

Diary of RMetS Work Experience
By Joshua Talib

Monday 6th July

Beep beep, beep beep, the alarm clock rang at twenty past six ready for a long and hectic journey to Reading. Being a brummie (from Birmingham) I have to travel all the way to Reading by train. Joy! The crowds, the workers and the people who just look lost. Never mind, I'm sure it will all be worth it.

As I left the Reading Station and walked into the centre of Reading I realise how Reading is a very large and diverse place. The Royal Meteorological Society building itself is not the average block of offices you would expect. It's like an old stately home with inside furnishings to suit all the past and present offices needs. The office corridors and stairs are decorated with photos and weather maps of famous historic people or events which give the homely touch which most societies don't have.

I was welcomed and given a well-needed tour of the society (from Liz) and I realised that this society is not all about the operational meteorological. It's about communicating to the public, what all the statistics mean in a fun and lively way which is the hard and tricky part of meteorology in my opinion. This can be through conferences and magazines which are sent to all its members. I was also welcomed to my work experience partner, Sonya. With the help, support and office space from Liz, we were told what our week involved from understanding the IT with Kathy, to attending a formal meeting about how we can get the general public interested in the Royal Meteorological Society.

We had an interesting chat with Paul and I began to find out what subjects I needed to continue at a higher level to become a meteorologist. I was quite amazed by the variety of jobs involved with meteorology varying with the MOD to small companies. We then started to research and create the article (for the RMetS website) about the recent and (hopefully) upcoming heat wave. I started basic research from newspaper articles (and there is a lot of them) and the Met Office website.

After the research we had a chat with Althea about the variety of members and what being a member meant. It involved a short and easy process to become a member and the rewards were impressive. We then plodded on to continue the research about heat wave and hopefully I and Sonya can produce a final article tomorrow.

After lunch, we then went to the attic (don't worry it's actually a nice office) to learn from Kathy about the IT resources of the RMetS. We produced different designs for the membership leaflets which persuade new members to come and join the Royal Meteorological Society. Sonya came up with an enthusiastic catch phrase of "Everyone's Welcome - Whatever the Weather". We then started to produce our designs on the computer (with the help from Kathy)

and hopefully we can finish of the designs and see the final product. Sadly we had to end the day, but Monday has been interesting and surprising to both me and Sonya. I can't wait for the workshop meeting and the radio broadcast in the forthcoming days. A great start to an enjoyable week.

Tuesday 7th July

Tuesday was a day of two halves. The first half involved sorting out feedback forms and tallying the opinions of attendants who took part in the RMetS conference which took place in the previous week. Some of the comments were quite humorous including "there was mould in the shower cubicle" and "it was too HOT, we need air conditioning". I was also told how the comments would be presented to the RMetS staff and how they would react to the comments.

The second half of Tuesday was interesting as I had never been apart of a formal meeting where I could state my opinion and add my own views. I felt like I contributed to Liz's workshop and hopefully I'll be able to attend her final workshop. The workshop was based on a new membership which is open to the general public.

The food at the workshop was very tasty with a selection of sandwiches and fruits. The people who attended the meeting were also nice including an American geography/geology teacher who had some interesting views. We first started to talk about the names of the new membership. The names that stood out to me included, "whatever the weather" and "world wide weather". However no names in the discussion really grabbed my attention. We then discussed about benefits which I found interesting but in my opinion I don't feel we crossed off types of benefits as it is hard as they all attract the public. Although we definitely had our favourites including a user generated website and a new magazine.

Overall, Tuesday has been a good day as I feel I have developed my relationships with members of the society more and started to learn the processes within the society.

Wednesday 8th July

The first thing we did on Wednesday was have a discussion with Alison about the publications that the RMetS produce. They come in all sizes, from the light weather magazine to the thick quarterly journal. Each of the journals however they are all equally important and interesting. Then the door bell rang and a meteorologist walked in to judge the photos that get sent to the society. Liz explained to him how the naming of a new cloud had got people fascinated and people were sending pictures of this new cloud. We had to narrow down the selection to our favourite ones which was tricky but we did narrow the photos to

about one fifth. My favourite photo was a cloud in the shape of a car. It was amazing.

After the photo selection, I and Sonya reviewed some weather books that Sylvia could then read and give advice to teachers about which books are best for their students. The books were very diverse and colourful with a variety of facts. My best book though was called "water", as it told me a variety of interesting and unusual facts in a fun and interactive way. We then went for lunch and I got to see my first sight of Reading.

After lunch we started researching the websites we could use for the new general public membership. I quite surprised that there was no [www.wc...](#) sites available for us to use. Then we went and chatted with Paul about what the radio broadcast will involve. Various topics were involved including heat wave, storms and the heat wave warning system. We came up with a simple set of bullet points that we can refer to when we are talking on the radio. We also had a discussion with Paul on what caused this sudden change in weather and why we got these small but chaotic floods. I'm really excited about the radio broadcast. I can't wait!

Thursday 9th July

We arrived at the society with loads of work to get done. We both started to finish our articles that would get sent onto the website. The seasonal forecasting can be very difficult to understand for the normal citizen and it was very hard for me to get my head around. Luckily I finished with confidence and very please that my work would go on the website.

Unlucky for us, BBC Berkshire decided to change the topic that we would talk about on the radio to the G8 meeting in Italy. The radio presenter believed it would be a good topic as we are the new generation who will cope with the effects of global warming. So we decided to do some quick research on the G8 meeting. I found various opinions for different countries when really we should be all trying our best to protect our environment.

Lunchtime! We decided to have a walk around Reading as I hadn't properly seen Reading City Centre. After lunch, we decided to finish our website checking and find the most suitable website for the general public membership. We then went to give a helping hand to Sue and check the chartered meteorologist forms and I found out how hard it was to become a chartered meteorologist. After that we had a job of sorting the spare items which came back from the conference that took place last week. There were calendars, leaflets, journals and other items which are located all across the society.

Then Paul arrived and we had a small chat about how confident we were about talking on the radio. We went through the points and went through possible questions the radio present could ask us. We caught a taxi to the BBC centre and I was quite surprised by the scenery around the BBC radio station.

There were fields and forests located around it giving it the outdoor feel. In Birmingham, I was used to the normal office room above a busy shopping centre that would get hot and sticky over the summer and you would get the local presenters moaning how they were stuck in this small room. We walked through the doors of the centre and all received our visitor badges, we then had to wait for Andy to send us to the radio room as the security was very strict. The radio room was not what I expected. Andy controlled what Phil could talk about and helped Phil out while he was presenting. Andy had jobs including the sports update and welcoming guests. Phil was very welcoming as we walked into the radio room and I noticed how when someone rang up the light would continuously flash so no noise was made. Very clever! We got told by Paul that when the live air light is on we shouldn't talk as our microphones are on. Oh no, I might sneeze, I might cough and destroy the whole show!

It was then our turn to talk and Phil and Paul had a short discussion about the G8 meeting and whether the limits were good and whether he believes that we would meet it. He then came to me (great) and asked me whether I think that global warming is approached properly. I didn't feel confidence but I had tons of fun and Sonya was a genius behind that microphone with comments which made us all laugh and give the radio feel. At the end of the chat we said bye to Phil and Andy and said a big thank you for all the opportunity.

Now getting to the train station was hard as the taxi didn't arrive so we had to ring Paul's wife to pick us up. We confirmed as lift with Paul's wife and then two taxis arrived. It was a funny watching Paul explain the whole story. Well, it was there own fault for being late.

We got to the train station with seven minutes to spare, tons of time in my opinion and I was really please we got a lift with Paul as they were both very friendly. A great day, with brilliant opportunities, thanks to Radio Berkshire and Paul for his time.

Friday 10th July

The last day of a long and tiring week, with various opportunities from the Society. Today was a wrapping up day as we finished off all our outstanding work and said a sad goodbye to the society. I never knew that the work environment was so lively and I can't wait till I am welcomed to the work community. We finished off our reviews and diaries and I hope that the Society has received something from Sonya and me as we have received tons of the Society.

I would like to thank the Althea, Liz, Paul, Kathy, Sue and Roy for a fantastic and lively week. This week has been a doorway of opportunities and I want to thank the society very much for this amazing week. Finally I would like to thank Sylvia

as she continuously sent me emails and emails confirming this amazing work
experience. THANKS ROYAL METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETY!

JOSH!