

# Society news

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## Proposals for a new Quality Kitemark for Weather Services

During June the Society put its proposals for a new weather services quality kitemark out to consultation amongst the community. This received a very positive response from both customers and suppliers of weather services. The Society held a day workshop in Reading, kindly hosted by Scottish and Southern Electric, to present the results of this consultation back to the many organizations that had contributed. The next phase of this work is to put together the proposals for a pilot programme this autumn that takes on board the many comments received.

## Count your Carbon Footprint on the website

The Society has recently put up a link on its website to a Carbon Calculator, so follow the link and let us know what you think about your Carbon footprint. <http://www.rmets.org>

## Meteorological classics available on the Society's website

A total of 27 classics of meteorological literature have been scanned and are available on the RMets website. The URL is as follows: <http://www.rmets.org/publication/classics/index.php>

## International Year of Planet Earth

The United Nations has designated 2008 the International Year of Planet Earth. The aim of this initiative is to demonstrate new and

exciting ways in which the Earth sciences can help future generations meet the challenges involved in ensuring a safer and more prosperous world. Two major programmes will support the achievement of this aim. Firstly, an Outreach Programme consisting of educational and public information ventures and a Science Programme which concentrates on the 'big issues' of interaction with the Earth system and its long-term sustainability. The initiative will seek to raise awareness of the contribution to, and role of, the Earth sciences in society in the minds of politicians, decision-makers, the media and the general public. The Royal Meteorological Society is looking at ways that the meteorological community can support the programmes. You can read more about the International Year of Planet Earth on the following website link: [www.yearofplanetearth.org](http://www.yearofplanetearth.org)

## Reading climate researcher joins the crucial Crucible

Dr Paul Williams, a Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) Fellow at the University of Reading, has been chosen from amongst hundreds of applicants to participate in the prestigious Crucible Programme, designed to encourage the brightest young researchers to take risks and embark on groundbreaking collaborations.

The programme, run by The National Endowment for Science, Technology and

the Arts (NESTA), is now in its fourth year and has proved to be a massive success.

Crucible 2007 sees social scientists join their science and technology peers on the programme for the first time. The two groups are very rarely given the opportunity to work together and it is hoped that groundbreaking collaborations will grow out of their meetings.

Dr Williams, who is based in the University's Department of Meteorology, commented: "I am thrilled to be taking part in Crucible. Climate change is the major problem of our time and climate researchers writing scientific papers that are read only by other climate researchers will not solve it. I firmly believe that climate scientists must engage directly with researchers from other disciplines if the climate problem is to be solved. I am delighted that the Crucible Programme is helping me do just that."

## Archive content from RMets journals digitised for Earth and Environmental Sciences Backfile Collection.

The archive content of *International Journal of Climatology*, *Quarterly Journal of the Royal Meteorological Society* and *Meteorological Applications* has recently been digitized for inclusion within Wiley Earth and Environmental Sciences Backfile collection.

The content for *International Journal of Climatology* dates back to 1981 and con-



Dr Paul Williams (right) discussing his research with Prof. David Cope, director of the Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology

tains over 1,830 articles, whilst that for *Meteorological Application* dates back to 1994 with 138 articles.

The *Quarterly Journal of The Royal Meteorological Society* backfile dates back to 1871 (130 years of content) and contains over 6,000 articles and 120,000 pages of content.

The complete Earth and Environmental Backfile collections include 26 journals including other prestigious titles such as *Geological Journal*, *Hydrological Processes* and *Journal of Quaternary Science*. The total number of articles exceeds 30,200 contained within 313,860 pages. The RMetS backfile collection will soon be available to all RMetS members through the new website in the coming months. Updated information will be provided on this project shortly.

## Society Receives Award



The Society recently received its award from the UK Flight Safety Committee recognizing more than 20 years of service and support to the committee. Dr John Stewart continues his unstinting service as the representative of the Society on the Committee.

## Hartwell House Visit

The Meteorological Club is a dining club long associated with the Society and its scientific meetings. The Club began in 1907 as a group of scientists who would come together around the time of Society scientific meetings and discuss topical areas of meteorology. The tradition has continued and the Club still meets today, celebrating its hundredth anniversary this year.

To mark the occasion, the Club has arranged several events through the year, one of which, in August, included a visit to



Officers of the Society and Meteorological Club members in the library of Hartwell House during their recent visit.

and lunch at Hartwell House, near Aylesbury in Buckinghamshire (<http://www.hartwell-house.com/>), where the Society was founded in 1850. The house is now a hotel, restaurant and spa. Those who visit the House will see a plaque on the wall at the entrance to the library marking the occasion of the formation of the Society.

The Club invited the Officers of the Society to join them for the event, where Malcolm Walker, Chairman of the History Group, gave an excellent talk on the historical connections between the Society, the Club and Hartwell House, which he entitled 'Meteorology, the Society and the Club'. The talk is available on the Society's website at <http://www.rmets.org/pdf/metclubhartwellhouse.pdf>

## Summer Visit to the Centre for Alternative Technology

This year's summer visit was held at the Centre for Alternative Technology, located

just outside Machynlleth in Powys, Wales. Despite the early rain, those who attended enjoyed the very diverse range of alternative technologies in action. As well as being an interesting visitor attraction, the centre had lots of information about how the different technologies worked and practical examples employed by the small community of residents who live in the heart of the centre.

Exploring the site you find examples (to name only some of the wide range of activities) of biofuels, solar water heating, wind turbines, new Photo Voltaic technologies, a wide variety of environmentally friendly building technologies, organic gardening, waste water management and recycling, and even a worm theatre. A particularly interesting mode of transport was the Water Balanced Cliff Railway.

You can find out more about the centre at <http://www.cat.org.uk/> – it's well worth a visit and you get a discount for travelling by public transport.



Interested visitors at the Centre for Alternative Technology.