

## Dr Sam Lavender reports on recent RSPSoc activities

I write this message from snowy UK in December. Unfortunately, the annual Geological Remote Sensing Group (GRSG) meeting has been disrupted by the weather and so we have a sparser meeting than would be normal. However, the content remains interesting and informative.

I attended the Thompson event (17 September) and said a few words at the end. It was well attended and clear why EH Thompson was held in such high regard. My comments were along the lines that photogrammetry is alive, but has changed in appearance as has happened also to remote sensing; the discipline has broadened and the techniques are used by those who wouldn't consider themselves part of the discipline.



Another interesting event in the same week as the Thomson event was the European Space Agency (ESA) hosted Oil & Gas (O&G) Workshop that had support from GRSG. The premise was to support more sustained dialogue between the O&G industry and Earth Observation (EO) community, a copy of presentations and the final report can be found at:

<http://earth.eo.esa.int/workshops/gasoil2010/index.html>

This may be reported elsewhere in the newsletter, but the ESA Envisat satellite lowered its orbit in October/November so that the mission lifetime can be extended; it's generally agreed that having gaps in time-series datasets is not good, but difficult to achieve as missions get delayed. Information on ESA's missions & third party mission activities is via a weekly newsletter that can be accessed at:

<http://earth.esa.int/object/index.cfm?fobjectid=5971> and subscribed to.

What I hadn't realised until recently is that once Envisat comes to the end of its mission it will remain in space as a very large piece of debris as there is insufficient fuel to de-orbit it.....

*Sam Lavender*

*chairman@rpsoc.org*