

150 years of weather forecasting

10.00

The history of the Met Office and weather forecasting

This talk explains the science of the weather forecast from its humble theoretical origins through to the complex modern day computerised forecast. It also highlights the leading role the Met Office has played in the development of weather forecasting in this, its 150th year.

Dr David Rogers
Met Office

11.00

Sir Gilbert Walker: a pioneer of modern day climatology

Sir Gilbert Thomas Walker (1868-1958) is best known as a pioneer of our understanding of the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) climate phenomenon. He also named and researched the North Atlantic Oscillation (NAO), and made major contributions to our knowledge about long-range weather forecasting. This talk attempts to do justice to this remarkable man.

Dr Rob Allan
Met Office

11.30

More than just weather: the modern day forecast

The modern day forecast is much more than just temperature, wind and rain. The Met Office produces forecasts for a wide range of customers from supermarkets to the NHS. This talk explains the science behind the modern day

Jonathan Heath
Met Office

14.00

Future meteorologists: the MetLink project

MetLink International is a web-based collaborative weather project. The project has developed since 1998 and now has over 300 participants in 46 countries who exchange weather data and analyse the observations with the help of meteorological professionals. This talk describes the project.

Dr John Harris
Radley College

14.30

The future accuracy of weather forecasts

Better observations, bigger computers and increased meteorological understanding all contribute to more accurate weather forecasts. This talk highlights the methods the Met Office uses to continually improve the forecast and how it monitors such improvements. It also attempts to predict how accurate the forecast might be in the future.

Sean Milton
Met Office

15.00

The future delivery of weather forecasts

We have come a long way since the days of magnetic symbols falling off maps of the UK. Today's weather forecast is delivered over a wide range of different media using state-of-the-art technology. But what will the weather forecast of the future look like?

Darren Bett
Met Office

15.30

Climate change: how are humans affecting the weather?

Anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases are warming the Earth. The physics of this warming is well understood, but what is the future magnitude of the warming and how will the warming lead to changes in the weather? This talk will reveal the latest predictions of future climate change.

Dr Met Collins
Met Office

ADHD: disorder of the mind or disorder of society?

ADHD (attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder) is a developmental disorder characterised by a difficulty with concentration, impulsivity and poor control of behaviour and attention. Up until relatively recently the diagnosis of ADHD was seldom made in the UK. This event considers the biological, social and environmental factors that contribute to ADHD and how they might be remedied.

Chair

Professor Maggie Snowling
University of York, Centre of Reading and
Lang usage

09.30

ADHD: does the evidence answer the controversies?

Increased medical diagnosis of ADHD raises public concerns: is there really a biological basis? Is society just less tolerant or has it lost control of its children? Can it be right to treat behaviour problems with drugs? The talk describes scientific progress in answering or reframing questions.

Professor Eric Taylor
Institute of Psychiatry

10.00

Diet and ADHD

It has often been suggested that food might contribute to hyperactive behaviour. A recently completed study of nearly 300 three-year-old children found such an effect for common food colourings and preservatives. These findings are presented and their possible implications for public health outlined.

Professor Jim Stevenson
University of Southampton

10.30

Coffee break

11.00

Understanding gender differences in ADHD

ADHD – like conduct disorder and reading disabilities – is much more common in boys than in girls. This seems not to be a question of referral bias – but does it reflect biology, differing social expectations, or that diagnostic criteria are better attuned to identify problems in boys than girls? This talk discusses these questions, and ways we might go about trying to answer them.

Dr Barbara Hughes
Institute of Psychiatry

11.30

Parenting and ADHD

Research evidence suggests that parents of children with ADHD demonstrate deficits in their parenting. Evidence that ADHD symptoms improve in some children once their parents participate in parent training reinforce these findings. However a series of recent studies investigating parent-child similarity suggest that parents with high levels of ADHD symptoms themselves and who have children with high levels of ADHD engage in more positive parenting. Professor David Daley
University of Wales, Bangor