td>
<td>1704</td>
<td>1672</td>
<td>1662</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate Fellow</td>
<td>852</td>
<td>788</td>
<td>997</td>
<td>1086</td>
<td>1009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate Fellow (student)</td>
<td>174</td>
<td>214</td>
<td>248</td>
<td>215</td>
<td>267</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporate Member (including School Member prior to 2011)</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>2953</strong></td>
<td><strong>2885</strong></td>
<td><strong>3088</strong></td>
<td><strong>3096</strong></td>
<td><strong>3020</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This following graph shows how membership of the Society has varied over the past years. Last year the Society abolished its Schools Membership category, in order to make the education benefits freely available to all schools, not just members. These were counted under the Corporate Member category, hence the decrease in this category in 2011. Despite this, the Society is delighted to have maintained membership levels during this challenging financial period.

The Society learned with regret of the deaths in 2011 of the following Members:
AWARDS AND PRIZES

The Society is delighted to have made the following Awards for the year 2011:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Award</th>
<th>Recipient</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Mason Gold Medal</td>
<td>Prof Peter Webster, FRMetS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Georgia Institute of Technology, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buchan Prize</td>
<td>Prof Jim Haywood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>University of Exeter and the Met Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L F Richardson Prize</td>
<td>Dr Helen Wells, FRMetS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Met Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adrian Gill Prize</td>
<td>Prof David Stephenson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>University of Exeter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The FitzRoy Prize</td>
<td>Prof Roy Harrison, OBE FRMetS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>University of Birmingham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Gordon Manley Weather Prize</td>
<td>George Anderson, FRMetS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Met Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quarterly Journal Editor's Award</td>
<td>Margaret Hendry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Met Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Paton Memorial Prize</td>
<td>Richard Tabony</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Secretary of the RMetS Scottish Centre</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Society also appointed the following new Honorary Fellows, the highest award of membership made by the Society, in recognition of a distinguished career and long standing contribution to Meteorology:

- Dr Ralph Cicerone: President of the National Academy of Sciences, USA.
- Prof Chris Collier, FRMetS CMet CEnv: Professor of Atmospheric Science, University of Leeds and Head of Strategic Partnerships, NCAS.
- Dr Olivier Talagrand: Laboratoire de Météorologie Dynamique, CNRS, France.
- Prof Guoxiong Wu: LASG, Institute of Atmospheric Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences.
- Prof Carl Wunsch: Cecil & Ida Green Professor of Physical Oceanography, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA.
STRATEGIC PROGRAMME BOARD

The Strategic Programme Board met just once this year. The Board reviews the Society’s strategic projects as one coherent programme of work. It is able to look at each project to ensure that it has the right priority, that it is meeting its objectives and delivering the desired outcomes to time and to budget. The Board also looks at new development and partnership opportunities and puts these together to form the development budget for the coming year. Each of the initiatives included in the budget is reviewed to understand the contribution it will make towards delivering the Society’s Strategic Plan.

The main topic of discussion this year was the continued growth and support for the Weather Club, a charity in its own right and a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Society; Dr Liz Bentley, the Society’s Director of Weather and Climate, is the Head of the Weather Club.

theWeather Club has had a very positive start, attracting over 1,300 members at the end of 2011, and this is continuing to grow, with expectations that it will reach double this by the end of 2012. As well as attracting Society members to the Weather Club, it is also significantly enhancing the Society’s level of engagement with those stakeholders who would not usually have much direct contact with the Society - this is a key strategic target for the Society. It has created a new and significant class of membership whose enthusiasm, interest and understanding is being fostered and promoted.

Notwithstanding this early success, the Weather Club has not yet reached the ambitious targets that it has set itself on membership numbers. This is important in order that the Weather Club is able to become financially self-sustaining in the long-term. The Board reviewed a number of Options on the future of the Weather Club and recommended a further programme of funding support for 2012 which was approved by Council.

The Board also reviewed the Society’s major project to redevelop the underpinning technology of the website platform. This is a significant investment by the Society in to rationalising the component parts of the Society’s website on to a single, open source content management system (Drupal). This, together with a move to new server provision, will markedly enhance the Society’s website capability and provide a platform for delivering a range of new and varied multi-media content. It also opens up the possibility for developing new tools to deliver website content in a variety of ways to members and stakeholders in whatever form or on whatever platform that they find most effective.

Altogether the Strategic Programme Board reviewed 20 of the Society’s strategic projects in 2011, and made a number of improvements to the way in which the Society reports on these projects to the Board and to Council.

LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES

During 2011 the Society had a major review of its Headquarters archive facilities. The work in 2011 focused on the above ground storage, following significant upgrade to the cellar storage facilities in 2010. The Society also began a project to audit the Society’s archiving activities against Council’s policy, and to review this policy to ensure that it is still fit for purpose. This review will be completed in 2012.
HOUSE COMMITTEE

The primary role of the House Committee is to review and develop the key functions that underpin the general activities of the Society. The Committee meets three times a year and is chaired by the General Secretary.

Membership development
The Membership Development Project is aimed at increasing the membership of the Society. The project board has the primary responsibility for ensuring the success of the project, but the House Committee provides advice and support. During 2011 membership decreased slightly from 3096 to 3020. This was in part due to the removal of the Schools Membership category, which reduced membership numbers by 42. The emphasis will now be on driving up membership numbers and engagement, with a particular focus for 2012 on corporate membership and on delivering benefits to the Society’s amateur community.

Investments and financial management
The House Committee kept under review the Society’s investments. The aim has been to spread the risk by investing in both equities and fixed interest portfolios to ensure the dividend income and capital growth are stable. The Society’s investment portfolio is managed by a long-established investment management company.

The in-year expenditure on ‘business as usual’ activities was monitored. Also the proposed budget for 2012 for these activities was scrutinised before recommending a budget to Council.

Some other activities
The following is a selection of the other activities carried out or overseen by the House Committee during 2011.

- **Corporate Responsibility Programme.** The Society has exceeded the targets set as part of its Strategic Plan. It is planned that there should be a further 10% reduction in the Society’s carbon emissions over the next three years.

- **Risk Register.** The Society’s Risk Register was kept under regular review. At present there are no risks in terms of probability and impact that are causing serious concern, though there are still concerns that a major, sustained crash in equity value would result in a significant loss of Capital Reserve.

- **Insurance portfolio.** The insurance portfolio was kept under review based on advice from the Society’s insurance broker. There was a 10.5% increase in cost in 2011, but this was less than the national average.

- **Health & Safety.** Implementation of the actions from the annual Health & Safety audit was monitored. The last audit identified no issues that needed to be addressed.

- **Staffing and remuneration.** The House Committee reviewed the recommendations of the Salary and Remuneration Committee and monitored the staffing arrangements of the Society. The Committee approved the Salary and Remuneration Committee’s recommendations on staff remuneration for 2012.

- **Facilities.** The fabric and facilities of the Society’s headquarters were kept under review, but after major refurbishments in 2010 no major developments occurred in year.
EDUCATION

In 2011, the Education Committee welcomed Andrew Russell (Brunel University), Martin Sutton and Paul Hampton (both secondary geography teachers) to the Committee.

One of the most important current issues for Education is the Government’s review of the National Curriculum. The Society is engaging with the review both individually and through its partner organisations. The Society has provided a direct submission on the importance of including meteorology in the new curriculum and in a number of curriculum areas. This included a submission under Geography, in consultation with the Geographical Association and the Royal Geographical Society, a submission on Earth Sciences, as part of a Royal Society-led working group, and a submission on Science and on the importance of practical experimentation as part of the Science Council submission. This is only the first stage of the review and the work will continue in to 2012.

Much of the Society’s education work focuses on its website (www.Metlink.org), a portal for weather and climate related resources for schools. This continues to develop, with new and updated resources being added continuously. The Society also hosts the climate4classrooms website, a collaboration between the RMetS, the British Council and the Royal Geographical Society, continues to grow. Teaching resources and climate projections are now available for schools in the UK, Kenya, Mexico, Argentina, Cuba, Chile, Indonesia, South Africa, Nigeria, China and Bangladesh, with the Near East to be added shortly.

The Society led the development of a climate survey pack, consisting of a number of weather activities, for OPAL (OPen Air Laboratory - a lottery-funded, many-partner collaboration headed by Imperial College, London) which was distributed to 40,000 schools and enthusiasts. The Society’s main interest in the project is on aircraft contrails; over 15,000 observations were sent in during the measurement campaign and these will be compared with predictions of contrail appearance from a weather forecasting model.

The Society also helped OPAL develop and run a Weather Roadshow trailer, with experiments and demonstrations, which has visited 13 events across the country during 2011, including the Manchester Science Festival, the Great Yorkshire Show, the Cheltenham Science Festival and Olympic trial events. Society staff and Meteorological Ambassadors contributed some 68 days to the roadshow.

The Society's Schools Corporate Membership category has now been abolished in order that all schools can freely access the benefits from the education programme. This means that we are now able to loan instruments to all schools. This summer, our Kestrel handheld weather stations have accompanied school expeditions to Greenland and the Himalayas. We are developing teaching resources to support our instrument loans.

The Society’s Head of Education, Dr Sylvia Knight, has begun giving weather specific training to PGCE geography students. Training days at Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU) and Oxford University have been very well received by students and course tutors and further sessions have been arranged for the coming academic year. Working together with the Geographical Association (GA), the Society hopes to reach many more students in the next academic year. Continuing Professional Development sessions have also been delivered to practicing teachers through events organised by the GA, the Institute of Physics and MMU. The Society’s education resources were promoted at the GA and the Association for Science Education’s annual meetings, and the Society has supported events at individual schools as well as talks for students arranged by the GA.

The Society awarded Internships to two teachers in 2011. They have both developed resources for geography teachers, focussing on teaching weather systems at Key Stage 3 and on using GIS to teach weather. In support of resources the Society has also published articles for schools in ‘Catalyst’, ‘Primary Geography’, ‘Geography Review’ and ‘Physics Education’. Teachers who have
expressed an interest in the education work of the Society now receive a half-termly email update informing them of events and new resources. We aim to be contacting 500 teachers in this way by the end of 2012.

The Meteorology Ambassador Scheme, now partly integrated with the National STEM Ambassadors scheme, continues to provide meteorologists for visits to schools and other school or public engagement events. As always, the number of requests for representation outstrips the support our Ambassadors can offer. We welcome offers from meteorology Students, early career researchers and other meteorologists to become Ambassadors.

The Weather Observation Website, developed in collaboration with the Met Office and in partnership with the Department for Education (DfE), collects and displays weather observations from anyone who wants to send them in. The purpose on the project was to create a public national resource, which amongst other things could be used to enhance the public weather warnings. The website was launched in June 2011 and to date has received an astonishing 12.5 million observations.

In 2011, we have worked together with the Met Office, the Royal Geographical Society, the Institute of Physics, the Geographical Association, OPAL, Abbey School in Reading, the University of Reading, the University of Oxford, Manchester Metropolitan University, the AstraZeneca Science Teaching Trust, the National Space Centre, the North East Climate Change Partnership, the North East Science Learning Centre, the London Grid for Learning and At-Bristol, amongst others.

MEETINGS, LECTURES AND CONFERENCES

A wide ranging programme of local, national and international meetings, lectures and conferences is a core activity within the Society and continues to facilitate communication and collaboration across the Society’s community. Meetings are made possible by the voluntary work of the organisers, the speakers and the Society’s Meetings Committee, as well as the dedication of the Society staff, and thanks goes to all who have contributed in 2011!

National Meetings
The aim of the National Meetings programme is to provide a varied and stimulating programme for discussion of topical matters on ocean and atmosphere weather and climate, providing an opportunity to bring together people from different academic, professional and non-professional backgrounds to interact on topics of common interest. The following meetings took place in 2011:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>January</th>
<th>Next generation modelling techniques for the atmosphere and ocean.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>Decadal Forecasting: Where are we now, where are we going, and how do we get there?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>Clouds and Earth’s radiation balance - observational evidence.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>Tropical convection: Observations and modelling from individual clouds to Tropics wide circulations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>Why aerosols matter: Advances in observations, modelling and understanding impacts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>Clouds and Precipitation: Classic papers and latest advances.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>Solar effects on global and regional climate.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Four of the Wednesday National Meetings (usually on the third Wednesday of each month) were held at Imperial College in London and four were held elsewhere across the UK. The March meeting was in association with the Institute of Physics and the Society’s Scottish Centre in the Edinburgh City Chambers and the AGM was held at the Bank of England in London, at the kind invitation of The Governor. The October meeting was held jointly with the European Meteorological Society at the European Centre for Medium-range Weather Forecasting (ECMWF) in Reading, and as part of the continuing series with a classic papers link, the November meeting was at the University of Reading.

### 2011 Summary Statistics from National Wednesday Meeting Feedback Forms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Content</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Quality of Presentation</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Level of Specialisation</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very Interesting</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>Consistently Good</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>Too Specialised</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reasonably Interesting</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>Mostly Good</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>About Right</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disappointing</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Patchy</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Too General</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There was a high level of positive feedback for the meetings again this year, and of the people that responded on the feedback forms, 99% regarded the meetings content to be very interesting (71%) or reasonably interesting (28%), 97% found the quality of presentations mostly (44%) or consistently good (53%), and 91% found the level of specialisation to be about right. Attendance was consistently as high as in the last few years.

### Average Attendance at National Wednesday Meetings

Two Saturday National Meetings were held this year:

**February**  
Understanding the weather of 2010.

**March**  
Meeting to mark the centenary of Captain Scott’s 1910-1913 expedition to the Antarctic.

The February meeting provided an annual summary of the weather of 2010, with a look at some of the underlying causes behind the weather events and impacts across the globe. The meeting, held...
at Jesus College in Oxford, was popular and will hopefully become an annual event. The March meeting was held at the Scott Polar Research Institute in Cambridge and was held jointly with the South East Local Centre and the History of Meteorology and Physical Oceanography Special Interest Group.

### 2011 Summary Statistics from National Saturday Meeting Feedback Forms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Content</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Quality of Presentation</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Level of Specialisation</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very Interesting</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>Consistently Good</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>Too Specialised</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reasonably Interesting</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Mostly Good</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>About Right</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disappointing</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Patchy</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Too General</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Below is a plot of the total number of attendees at both the Wednesday and the Saturday National Meetings. The blue bars indicate Wednesday Meetings and the red bars are Saturday Meetings.

### Average Attendance at National Saturday Meetings

![Average attendance graph]

### Total Attendance at National Meetings

![Total attendance graph]
The National Conferences
The Society supported the International Symposium on Weather Radar and Hydrology (WRaH) held at the University of Exeter from 18 to 21 April. The Symposium provided a forum for the exchange of experiences and ideas on the use of weather radar in hydrology, with emphasis on user applications of weather radar for flood forecasting and water management. This 8th International Symposium marks a return to the UK after 20 years of successful symposia across the world, beginning in 1989 at the University of Salford (UK) under the title “Hydrological Applications of Weather Radar” and subsequently convened in Germany, Brazil, USA, Japan, Australia and France.

The Society's biennial Conference was held at the University of Exeter, from 27 to 30 June 2011, in celebration of the 150th anniversary of the UK’s first public weather forecast. The conference had session themes on process interactions, model development and evaluation, prediction and predictability, and applications and impacts. Attendance was from across the UK as well as internationally, with contributions from more than ten different countries. A programme of world-leading invited speakers gave their reflections on key topics at the forefront of our scientific research and its impact on social science and public policy. Combined with poster sessions, an exhibition programme and a number of social events, the conference provided an engaging forum for communicating, discussing and debating the progress of weather and climate science.

The Student Conference followed the main Conference at the University of Exeter (sharing the final keynote session) and continued the success of this annual event, which was again well attended by both national and international PhD students. Delegates enjoyed speaker sessions, poster sessions and a range of social activities and careers talks.

Average Attendance at the Main and Student Conferences

Special Interest Groups and Local Centres
Many of the Local Centres and Special Interest Groups continue to be very active, with the number of meetings increasing over the last few years. This year over 50 meetings across the UK provided opportunities for sharing common interests and enthusiasm on a wide range of topics, from chasing tornadoes to modelling global climate change, weather photography to sea level rise, wind energy to geo-engineering and many more.
PROFESSIONAL ACCREDITATION

Supporting our purpose
Accreditation of individuals and organisations continues to support each of the Society’s long term aims, but in particular recognises excellence in people and in organisations; raises professional standards; and promotes careers in meteorology.

While the Society’s coherent accreditation framework demonstrates how its professional development and qualifications fit together and relate to the wider national and international frameworks, the Society’s members have voiced increasing interest in professional development and certification amongst other areas. Provision has been made within the accreditation process for those undertaking either a career break or on secondment in the UK. The Society is now recognised in European and UK law as both the Competent Authority and the Regulatory Body for Meteorology in the UK. As such, both Government and the Permanent Representative with the World Meteorological Organization look to the Society for independent recognition and regulation around training and professional development for UK meteorology and meteorologists. The changes to definitions, educational requirements, training, competences and professional developments announced by WMO Congress will be applied to the Accreditation Board’s activities over the coming year. Key workstrands are:

- A study to confirm the need for, scope of and possible development and implementation of a CMetTech scheme parallel to the existing CMet. A subsequent review of CMet to enable a more detailed analysis of the future requirement for CMet accreditation and CPD review.
- Further development of and extensions to the Society’s Vocational Qualifications based on the European Qualification Framework.
- Assessing and recognising the function and cost of the Society’s accreditation to maintain educational standards.
- Addressing how, if at all, the Society should be involved in accrediting the increasing number and variety of courses and provider institutions.
- Developing the function and applicability of CPD as a component of the Society’s qualifications for each of the categories of professional meteorologist described in the Society’s Accreditation framework by drawing upon examples and methodologies of CPD used by other societies and bodies.
- Assessing the viability of a mentoring and support scheme for those new to meteorology.

Review of Charter Qualifications
Following enabling work on the proposed new Chartered Meteorological Technician (CMetTech) qualification which will build upon WMO classifications, a draft Statement of Work has been prepared and is awaiting the outcome of a funding proposal prior to a tender being issued. This work will link to the Science Council’s new project to develop a technical register for ‘Science Technicians’. The CMetTech workstrand is seen as a precursor to a review of the existing Chartered Meteorologist (CMet) qualification which will consider: updates to the syllabus in relation to new WMO Technical Regulations and to cope with increase in joint degree courses; CPD reviews; eminent practitioner route; re-launch of the revised qualification; perception issues; and retention of CMet in retirement. As part of efforts to revitalise the perception of CMet, assessment panels were successfully convened outside of the HQ. The Society intends to repeat these panels at Institutes or Centres to help increase the numbers of chartered meteorologists we are able to accredited. Our goal is to reach 100 members accredited.

Sector Committee Working Group on Vocational Qualifications
The Sector Committee’s revised National Occupational Standard (NOS), unit-based syllabus for the Society’s vocational qualifications, and newly developed Units and Qualifications under the Government’s Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) have been well received. Further developments to the roles fulfilled by national and specialist bodies, such as the Society, in the
administration of vocational qualifications are a likely consequence of further changes to Sector Skills Councils and their funding. The more flexible framework offers a greater range of qualifications. More information will be available in the report for 2012 on the uptake of the new QCF courses.

**The Quality Standard Pilot Project**
The outcomes of the Society’s Pilot Project for the Quality Standard Project in 2009 were presented to Council in 2010. The Society’s Council and the Quality Council provided comments on the Pilot Project outcomes and a contract was let to complete the final stages of work, including a review of the financial viability of the standard. Following work to refine the model and to understand any liability for the Society, the project will be re-presented to Council in 2012 for a decision on operational implementation.

**Chartered Meteorologist (CMet) and FRMetS**
The work of the Course Evaluation/Continuous Professional Development Panel continued in assessing the CPD returns from CMets, evaluation of courses, and advising on applications for the use of the appellation FRMetS. This is summarised in the table below, which also provides information on the number of new applications for CMet and their outcomes.

<p>| 2011 Chartered Meteorologist (CMet) Applications |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Applications received in 2011</th>
<th>New accreditations granted in 2011</th>
<th>Accreditations refused/withdrawn/resigned in 2011</th>
<th>Applications outstanding at 31/12/11</th>
<th>Total number of CMets at 31/12/11</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CMet CPD Returns**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of returns reviewed</th>
<th>Number of returns not approved</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Applications for the public use of FRMetS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Applications for public use</th>
<th>Applications approved</th>
<th>Applications refused/resigned</th>
<th>Total numbers of FRMetS at 31/12/11</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>42</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>524</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<p>| 2011 Chartered Environmentalist (CEnv) Applications |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Applications received in 2011</th>
<th>New accreditations granted in 2011</th>
<th>Accreditations refused/withdrawn/resigned in 2011</th>
<th>Applications outstanding at 31/12/11</th>
<th>Total number of CEnvs at 31/12/11</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Course Evaluation Panel has also renewed the accreditation of courses from the University of Plymouth and University of East Anglia as providing the minimum level of knowledge required by a CMet.

**Chartered Environmentalist (CEnv)**
The Society ended its membership of the Society for the Environment (SocEnv) at the end of 2011 and as such its license to award Chartered Environmentalist also came to an end. All existing CEnvs were provided with support to transfer their accreditation to another awarding body.
Acquired Rights and WMO 258 Accreditation
The Society remains the UK’s regulatory body for recognition of Aviation Meteorological Forecasters against the requirements laid out in WMO 258 (Guidelines for the Education and Training of Personnel in Meteorology and Operational) for direct entrants and the waning number of applicants utilising the “Acquired Rights” route for those “joining the profession” before the standard was introduced. The Accreditation Board acts on the Society’s behalf, overseeing the processes employed by other organisations to ensure compliance, rather than undertaking any direct testing of individuals as competent meteorologists. Numbers recognised as complying with WMO 258 are summarised in the table below, which also provides information on the number of new applications for WMO 258.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WMO 258</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of new applications in 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The World Meteorological Organization will review these requirements during 2012 and lay down new guidelines in its Technical Regulations (WMO 49) on the education and training requirements for Aviation Meteorological Forecasters and the relationship to WMO Meteorologist and WMO Meteorological Technician. The UK is expecting to be compliant with these new regulations by December 2013 and until that time the Society will keep in place its current scheme for recognising when meteorologists comply with WMO 258.

**SCIENTIFIC PUBLISHING**

**Introduction**
The Scientific Publishing Committee oversees the Society’s journal portfolio. Its long-term aim is to grow the circulation and use of the Society’s journals and books, increase the contribution that journals and books make to the charitable work of the Society, and place the journals in the top five most respected internationally (by Impact Factor and reputation) of their respective categories.

The Scientific Publishing Committee has focused significantly in 2011 on streamlining the production process, delivering journal content to the wide range of readership and enabling open access publication in Society journals. Below are some of the more specific highlights from the work of the Society’s scientific publishing programme.

**Quarterly Journal**
The Impact Factor for Quarterly Journal in 2010 was an outstanding 2.97, a substantial increase from 2.52 in 2009 and 2.05 in 2008. This follows a number of initiatives the Editorial Board made to ensure the impact factor remains high. A special issue on advances in the understanding of convective processes and precipitation over low-mountain regions through the Convective and Orographically-induced Precipitation Study (COPS) appeared in January 2011. The following special sections were included within regular issues: Geostationary Earth Radiation Budget Intercomparison of Longwave and Shortwave radiation (GERBILS) (July A); IPY-THORPEX (October A), Clouds and Precipitation in Data Assimilation (October B).

The number of submissions remains high (314 in 2011), with a rejection rate of 20-25%. The number of Associate Editors has been increased to handle the growth in submissions over the last few years.

**International Journal of Climatology**
In 2011 the journal published 15 issues with Special Issues on Marine Climatology, Urban Climatology, and Review Articles on the Urban Climate and the West African Monsoon. The journal Impact Factor in 2010 was 2.47, up on the previous two years. The journal remains the largest of
the Society's journal publications with 2,370 pages published in 2011 and an increase of 1% in content over the past 3 years. Dr Chris Kidd stepped down from the journal as Book Editor in 2011 following his move to the US.

**Atmospheric Science Letters**
The journal was awarded an impact factor for the first time for 2010 of 1.43, a major achievement which reflects very positively on the growing international recognition of ASL. The strategy of the journal is to increase its impact factor to 2 in the next three years. A total of 85 papers were submitted in 2011, and 58 articles were published. A small number of papers are taking a long time to review and the Editorial Board worked closely with the production team to address this in year. An African Monsoon Multidisciplinary Analysis (AMMA) special issue was published and a short geo-engineering issue was produced. After an extended term of office with the journal, the current Editor-in-Chief, Dr Alan Gadian, will be seeking a replacement in 2012.

**Meteorological Applications**
The journal maintained its improved impact factor from 1.40 in 2010 and 1.46 in 2009, up from 0.58 in 2008. The total number of submissions in 2011 was 157, in-line with previous years. Four issues were published, with one special issue on sensing the weather, published in September 2011 with guest Editors A. Ghelli, L. Chapman, C.G. Collier, C.H. Power and P.J.A. Burt. Dr C Coelho (National Institute for Space Research, Brazil) and Dr H Cloke (King's College London), joined the Editorial Board, and Dr John Curtin completed his tenure on the Board.

**Weather**
Weather has now has its first Impact Factor of 0.58. There were two special issues: in May the 65th anniversary of Weather; and in July, Climate perspectives and public perception. The series From Observations to Forecasts continued, with no. 14 published in December. There is one remaining article in this series. The average time to receive a review is 4-5 weeks, but finding reviewers for specialist subjects is getting harder. The supply of material has been declining over recent years, in particular Letters. The Board has been asked to be more proactive in writing and soliciting articles.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Journal</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quarterly Journal</td>
<td>2.04</td>
<td>2.89</td>
<td>2.05</td>
<td>2.52</td>
<td>2.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Journal of Climatology</td>
<td>2.33</td>
<td>2.61</td>
<td>1.97</td>
<td>2.34</td>
<td>2.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atmospheric Science Letters</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>1.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meteorological Applications</td>
<td>0.45</td>
<td>0.59</td>
<td>0.58</td>
<td>1.46</td>
<td>1.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weather</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>0.58</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews (WIREs) Climate Change**
WIREs Climate Change is a review journal from Wiley-Blackwell co-published jointly by the Royal Meteorological Society and the Royal Geographical Society (with the Institute of British Geographers) which was launched in January 2010. The first formal impact factor will be calculated in Summer 2012.

At present the majority of the submissions are by invitation, but as the journal becomes more recognised, more potential authors are approaching the journal to express an interest. Six issues are published each year with between 10 to 12 review articles, and these have now been organised into on-line special collections. It is recognised that the reviewing process is an onerous one and the journal publishes the names of its reviewers in the first issue of the year as a way of publicly acknowledging the time they have given. Prof Mike Hulme continues as Editor-in-Chief, supported by a team of 14 executive domain editors, 6 of whom have changed in the last 12 months as their
terms of office have come to an end. The journal is seeking to develop more on-line ‘special collections’ and also to commission groups of 2 or 3 articles on the same or related topic, but written from different perspectives to help reveal contested and challenging areas of climate change. It is also hoping to encourage authors and reviewers from a broader range of countries.

The Society Book Programme

Acknowledgements and special thanks
The Committee would like to thank all the Editors and their Editorial Boards and the staff both at the Society’s headquarters and at Wiley-Blackwell for their hard work and support to this comprehensive programme of work.

REPORTS FROM OTHER REPRESENTATIVE BODIES

Society for the Environment (SocEnv)

The Society is represented on the Board of the Society for the Environment (SocEnv) by Dr Bob Riddaway (the Society’s General Secretary) and Prof Paul Hardaker (the Society’s Chief Executive). During the year Paul Hardaker was a member of SocEnv’s Governance Review Working Group. The Group was put in place in order to accelerate the pace of change in SocEnv’s move towards a more streamlined and effective organisation.

Following the loss of their recent Chief Executive, the delays in recruiting a replacement, and the lack of progress on what the Society views as key strategic issues, including its governance framework, the Society resigned from membership of SocEnv. The Society formally left SocEnv at the end of 2011. Paul Hardaker continues to meet informally with the Chief Executives of the 6 founding bodies of SocEnv to maintain contact with the wider group of environmental societies.

Science Council

The Society continued, in 2011, as an active member of the Science Council. Prof Paul Hardaker (the Society’s Chief Executive) is an elected member of the Board of the Science Council and is Chairman of the Audit and Risk Committee. Paul Hardaker also serves on the Science Council’s Nominations and Remuneration Panels.

The Society and the Weather Club have been involved in the Science Council’s Hidden Science initiative to showcase Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) employment opportunities to those at the beginning or in their early career. The Society has helped to lead Science Council’s discussions on Open Access Publishing, and has contributed to the work on the development of a Technician Register. The Society has also worked with the Science Council on its contribution to the consultation on the National Curriculum for STEM, and Dr Geoff Jenkins (Chairman of the Society’s Education Committee) has joined the Science Council’s new Education Group.
General Aviation Safety Committee (GASCo)

There were three meetings of the General Aviation Safety Council in February, July and October. This is a change from previous years when there were four quarterly meetings; the reduction to three meetings has been generally welcomed.

This year was the first full year of GASCo taking over responsibility from the CAA for the Safety Evening seminars, which are held at around 25 airfield locations during the winter months. This required considerable preparation by the people involved and the appointment of regional officers in the north and south of the country to co-ordinate events. The project has generally been regarded as very successful by both GASCo and the CAA. Other safety seminars were held during the year on ditching techniques (with hands on practice!) and human factors.

Much discussion this year has focussed on pilot licensing changes expected to come about in April 2012 arising from the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) taking over the functions previously performed by JAA (the Joint Airworthiness Authorities). Inevitably matters have not progressed as speedily as originally anticipated and it now looks as if implementation will be spread over a two year period beginning next April. While the aim was to rationalise and eliminate national licence differences, in practice it has been accepted that this is not entirely achievable. For example, here in the UK for the last forty years or so, it has been possible for private pilot license holders to train for an instrument meteorological conditions rating (IMCr) which gives them some rights to fly in bad weather conditions in controlled airspace and in particular the ability to make instrument approaches in such conditions. EASA have proposed a different limited instrument flying qualification for Europe wide adoption which while suitable for some parts of Europe does not address the usual sort of poor weather conditions we experience here. It has now been accepted in principle that the IMCr qualification should remain available for use in UK airspace, although the details of the exemption have yet to be finalised. This is a very welcome move as the IMCr has been shown over many years experience to have much enhanced private pilot safety in this country. While EASA are likely to endorse proposals which will encourage more private pilots to train for the full instrument rating by omitting sections of the theoretical syllabus relevant only to large commercial jet operations, obtaining a full instrument rating will still be beyond the time and financial constraints of the majority of private pilots.

UK Flight Safety Committee (UKFSC)

The UK Flight Safety Committee (UKFSC) is an unincorporated association of professionals dedicated to the improvement of Commercial Aviation Safety. The membership demographic is broad and includes the majority of the UK airlines, the UK Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), Air Accident Investigation Board (AAIB), National Air Traffic Service (NATS) and British Airline Pilots Association (BALPA). The Society’s adviser on the Committee contributes to improving commercial flight safety and efficiency through raising awareness and understanding of the impacts of meteorology whilst providing practical advice on operational services.

At 50,000ft above sea level, most business jets can fly above terrestrial weather (even Volcanic Ash Clouds), however, at this altitude as blue skies turn to black, even space weather impacts become increasingly important to understand. Safety Exchange Meetings involving all members and advisers are held every two months. At one such meeting in 2011, the Society presented a brief on the potential impacts of space weather on aviation, including navigation and communication systems. Space weather occurs as a result of the interaction of solar activity within near-earth space and the atmosphere; events can have indiscriminate, unpredictable and widespread effects on satellite systems as well as aviation capabilities. Solar activity is cyclical and fluctuates over an average period of eleven years. With a solar maximum approaching over 2012/2013 it was felt necessary that the awareness of the Commercial Aviation community should be raised. The full
impact on aviation carries a high degree of uncertainty and so the brief also enabled the Society to liaise with the UKFSC to collect reports of impact from airlines when indeed solar storms materialised over the year. The CAA is producing an Air Information Circular to help ensure flight safety during space weather events.

Terrestrial weather was not forgotten. Yet another Icelandic volcano erupted (Grimsvötn) which had the potential to threaten aviation safety. However, the whole aviation community and its partners had learned lessons from the 2010 eruption and a combination of tailored regulations and enhanced services meant that this eruption had significantly less impact. That said it proved an interesting point of discussion for the Society during the May 2011 safety exchange.

The Society’s representative also offers advice on numerous weather related issues, outside meetings, ranging from cold atmospheric temperature adjustments for altimetry to the age old threat of Cumulo-Nimbus/Thunderstorms for commercial aviation. The Society also presented on Meteorological Threat and Error Management at the annual Aero Expo and a related paper was published in the BALPA journal. A visit to the Met Office was facilitated for the UKFSC Chief Executive so as to raise awareness of the immense machinery that lies behind aviation meteorological services (including forecasts) ranging from science, technology and supercomputers through to 24-by-7 operational meteorologists and service managers.

**European Meteorological Society (EMS)**

**EMS Membership and Society Representation**

The European Meteorological Society (EMS) is now an Association of 35 Meteorological Societies from 29 European countries. In addition it has 30 Associate Members made up of National Meteorological Services (for example the Met Office, Deutscher Wetterdienst and Météo-France), international institutions (such as ECMWF and EUMETSAT), research and education institutions, and commercial companies. In the last year there was one new Associate Member: the Bulgarian Meteorological Society, presently organized as a “Meteorologists” section with the Union of Physicists in Bulgaria.

The Society has a permanent membership of the EMS Council. At present Dr Bob Riddaway is serving a three-year term as EMS Vice-President and is also Chairman of the EMS Editorial Board.

The following meetings have taken place:

**Annual Meetings**

The 11th EMS Annual Meeting (EMS11) and 10th European Conference on Applications of Meteorology (ECAM10) were held in Berlin from 12 to 16 September 2011. There were over 700 participants providing some 500 oral presentations and the display of over 300 posters. In addition, there were a variety of side meetings and a very successful forecasters’ workshop that was organized in collaboration with and financially supported by Eumetcal. Future EMS Annual Meetings will be as follows:
- **Annual Meeting 2012**. EMS12 will be held in Łódz, Poland, in conjunction with ECAC9, from 10 to 14 September 2012.
- **Annual Meeting 2013**. EMS13 will be held at the University of Reading, in conjunction with ECAM11, from 9 to 13 September 2013. The Society is already involved in preparations for the meeting.
An abstract processing fee of 30 Euro for EMS Annual Meetings will be introduced from 2012 onwards.

Other activities and developments

- **Website development.** The EMS website has been redeveloped. It now contains more information about the activities of Member Societies and Associate Members.

- **Support for meetings of Member Societies.** Arrangements for supporting events organized by Member Societies have been established. The EMS provided two Young Scientist Travel Awards for one of the Society National Meetings each year.

- **Europhotometeo’12.** The first European Photo Competition was a great success so another one was established in 2011. The jury consists of members of the EMS Council and the Presidents of the EMS Member Societies. The top ten ranked photos are displayed at the EMS photo gallery from April 2012.

- **Code of practice.** A code of practice concerning communicating knowledge on climate change to the public has been developed. This is available for Member Societies to ignore, adopt or adapt as best suits their situation.

- **Involvement of the private sector.** Discussions have been held with representative associations of manufacturers and private sector providers about how to increase their involvement in EMS activities.

- **Collaboration between the EMS and EUMETSAT.** Agreement has been reached about ways in which collaboration between EMS and EUMETSAT could be enhanced to support their scientific meetings.

- **Awards.** 14 Young Scientist Travel Awards were given for five events during the year.

Key appointments

- Dominique Marbouty (SMF, France) was elected as successor to Fritz Neuwirth (OeGM, Austria) as EMS President.

- Jean-Pierre Chalon (SMF, France) was elected as successor to Gerhard Steinhorst (DMG, Germany) at EMS Treasurer.

- Johannes Schmetz (EUMETSAT) was elected as successor to Dario Giaiotti (UMFVG, Italy) as Chair of the Awards Committee.

### International Forum for Meteorological Societies (IFMS)

The Society contributed to the Working Group on the development of the new IFMS website ([http://www.ifms.org/](http://www.ifms.org/)), and a new release went live in the autumn of 2011. The Society has provided content for this and also contributed to the review on sharing benefits of society membership offered the broad spectrum of meteorological societies.

The third meeting of the IFMS was held from 3 to 5 November in Xiamen, China, in association with the annual meeting of the Chinese Meteorological Society. The Society was represented by the President of the European Meteorological Society, Dominique Marbouty. The Society provided input to the Session on Journal Publishing.

The Society will host the next meeting of the IFMS in the UK in association with the EMS Conference at the University of Reading in September 2013.
REPORTS FROM LOCAL CENTRES

East Anglia Centre

Committee
James Dent (Chair and Treasurer), Marigold Penkett (Secretary); the Events’ Co-ordinator/Deputy Chair position is currently vacant.

The Society gratefully acknowledges the assistance of Mssrs Chris Bell and Steve Dorling of WeatherQuest in organisational support, and to Emeritus Prof Stuart Penkett for continuing to provide a room in the Department of Environmental Sciences for the Centre’s meetings.

Activities
The Centre held 6 meetings at which the attendance ranged between 12 and 30. Titles of meetings held during the year were:

- Saturday 26 March. Joint 1-day meeting with History Group. Talks and tour, Scott Polar Research Institute, Cambridge.
- Thursday 5 May. Cool Britannia – Snowier times in 1580—1930 than since, Iain Cameron (Author and Researcher).
- Thursday 16 June. Some novel approaches to short and long term weather forecasting, Piers Corbyn (Weather Action).
- Thursday 29 September. The Abberton Reservoir Development Scheme, Elizabeth Scott and William Robinson (Essex and Suffolk Water).
- Thursday 17 November. Temperature and Rainfall in East Anglia – trends, variations and changes since 1910, James Dent (RMetS East Anglia Centre).

The March meeting was a joint activity with the Society’s History Group. In August-September, James Dent learned of the closure of two long-running private weather stations in the Ipswich area. Negotiations with the holder of the Belstead Hall records, which go back to the early 20th century, led to these records being donated to the Chiltern Observatory Trust archive collection.

Finance
Income for the year was £600.00. Expenditure for the year was £606.82. The current funds in hand and at the bank are £60.93. A subvention from the Society of £600 will be applied for in 2012.

North East Centre

Committee
Dennis Wheeler (Chairman), Ken Cook (Treasurer) and Patricia Uttridge (Secretary).

Activities
During the year, the Centre held 9 meetings at which the approximate average attendance was 25. Titles of the meetings held during the year were:

- Friday 11 February. Ramblings of an amateur weather observer, John Goulding (RMetS North East Centre).
- Friday 11 March. The climates of Copley, Teesdale, Ken Cook (RMetS North East Centre)
- Friday 8 April. The use of models to understand climate change, Dr Julie Jones (University of Sheffield).
• Friday 13 May. The ACRE project: recovering old data for new climate studies, Dr Rob Allen (Hadley Centre).
• Friday 10 June. The Canny Mariner - Shipping Routes and Convergence Zones in the Age of Sail, Dr Clive Wilkinson (UEA/NOAA).
• Friday 14 October. Weather photography, Stephen Burt (RMetS South East Centre).
• Friday 9 December. Thar she blows: a sailor’s view of the wind, Dinah Molloy-Thompson (University of Cambridge).
• This year’s Gordon Manley Memorial lecture was held on 24 November presented by Prof Julia Slingo (UK Met Office) and the title was: “Society’s growing vulnerability to natural hazards and implications for geophysical research”.

Finance
Income for the year was £3,500. Expenditure for the year was £2,267.52. The current funds in hand and at the bank are £2,187.16.

North West Centre

Committee
Grant Allen (Chair), Hugo Ricketts (Secretary), Tom Choularton (Treasurer), Will Morgan (Web Officer), Geraint Vaughan (Officer), Jennifer Muller (Publicity Officer), Chris Lee (Meetings Officer).

Activities
During the year, the Centre held 5 meetings at which the approximate average attendance was 50. Titles of the meetings held during the year were:
• January. Tornado chasing on the Great Plains, Dr Lindsay Bennett (University of Leeds).
• March. Why do we care about Antarctic weather and climate?, Dr Andrew Russell (Brunel University).
• May. The Eyjafjallajökull volcanic eruption one year on – What did we learn?, Prof Geraint Vaughan (University of Manchester).
• October. Climate Change and Geoengineering, Dr Alan Gadian (University of Leeds).
• December. Meteorological research in the North West: A showcase by the regions PhD students, Gary Lloyd (University of Manchester) and Emma Ferranti (University of Lancaster).

The Centre came within a whisker of launching a weather balloon equipped with camera and radiosonde. However, a last minute failure of the CAA to provide clearance meant this had to be postponed. This event remains on the agenda for 2012 and the equipment is in place.

Dr Ricketts and Dr Grant attended two careers fairs at Altrincham Grammar School for Girls, and boys, respectively on behalf of RMetS, which were well-received.

Finance
Income for the year was £0. Expenditure for the year was £ 529.10. The current funds in hand and at the bank are £978.80.
Scottish Centre

Committee
George Meldrum (Chairman), Clive Brown, Dr Richard Essery, Prof David Fowler, Victoria Ingram, Alison McLure, Geoff Monk, Douglas Paterson, Marjory Roy, Dr Jonathan Smith, Dr David Stevenson, Michael Rogerson and Richard Tabony (Secretary).

Activities
During the year, the Centre held 6 meetings at which the average attendance was 24. Titles of the meetings held during the year were:

- Air quality and transport.
- Vegetation and snow.
- How resilient are upland renewable energy systems?
- OPAL climate survey: citizen science and climate change.
- A history of the Met Office.
- A new flood warning service for Scotland.
- Planning for tomorrow’s weather or future climate – how certain can we really be?

Other activities included:

- Summer visit to Whitelee wind farm on Eaglesham Moor.
- All day meeting held jointly with Edinburgh Napier University – Reducing the impact of emissions from aviation and shipping.

Finance
Income for the year was £1500.75. Expenditure for the year was £1755.24. The current funds in hand and at the bank are £381.38.

South East Centre

Committee
Stephen Burt (Chairman), John Pears (Secretary), Prof Paul Hardaker (Committee Member).

Activities
The South East Centre held eight meetings and two jointly-arranged external visits during 2011, as shown below. Our average attendance during 2011 was 45. The Centre normally meets at 7pm on the final Wednesday in the month in Reading Town Hall (Blagrave Street, RG1 1QH, 2 min walk from the railway station). All are welcome and there is no charge for meetings.

During 2011, meetings held were as follows:

- Wednesday 26 January. The science of dispersion modelling and its application to animal welfare, Noel Nelson (Met Office).
- Wednesday 23 February. Scotland’s semi-perennial snowfields, Iain Cameron.
- Saturday 26 March. Visit to the Scott Polar Research Institute, Cambridge to mark the centenary of Captain Scott’s expedition to the Antarctic – a joint meeting with the RMetS History Group.
- Wednesday 27 April. Storm chasing, Paul Knightley (Meteogroup).
- Wednesday 6 July.  Skies of the Unexpected: In Search of Unusual Clouds, Richard Hamblyn (UCL Environment Institute).
- Wednesday 28 September 2011.  From Cloudspotting to Wavewatching, Gavin Pretor-Pinney (Founder of the Cloud Appreciation Society).
- Wednesday 26 October.  Never far from controversy – the history of the Met Office 1854-2010, Malcolm Walker (Chairman of the RMetS History Group).
- Wednesday 14 December.  Atmospheric research from balloons – Research Radiosondes, Keri Nicoll (University of Reading).

The Centre offers grateful thanks to all the speakers who have provided an interesting and varied programme, and to the Society’s staff who provide all the ‘behind the scenes’ work to enable the Centre to run its activities.

**Finance**
The Centre does not charge for meetings - meeting costs are currently covered directly by the Society.

**West Midlands Centre**

**Committee**
Dr Ian D Phillips (Chairman).

**Activities**
During the year, the Centre held five meetings. The approximate average attendance was 27 (36 in January, 18 in February, 21 in February, 36 and 26 respectively at two meetings in March). The titles of the meetings held during the year were:

- Measuring and predicting sea level changes, Prof Philip Woodworth (Proudman Oceanographic Laboratory, Liverpool).
- The influence of weather conditions on the spread of Bluetongue Disease, Dr Christopher Sanders (Institute for Animal Health, Pirbright Laboratory, Woking, Surrey).
- The Exceptional Hailstorm at Ottery St Mary in Devon in October 2008, Nick Grahame (Operations Centre Guidance Unit Manager, Met Office, Exeter).
- The British Meteorological Office at HQ Bomber Command during the Second World War, Brian Booth (Former Chief Forecaster at RAF High Wycombe, the Defence Meteorological Centre, Headquarters Strike Command).
- The Spatial Coherence of European Droughts, Dr Simon Parry (Hydrologist, Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, Wallingford, Oxfordshire).

All meetings will take place in Room 125 of the Geography Department at Birmingham University. A 500 word summary of the academic content of each meeting has been placed on the RMetS website.

**Finance**
Income for the year was £500. Expenditure for the year was £244.36. The current funds in hand and at the bank are £492.25.
Yorkshire Centre

Committee
Dr Lindsay Bennett (Chair), Dr John Hughes (Secretary), Dr Victoria Smith (Treasurer), Dr Sarah Norris (Advertising Secretary), Ann Rook, Dr Dorian Speakman, David Cherry, David Tupman, Dr Jim McQuaid and Prof Doug Parker.

Activities
The Yorkshire Centre continues to grow in strength and numbers. A formal committee was elected in September to share the responsibility of running the Centre. The committee consists of both University of Leeds researchers and members of the Centre external to the university. The meetings continue to be hosted by the School of Earth and Environment at the University of Leeds.

During the year, the Centre held 7 meetings at which the average attendance was 26. Titles of the meetings held during the year were:

- 6 April. Flash floods, hail, lightning, microbursts -- the physics of thunderstorms, Prof Alan Blyth (National Centre for Atmospheric Science, University of Leeds). Attendance of 28.
- 5 May. The challenges for 21st Century Meteorology - for the science and the scientists, Prof Paul Hardaker (Chief Executive of the RMetS). Attendance of 20.
- 21 September. North African Meteorology and field observations over the Sahara Desert, Dr Cathryn Birch (School of Earth and Environment, University of Leeds). Attendance of 23.
- 20 October. UK Airborne Science: A brief history via the Sahara, Borneo and the M25, Dr Jim McQuaid (School of Earth and Environment, University of Leeds). Attendance of 19.
- 15 November, Climate Change and Crops, Prof Andy Challinor (School of Earth and Environment, University of Leeds). Attendance of 39.

The Centre now has its own website hosted through the University of Leeds listing both past and future talks (http://www.environment.leeds.ac.uk/see/research/yorkshire-centre-of-the-royal-meteorological-society/).

Finance
Income for the year was £500. Expenditure for the year was £94.02. The current funds in hand and at the bank are £405.98.

The following Local Centres have nothing to report this year:

East Midlands Centre
South West Local Centre
REPORTS FROM SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Aviation Meteorology

Committee

Activities
During the year, the Group held one meeting at which the attendance was 7. The meeting covered the topics: “Lessons learned”: pre-Christmas winter storm of 2010; and Lightning and airport ground operations: aspects worth informing of and training.

Quarterly newsletters, starting from the third quarter of 2011, to SIG members summarized news and issues for discussion during the quarter. In addition a Facebook page for the SIG was developed in order to allow non-RMetS members the chance to know the SIG exists and spark interest in the field. The page links to the RMetS SIG Aviation Meteorology page, thereby also exposing both the SIG and RMetS to potential new members.

Contacts have been made with the American Meteorological Society's Aviation, Range and Aerospace Meteorology committee, in particular an exchange of information regarding aviation meteorology issues common to the two societies. The Canadian, Italian and Swiss Meteorological Societies have also been contacted future liaison with the aviation meteorology SIG.

Finance
Income for the year was £0. Expenditure for the year was £0. The current funds in hand and at the bank are £0.

Data Assimilation

Committee
Peter Jan van Leeuwen, Keith Haines, Mike Fisher, Matt Martin, Bruce Ingleby.

Activities
During the year, the Centre held two meetings at which the approximate average attendance was 80. Titles of the meetings held during the year were:

- Wednesday, 9 March 2011. Use of ensembles in data assimilation, University of Reading,
- Friday, 8 July 2011. Ocean Observations and Data Assimilation, the Met Office, Exeter.

Finance
Income for the year was £0. Expenditure for the year was £0. The current funds in hand and at the bank are £0.
History of Meteorology and Physical Oceanography

Committee
Malcolm Walker (Chairman), Graham Bartlett, Brian Booth, Margaret Deacon, Alan Heasman, Joan Kenworthy, Martin Kidds (Secretary), Julian Mayes, Howard Oliver, Sarah Pankiewicz, David Pedgley, Dennis Wheeler, Mick Wood (Treasurer). Glyn Hughes and Joan Self from the National Meteorological Library and Archive were also co-opted onto the committee during the year.

Very sadly our longstanding committee member Vernon Radcliffe died in July, after a long and courageous battle with cancer.

Activities
The approximate membership of the Group for the year was 80. During the year, the History Group held four meetings at which the approximate average attendance was 50. Titles of the meetings held during the year were:

- Saturday 26 March 2011. Polar meteorology, the Scott Polar Research Institute at Cambridge (to mark the centenary of Scott's polar expedition). Included a tour of the enhanced facilities at SPRI: considered a great success enjoyed by all – 50 attended and with positive feedback.
- Tuesday 21 June 2011. Thames Barrier visit, including a full technical tour of the Barrier, (meeting organized jointly with RMetS South East Centre). A great success enjoyed by all – 22 attended.
- Saturday 24 September 2011. The use of aircraft in meteorology (Centenary) Part 1: to 1930s, Farnborough Air Sciences Trust (a museum of meteorological and aviation; this meeting marked the approximate centenary of the decision to establish the first airfield meteorological office). Described as an excellent meeting – 18 attended and gave positive feedback.
- Wednesday 16 November 2011. Cloud Physics, University of Reading, a RMetS National Wednesday meeting organized by the History Group (to mark the Centenary of the invention of the cloud chamber by C.T.R. Wilson). Another popular meeting among the student body in particular, over 100 in attendance.

On the recommendation of the Group’s committee, Prof Eric L Mills was awarded the Society’s biennial Jehuda Neumann Memorial Prize for 2010 at the Society’s awards dinner on 29 June. The prize commemorates the work of Prof Jehuda Neumann (1915-1993) on the relationship between weather and historical events and is awarded for an outstanding contribution to the study of the history of meteorology or physical oceanography during the preceding five years. Eric is a Canadian oceanographer and historian of science and the group recognised his recently published book on the history of scientific work on ocean circulation, The Fluid Envelope of our Planet; how the study of ocean currents became a science (University of Toronto Press, 2009).

Three newsletters were published during 2011, distributed to members and available via the RMetS website. The newsletter continues to include a number of substantial articles and has become a key part of the Group’s activities and the subject of much favourable comment. The assistance and support of the Society in printing and publishing this newsletter is greatly appreciated.

The Group’s Occasional Papers continue to be available via the RMetS website and copies are also held at the National Meteorological Library in Exeter. One new contribution was published by the Group during 2011, Occassional Paper No. 10, Weather and Phenological Observations at Hurstpierpoint 1859-1862, Hugh Thomas – see http://www.rmets.org/about/history/index.php.

In addition Malcolm Walker has brought many years work on a comprehensive history of the Met Office, from its foundation to the beginning of the twenty first century, to completion during the year. This was published as a book by Cambridge University Press in 2011.
The Group continues to maintain on behalf of the Society a list of anniversaries of significant developments in the history of meteorology and physical oceanography.

Finance
Income for the year was £990.71. Expenditure for the year was £1,515.75. The current funds in hand and at the bank are £1,637.50.

Meteorological Observing Systems

Committee
Steve Colwell, Suzy Bingham, Mike Brettle, Mark Dutton, Stephen Burt, Ian Strangeways, Keri Nicoll, Dick Saffell, David Bullock.

Activities
During the year, the Group held two meetings at which the approximate average attendance was 38. Titles of the meetings held during the year were:
- Measuring surface meteorological variables using satellites.
- Transmission, presentation & archiving of meteorological data.

Other activities of the Group included:
- The AGM and a visit to observing equipment manufacturers exhibition.
- The Spring 2011 and Autumn 2011 Newsletters.

Finance
Income for the year was £424.33. Expenditure for the year was £180.19. The current funds in hand and at the bank are £4261.56.

Physical Processes

Committee
There are no Committee Members.

Activities
During the year, the Group held two meetings at which the approximate average attendance was 35. Titles of the meetings held during the year were:
- Cloud Parametrization in Large-scale Models.
- Polar Meteorology.

Finance
Income for the year was £0. Expenditure for the year was £0. The current funds in hand and at the bank are £0.
Weather Service Providers

Committee and Finance
This Group is administered centrally from the Society Headquarters, and there is no formal Committee or Funding in place. The Group meets informally as required.

Activities
During the year the Group met twice:

- In April the Group had a presentation from the Public Weather Service Core Customer Group Secretariat and a breifing session from the Permanent Representative with WMO (John Hirst, the Chief Executive of the Met Office) ahead of the meeting of Congress. The Group had an opportunity to discuss the work of WMO and highlight any areas of interest and importance for the Weather Service Provider community.
- In May members of the Group were invited to the Society for a working session to review the proposed Protocol for the BBC Weather Test. Those that attended provided a response to the BBC consultation on behalf of the Group.

The following Groups have nothing to report this year:

  Atmospheric Chemistry  
  Dynamical Problems  
  Satellite Meteorology and Oceanography

The following Groups are currently looking for volunteers to run them. If any members would like to help with either of these they should make contact with the Chief Executive in the first instance through ‘chiefexec@rmets.org’.

  Association of British Climatologists  
  Weather Forecasting
MEMBERSHIP OF COUNCIL  
(TRUSTEES OF THE SOCIETY)

Patron:   HRH The Prince of Wales, HonFRMetS

From 1 January to 30 September 2011 the constitution of the Council was as recorded in the Annual Report for 2010.

From 1 October 2011 the following Council held office:

PRESIDENT  
Prof Tim Palmer, DPhil, DSc, FRS

VICE-PRESIDENTS  
Prof Matthew Collins, PhD, FRMetS  (also Chair, Strategic Programme Board)  
Prof David Schultz, PhD, FRMetS  
Prof Joanna Haigh, DPhil, FRMetS

VICE-PRESIDENT FOR SCOTLAND  
George Meldrum

GENERAL SECRETARY  
Bob Riddaway, PhD, FRMetS  (also Chair, House Committee)

TREASURER  
Alan Radford

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN  
Richard Forbes, PhD  (Meetings Committee)  
Geoff Jenkins, OBE, PhD  (Education Committee)  
Derek Swannick, FRMetS  (Accreditation Board)  
Emily Shuckburgh, PhD, FRMetS  (Scientific Publishing Committee)

ORDINARY MEMBERS OF COUNCIL  
Jennie Campbell  
Richard Griffith  
Keith Groves, FRMetS, CMet  
Shanti Majithia, FRSS, FRMetS  
David Marshal, PhD, FRMetS  
Jennifer Rourke, PhD  
Oliver Wild, PhD  
Curtis Wood, PhD, MinstP

EX-OFFICIO MEMBER OF COUNCIL  
John Hirst, UK Permanent Representative with WMO
MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2011

The Committees listed below are the standing Committees of the Society. Membership of other sub-committees, working groups and similar ad hoc bodies are not detailed.

Accreditation Board
Cdr Derek Swannick (Chair)
Dr Andrew Eccleston, Ian Davy, Dr David Grimes, Dr Alan Hisscott, Ewen McCallum, David Richardson, Dr Bob Riddaway (ex-officio).

Awards
Prof Tim Palmer (President and Chair)
Dr Mark Baldwin (co-Editor, Quarterly Journal), Prof John Thuburn (co-Editor, Quarterly Journal), Dr Peter Burt (Editor, Meteorological Applications), Prof Mat Collins (Nominated Vice-President), Dr Alan Gadian (Editor, Atmospheric Science Letters), Prof Jo Haigh (Vice-President and President-elect), Prof Peter Lynch, Prof Glenn McGregor (Editor, International Journal of Climatology), Dr Adrian Simmons, Dr Neil Wells, Dr Andy White.

Education
Dr Geoff Jenkins (Chair)
Steve Brace (Representative of the Royal Geographical Society), Dr Roger Brugge, Barry Evans (Teacher from Hinchingbrooke School), Dr Katherine Giles, George Meldrum, Colin Prowse (Teacher Fellow), Dr Bob Riddaway, Paula Richardson (Representative of the Geographical Association), Gerard Rourke (Primary school teacher), Taj Bhutta (Representative of the Institute of Physics), Karl Shepherdson, Martin Sutton (Teacher), Jane Varley (Representative of the Met Office).

Meetings
Dr Richard Forbes (Chair)
Dr Karen Aplin, Dr Caroline Bain, Amanda Maycock, Natalie Harvey (Student Representative), Dr Alison Rudd, Dr John Marsham, Dr Stuart Webster, Dr Hilary Weller, Dr Claire Walsh (resigned during year).
Representatives of Special Interest Groups and Local Centres are also invited to attend.

Scientific Publishing
Dr Emily Shuckburgh (Chair)
Dr Peter Burt (Editor, Meteorological Applications), Dr Alan Gadian (Editor, Atmospheric Science Letters), Prof Glenn McGregor (Editor, International Journal of Climatology), Mr Bob Prichard (Editor, Weather), Prof John Thuburn (co-Editor, Quarterly Journal), Dr Mark Baldwin (co-Editor, Quarterly Journal).
Representatives of Wiley-Blackwell are also invited to attend.

Strategic Programme Board
Dr Matthew Collins (Chair and nominated Vice-President)
Alan Radford (Treasurer), Dr David Carson (Retired as Treasurer during the year), Dr Bob Riddaway (General Secretary), Jennie Campbell (Council Representative).

House
Dr Bob Riddaway (Chair)
Dr David Carson (Retired as Treasurer during the year), Alan Radford (Treasurer), Prof David Schultz (Vice President), Dr Emily Shuckburgh (Chair of Scientific Publishing).
OTHER REPRESENTATIVES APPOINTED BY COUNCIL

Atmospheric Science Letters
Editor: Dr Alan Gadian
Associate Editors:

International Journal of Climatology
Editor: Prof Glenn McGregor
Regional Editors: Prof Andrew Comrie, Prof Nigel Tapper
Associate Editors:

Meteorological Applications
Editor: Dr Peter Burt
Reviews Editor: Dr Lee Chapman
Associate Editors:

Quarterly Journal
Editors: Dr Mark Baldwin and Prof John Thuburn
Associate Editors:

WIREs Climate Change
Editor: Prof Mike Hulme
International Advisory Board:
D Carson, A Goudie, M Munasinghe, T O’Riordan.

Associate Editors:

Weather
Editor: Bob Prichard
G Anderson (Photo Editor), L Baker, A Charlton-Perez, B Hall (Weather News Editor), J Hirschi, S Moseley (Letters Editor), N Pepin, H Roberts (Book Review Editor), J Rothwell, J Webb.

theWeather
Editors: Mark Riddaway and Dr Liz Bentley
Associate Editors:
V Richardson, C Finney.

Book Programme Editors
European Editor: Dr Peter Inness
Americas Editor: Prof William Beasley

Course Evaluation and Continuous Professional Development Panel
Andrew Eccleston (Chair)
Norman Lynagh, Dr Peter Jonas, Rob Varley.

Representative with the UK Flight Safety Committee
Rob Seaman

Representative with the General Aviation Safety Committee
Anthony Bowles

Representative with the European Meteorological Society
Dr Bob Riddaway

Representatives on Board of the Society for the Environment
Dr Bob Riddaway, Prof Paul Hardaker

Representative with the Science Council
Prof Paul Hardaker

Representative with the International Forum for Meteorological Societies
Prof Paul Hardaker
WITHOUT WHOM

During the year the following Officers and Council members retired from office with our grateful thanks. Their successors are shown above.

Norman Lynagh, Vice-President
Prof Julia Slingo, OBE, President then Vice-President
Dr David Carson, Treasurer

The Society depends heavily on the valuable and unstinting work done each year by those who hold voluntary office. The Society would like to record its grateful thanks to all of those who give up their time and who contribute with great dedication to the work of the Society. The Society could not achieve all that it does without the kind support of all of its volunteers – thank you.

STAFFING AT THE SOCIETY

The Society has a secretariat that supports the day-to-day running of the Society and carries out its executive functions. A detail of the secretariat team and the organisational structure is shown below.

Sarah Grintzevitch returned to the Society from maternity leave in November 2011, and Rachael Fordham and Georgina Lea both left the Society during 2011.
Appendix 1: BACKGROUND TO THE SOCIETY

The British Meteorological Society was founded in 1850 and was incorporated by Royal Charter in 1866. In 1883 the name was changed to the Royal Meteorological Society. A separate Scottish Society had existed from 1855, but in 1921 was merged with the Royal Meteorological Society. The Society is a United Kingdom Charity with a national and international reach and reputation.

The Royal Charter states that the Society was established “for the advancement of Meteorological Sciences”. That remains the aim of the Society and includes advancement of applications of the science and related sciences, including climatology and climate science, the interaction between the atmosphere and the oceans, and environmental awareness. Copies of the Society’s Charter and By-Laws are available on request.

The Society’s Annual Report and Annual Accounts are submitted to the Annual General Meeting by the Trustees, the Society’s Council, who are elected or re-elected each year at the Annual General Meeting. The Annual Report illustrates activities during the year which reflect Council’s policies in pursuit of the aim of the Society.

The Royal Meteorological Society (Registered Charity No 208222):

Address: 104 Oxford Road
Reading RG1 7LL

Telephone: 0118 956 8500
Fax: 0118 956 8571
E-Mail: chiefexec@rmets.org
WWW: http://www.rmets.org

Bankers: Lloyds TSB Bank plc
PO Box 1000
BX1 1LT

Solicitors: Bristows
100 Victoria Embankment
London, EC4Y 0DH

Auditors: Porter Garland
Portland House
Park Street
Bagshot, Surrey

Investment Advisors: Rathbone Investment Management Ltd
159 New Bond Street
London, W1S 2UD

By-Laws (July 2011) 82 and 83 read:

82 The monies of The Society which are not subject to any specific trust purpose, and which are not required to meet current expenditure, may be invested in any securities quoted in the official list of any recognised Stock Exchange or placed on deposit with a reputable organisation. Council may only delegate its powers to select and make investments to the extent permitted by the provisions of The Royal Charter and the relevant legislation governing responsibilities of Trustees and Charities\(^1\).

83 The Society’s premises shall not be sold or disposed of except with the sanction of a General Meeting of The Society.

\(^1\) Reference should be made to Part IV, Section 11(3) of the Trustees Act 2000.
Appendix 2: POLICY STATEMENT ON THE ROLE OF THE RESERVES

Principal Objectives
The principal objectives of the Society’s reserves are to maintain and make use of capital reserves to ensure the:

- viability of the Society on a year-by-year basis and in the long term as an assurance against significant financial risks;
- medium- to long-term development of the Society’s aims and objectives.

Background and Introduction
The Society derives its primary annual income from a combination of members’ subscriptions, sales of publications, and income from investments. The Society holds three types of investments: Tangible Assets, a General Reserve and a Legacies Fund. Council first approved the policy on management of these two last items on 5 December 2001 and this is kept under regular review.

Historically the only major demand (> £100,000) on the reserves has been the purchase of the Oxford Road Headquarters, pending the sale and resolution of the problems with the previous Headquarters (James Glaisher House, in Bracknell). Other demands have been comparatively small (~£50,000 spread over several years) and relate to upgrade of the IT equipment, aside from the capital loan (of £350,000 conditional on achieving business plan targets) made to establish the Weather Club in 2010.

The medium- and long-term investment strategy of the Society has been formulated by Council, is overseen by the Society’s House Committee and is being implemented by the Chief Executive, who reports to Council four times a year. This policy statement provides guidelines on how the reserves may be used inter alia to fund non-recurring costs resulting from proposals in the Society’s strategic development programme and to mitigate the major risks of the Society. Individual items of expenditure are presented for Council approval in the normal way.

The Annual Budget
The annual budget covers the income and expenditure of the Society in all its activities, including the reserves. Council sets the budget for the Society and at each meeting receives a forecast of out-turn against the budget. For the purpose of the management accounts, the budget and in-year reporting are broken down into two parts: the General Activities, which relate to the day-to-day operational work of the Society and includes items such as the maintenance of Tangible Assets for example; and the Development Activities, which define the Society’s income and expenditure related to its strategic development programme.

The General Activities will normally be budgeted to balance. The budget for the Development Activities will be set by taking account of the gains on the reserve available for investment in the Society’s charitable objectives. This is informed by the Charity Commission’s guidelines on the ratio of annual turnover to capital reserve.

The Reserves - Tangible Assets
Tangible assets, which comprise the premises, the furnishings and equipment are essential for conducting the business of the Society and are an effective way of providing “rent free” accommodation. These will be routinely maintained primarily through the annual budget at a level appropriate to provide accommodation and facilities to support the normal operational activities of the Society. This includes committee meetings, but not necessarily the regular Society meetings and conferences. Major changes to tangible assets would be funded on a case-by-case basis through the General Reserve and could include external contributions (for example an appeal).
The Reserves - The General Reserve
The role of the General Reserve is basically to provide a degree of financial robustness to the long-term survival and mitigation of the major risks of the Society. In line with the Society’s Risk Register and the Strategic Development Programme requirements, the General Reserve will:

- provide some resilience against “single event” failures, for example a significant failure of a large conference (~£100,000);
- allow front-loaded strategic spend-to-save measures (~£200,000);
- allow some “one-off” expenditures on an opportunistic basis (~£100,000);
- allow a recovery period for significant changes in the income/expenditure balance (~£150,000);
- create a margin for medium-term market fluctuations (~£100,000).

For this model to work at these sorts of levels over a long period the fund needs to have a topping up mechanism. This has to be through income or growth in the market. This gives a target value of the General Fund and the Legacies Fund together which is approximately equivalent to the annual turnover of the Society.

The Reserves - The Legacies Fund
The policy for this fund is to protect and grow it. Subject to this policy, capital gains and dividends are used to support, in a sustained manner, benefits primarily to individuals through Grants, Awards and Bursaries. More details on these funding schemes are available on the Society’s website at ‘www.rmets.org/activities/awards/grants/index.php#legacies’.

The number and level of grants and bursaries will be determined by the level of available funds and by second priority call on the General Fund.

The Investment Policy
The Management of Investments
The Council, advised by the House Committee, is responsible for overseeing the Society’s investments. At present the management of investments is delegated by Council to a professional Fund Manager. The House Committee reviews performance of the Fund Manager twice a year and Council reviews investments normally quarterly, but at least annually. The choice of Fund Manager is kept under annual review in line with performance and the Society’s investment requirements.

Choice of Investments
Investments may be made in cash deposits, property, gilts, bonds and equities in such proportions as to endeavour to maximise the total return to the Society over the longer term, typically a period of the Society’s Strategic Plan, in order to deliver the required investment for the Society’s strategic development programme and to mitigate the Society’s major risks. To this end investments should not be held in companies whose activities are contrary to the aims of the Society or its social, environmental and ethical responsibilities as the Professional Body and Learned Society for Meteorology.

Where investment is made in equity shares, these should be mainly in FTSE-100 companies and no purchase of a single equity should represent more than 5% of the total portfolio value. This guideline excludes shares held indirectly through, for example, Investment Trusts, where there is already an underlying diversity. If any one holding reaches 20% of the value of the portfolio a partial sale should be considered. The portfolio should be diversified over both market sectors and geographic markets, and no one sector should represent more than 25% of the total portfolio value.
Cash Flow Requirements

Council, when considering the budget, will identify the likely demand for withdrawing funds from the investments over the next financial year and this will be communicated to the Fund Manager so that they are able to anticipate the requirement for sales of investments whilst maximising profits and minimising losses. Any surplus cash on deposit may also be transferred at any time to the Fund Manager for investment at the discretion of the Society’s Head of Finance and Administration.