

Society news

Geographical Association Meeting

Sylvia Knight, Head of Education Services, and Catherine Muller, Public Engagement Programme Manager, attended the 2015 Geographical Association Conference on 9–11 April to represent the Society and its support for weather and climate education. The conference, which had an overarching theme of 'Making an Impact', was attended by more than 750 delegates from all over the world, who took part in a range of lectures, workshops and field visits.

The Society had a stand at the event, which contained lots of weather and climate related resources, information and ideas for both primary and secondary school education. The stand proved very popular with teachers seeking support for weather and climate elements of their geography teaching. A lecture on *High Impact Weather: from Health to Transport* was also given by Catherine Muller and was attended by approximately 50 teachers.

More information about the conference itself can be found at <http://www.geography.org.uk/cpdevents/annualconference/>. The presentation can be found at <http://www.metlink.org/high-impact-weather-health-transport/>



Hoskins@70

To celebrate Sir Brian Hoskins' 70th birthday, a two-day conference will be held in the Palmer Building on the University of Reading's Whiteknights Campus, in June 2015. The main content focuses around the

present and future challenges in weather and climate dynamics, to foster discussion on where this branch of meteorology is heading, and to highlight the most critical aspects upon which the future of this science is grounded.

Attendance is strictly by registration only, for which there will be a small charge (£21), which will cover lunches on Wednesday and Thursday and refreshments. The event is co-sponsored by the Society.

On the afternoon of Thursday 18 June (1400–1730h), there will be a Society National Meeting on the theme of Seasonal and Decadal Forecasting, at the same location. Registration will cover attendance at both Hoskins@70 and the National Meeting.

On the Wednesday evening there will be a celebratory meal, also on the Whiteknights Campus. This can also be booked via the registration site, and a further additional payment will be required (£50 including some drinks). Since space is strictly limited at this meal, we encourage early booking. Alan Thorpe and Ian James will give speeches at the meal.

To mark Hoskins@70, the *Quarterly Journal of the Royal Meteorological Society* is producing a special collection, price £28 (£22 for students), which comprises reprints of selected papers of Brian's that have been published in *Quarterly Journal*, including the famous 1985 paper on PV that has now been cited over 2000 times. Copies can be pre-ordered on the meeting web page and will be available for collection at the Hoskins@70 event, or to be posted to you. We also expect a small number of copies to be available for purchase at the event.

For more information, to view the programme and to register, or to order a copy of the special collection, please visit <https://www.rmets.org/events/hoskins70-meteorology-what-forecast>

New Welsh Local Centre

The Society are delighted to announce that a new Welsh Local Centre has now been set up, increasing the number of local centres to nine. The Welsh Local Centre will

officially launch in the autumn and will be run by Patrick Timko, who will organise and run local meetings and events. Like other Local Centres, it will be dependent on the active participation of members, so please get in touch with Patrick (p.timko@bangor.ac.uk) to express your interest in becoming involved.

More information about the Welsh Local Centre and upcoming meetings can be found at <https://www.rmets.org/about-us/local-centres/welsh-local-centre>

Membership development project

Over the next 3 years the Society will be looking to enhance membership and increase numbers by 20%. This will involve retaining current members and recruiting new members to join our community. There will be a number of membership development initiatives, including the utilisation of campaigns and bespoke marketing material to target specific groups, encouraging more students to join the society via local student ambassadors, increasing engagement with weather service providers and other businesses in order to drive up membership, reviewing membership categories and benefits, increasing professional accreditation up-take, highlighting and developing the careers support, interacting with the amateur community, improving our member communications in line with the new database, engaging with non-members who attend our national meetings, conducting promotional activities in line with our 165th anniversary and exploring reciprocal agreements with other societies in order to increase reach. Online communications and social media will play a major role and these channels will be utilised to support and promote all of these initiatives.

For more information about the strategic priority to grow membership and improve retention, please visit <http://www.rmets.org/strategic-priority-1-2015-2017-grow-membership-and-improve-retention>

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