

Irish Meteorological Society

Annual General Meeting, Thursday 7th October, 2021

President's Report

In the time since our last AGM, the activities of the Irish Meteorological Society have remained online-only, due to the continuing Covid-19 pandemic. It has been a difficult time for everyone, everywhere, and I would like to start by thanking all of you, the members of our society, for your continued support of the society, and participation in our activities.

The committee has worked very well through Zoom, and I think that Zoom has been a great way of delivering our talks. Not only have we been able to welcome audience members from different countries around the world, but we have also had speakers give talks from different countries. I believe that there is a real advantage in using this technology, and we plan to continue offering access to our talks through Zoom, even when we return to in-person events. I hope this will increase engagement from new members, who will not need to travel to a venue to enjoy our talks. I would like to thank all of the speakers who have contributed over the past year, and I look forward to our future talks. If you have a topic or speaker you would like to see, please do send us an email, and we will do our best to arrange it.

Unfortunately, we have not been able to enjoy some of our traditional activities, like the January table quiz, field trips, and conferences. I hope, as society continues to open up after the pandemic restrictions, that we will be able to offer all of these activities, and more! It is an exciting time, coming back to the real world with real people, and I would love to hear any suggestions you have for activities you would like your society to arrange. We are here to help!

Despite restrictions, there have been some great achievements in the past year. I would like to thank Declan Murphy and Paul Halton for the significant, ongoing efforts they have put into applying for charity status for the society. This has been, I understand, rather bureaucratic at times, and I am thankful to them for shielding the committee from that work. I am excited about the new constitution being presented at this AGM, and look forward to our society officially achieving charity status. This will make running the society easier, particularly for things such as insurance and banking requirements.

A second major achievement (apart from keeping the entire committee running smoothly) is the design of our new website irishmetsociety.org. I would like to give a great thank you to Séamus Walsh, who took on the massive task of transitioning from our old website, and designing our new one. Technology, and our requirements, have moved on from the time

our old website was created, and the new site will be much easier for the committee to run and maintain. Again, if you have any comments or suggestions, please let us know.

While our focus over the past year has been on keeping things going during the pandemic, we are now shifting focus to what we hope will be a brighter future. One of my main aims for the coming year is to raise the profile of our society, and to increase membership numbers, as well as the engagement of our members. This is your society, and I think that it has a lot to offer. Please help us to spread the word, to encourage new members, and most of all, if there is something which you would like to see your society do - let us know!

Finally, I would like to give my thanks to the committee members. They have all contributed greatly to the successful running of our society, and have helped in all that we have done. I would particularly like to thank Richard Coughlan, who is stepping down after many years of excellent service. Richard has been a brilliant source of information and advice, and the committee are very thankful to have had him support us throughout the year.

Now is the time for new committee members! We have space on the committee, we have members with great ideas and skills, and I would ask you to please consider joining the committee, bring your ideas to us, and help us to build a better Irish Meteorological Society over the time ahead.

Conor Sweeney

President, Irish Meteorological Society

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