

# theWeather Club



## Dr Liz Bentley

### Member of Royal Meteorological Society and Founder of theWeather Club

Liz Bentley is one of the world's leading weather experts. Former Chief Instructor of Forecasting at the Met Office College, she is the ultimate weather woman and climate change forecaster. Liz was BBC Weather Centre Manager before taking up the post of Head of Communications at the Royal Meteorological Society, when she founded the public membership organisation theWeather Club, in 2010, to promote an appreciation and understanding of the weather to people from all walks of life.

Liz Bentley born in Huddersfield in March 1968, grew up in Yorkshire where her interest in the weather began with her experiences of the changeable and extreme weather conditions of the Pennines.

Liz recalls her interest started at an early age waking up on numerous winter mornings when the snow was so deep you needed to dig your way to out of the house, and horizontal rain on wet and windy days meant she arrived at school with the front of her body soaking wet and the rest, bone dry.

Liz's interest in the weather became an obsession during her teens. A career in meteorology was an obvious choice before she'd even left school. Liz studied mathematics at Newcastle University, then after 3 years studying for a PhD in applied mathematics at the University of Manchester, she applied for a job with the Met Office. She was due to start work on Monday 13th December 1993 but this date was snowed off until the following week - just in time for the office Christmas Party!

She then began training in 1994 to be a **weather forecaster** at the **Met Office College** - the UK's meteorological training college based in Reading. She decided then that one

day she would become Chief Instructor at the College. But there were more complicated things to get her head around first. Like just what is a cold front and how do we predict minimum temperatures? After forecasting for the RAF in Oxfordshire, she headed East and didn't stop until she hit the coastal town of Shoeburyness. There she managed the weather unit on an **Army range**. The job included weather forecasting as well as **noise prediction**, something she had specialised in her PhD. Liz had her first child in 1997 and after returning from maternity leave she started work at the Met Office College as an instructor.

In 1995, she met **BBC Weather Centre** boss Bill Giles and told him that one day she would be doing his job. So when the post was advertised in 2002, she jumped at the chance to work at TV Centre in London. Liz took up her role as **BBC Weather Centre Manager** in 2002 until 2006. Her role meant she was in charge of a team of 30 Met Office employees (weather presenters) and had to manage the contract between the BBC and Met Office (provision of weather data, weather warnings and weather presenters).

In 2006 Liz started work in the **Ministry of Defence**, looking after their environmental research programme. This led Liz to look into everything from the seabed to space, and she fast became one of the UK's top **aviation forecast specialists**.

Then in 2008 she joined the **Royal Meteorological Society** as **Head of Communications**, and she retains this position. There, she founded public membership organisation **theWeather Club**, in 2010, to promote appreciation and understanding of the weather to people from all walks of life.

Liz currently lives in Reading with her husband James and two children George (13) and Amber (9) and likes spending time outdoors and experiencing the weather. She takes flying lessons, enjoys running and cycling and regularly part in 10K and half marathon races. She is also a keen gardener and has a vegetable plot in her garden.

[www.theweatherclub.org.uk](http://www.theweatherclub.org.uk)

**For more information, please contact Lydia Turner on 0207 467 9405 or email [Lydia.turner@edencan.com](mailto:Lydia.turner@edencan.com)**