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# Circulation

The Quarterly NCAS Newsletter

# 8

## Welcome

Welcome to the NCAS newsletter. I hope everyone had a lovely easter break. This quarter we have a bumper newsletter for you. Thanks for reading.

Felicity

## AfCLix

### Weathering the drought in Africa

Close to 19 million people in sub-Saharan Africa are threatened by severe food shortages, partly due to variations in the weather. Our understanding of meteorology is improving all the time, but can science really help the people at the sharp end of Africa's weather? Ros Cornforth from NCAS at Reading University decided it could and tells us about the AfCLix project in an article featured on Planet Earth Online.

More than four million people in sub-Saharan Africa are currently malnourished. Rapid population growth, poor infrastructure, weak governance, recurrent conflict, environmental degradation, low food production and high dependence on rain-fed agriculture all threaten food security.

Lurching between floods and drought, the weather is another significant factor for food security. Our understanding of weather and climate is improving all the time and, as a meteorologist, I wanted to turn these scientific advances into practical solutions for African communities, to help them survive and even thrive despite the uncertain climate. But my colleagues and I were unsure what weather information people needed, or what channels to use to exchange expertise. So in 2010 I secured a travel scholarship to go to Africa and start to find out.

To read more check out the full Planet Earth Online article. <http://planetearth.nerc.ac.uk/features/story.aspx?id=1382>

## Prizes

### & Congratulations to

Jonny Day was awarded the University of Reading, Faculty of Science Research Endowment Trust fund Best Research Output Prize.

Paul Williams won a Leverhulme prize. For more information visit <http://www.reading.ac.uk/news-and-events/releases/PR476779.aspx>. Paul also received the Royal Meteorological Society's Michael Hunt Award.

Tim Woollings received the Royal Meteorological Society's L F Richardson Prize. To find out more about the RMetSoc awards visit - <http://www.rmets.org/rmets-award-winners-2012>

Jonny, Paul and Tim are all from the University of Reading.

Ed Hawkins has been appointed to the Scientific Steering Group of the World Climate Research Programme's CLIVAR programme.

## Have your say

Got news? New NCAS staff member starting? Published a paper? Want to nominate a Scientist to be featured in a profile? Got an idea for a feature for the Newsletter? Having a meeting, seminar or talk? Please contact Felicity. The for submissions to the next newsletter is the 23rd June. Please send information to [felicity.perry@ncas.ac.uk](mailto:felicity.perry@ncas.ac.uk)



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Atmospheric Science**

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