



The Institution of
Engineering and Technology

Lancashire and Cumbria Network



Programme

September 2025

Free to attend - all welcome

Professional Home for Life® for Engineers and Technicians

Website: <https://engx.theiet.org/local-networks/nw1>

Chairman's Introduction

Welcome to the newsletter of the Lancashire and Cumbria local network of the IET for the Autumn season of 2025.

For the Winter and Spring season just passed there has been being a varied set of lectures; highlights for me as Chair have been:

- As usual a series of well-attended lectures held in Barrow hosted by the IET with BDAE/PESC.
- Anne Morris, whilst she is our Treasurer, she is also very active in organising events; this has been recognised by IET Central by this article in their 'Community Insights' section: <https://engx.theiet.org/b/blogs/posts/volunteer-spotlight---anne-morris>
- A local branch 'Networking Event' with representatives from Industry, Academia and members which had theme of 'Digital Thread/Digital Twin' held this year in the impressive Engineering Innovation Centre in the University of Lancashire (previously The University of Central Lancashire / UCLan)
- The IET having a stand at the bi-annual Lancashire Science festival held over three days in May also at the University of Lancashire; see separate feature on this later in this newsletter.

The forthcoming season offers our usual variety of lectures from our usual space themed lecture held in September delivered by Dr. Robin Catchpole ('Are We Star Dust or Nuclear Waste?') being hosted in Lancashire and Cumbria to a lecture on the bicycle being hosted in Kendal.

Please note that in a slight update from our usual timing the Winter and Spring newsletter will be sent out in January as opposed to December.

On behalf of the Local Network Committee we hope to see you at our events.

Thanks,

Nigel Whitaker – Chairman

The Institution of Engineering and Technology - Lancashire and Cumbria Network

Date/Time	Event Title:	Venue	Organised by & Contact	Speaker	Synopsis
Tuesday 9th September 18:30	Are We Star Dust or Nuclear Waste?	Garner Hotel The Canberra Suite Preston New Road Samlesbury Preston PR5 0UL	Organised by: IET Contact: Mike Bell (Michael.Bell@ietvolunteer.org)	Dr Robin Catchpole Institute of Astronomy Cambridge University	Everything we see around us, apart from hydrogen and helium, was made in stars during the first two thirds of the life of the Universe. We will tell this story and show how the life of a star is also the battle of matter against gravity. A battle that matter loses with either a whimper, or an explosion that for a short while outshines a galaxy.
Wednesday 10th September 10:30		Wesley Hall Westby Street Lytham FY8 5LU	Organised by: IET/Lytham PROBUS Contact: Mike Bell (Michael.Bell@ietvolunteer.org)		
Wednesday 10th September 19:30		Barrow Town Hall Duke St Barrow-in-Furness LA14 2LD	Organised by: IET/PESC Contact: Anne Morris (anne.morris@ietvolunteer.org)		
Thursday 11th September 18:30		Lakes College Lillyhall Business Park Hallwood Road Workington CA14 4JN	Organised by: IET Contact: Artur Majchrowski (artur.majchrowski@ietvolunteer.org)		
Thursday 25th September 19:15	Use and Advantages of Electronic Detonators in Quarrying	Oak Room Castle Green Hotel Castle Green Lane Kendal LA9 6RG	Organised by: IET/KDES Contact: John Doffegnies (john.doffegnies@ietvolunteer.org)	Robin Gillespie Operations Manager Breedon Group Shap Blue Quarry	The use of electronic delay detonators (EDDs) versus traditional pyrotechnical detonators(Nonel) and the potential downstream benefits resulting from the use of this technology.
Thursday 25th September 19:30	Lithium Battery Testing for Electric Vehicles and PEDs	Barrow Town Hall Duke St Barrow-in-Furness LA14 2LD	Organised by: IET/BDAE Contact: Anne Morris (anne.morris@ietvolunteer.org)	Dan Howard Senior Project Manager Turner & Townsend	Join the whistle-stop tour exploring lithium-ion battery testing, covering everything from electric vehicles to handheld devices. Expect a fast-paced overview of the main hazards, essential techniques used in testing today and a glimpse into future developments.
Wednesday 8th October 19:30	Building of Barrow Docks 1860-80	Barrow Town Hall Duke St Barrow-in-Furness LA14 2LD	Organised by: IET/PESC Contact: Anne Morris (anne.morris@ietvolunteer.org)	Jean McSorley Local Historian	Maps never made public before, hidden details from Sankey photos, and background stories of the town's biggest ever construction project. The result of years of back-breaking work by thousands, the docks were a 'triumph of engineering' that would put Barrow on the world map.
Thursday 16th October 19:30	Wired for Innovation: Tornado's Journey from Field to Factory	Barrow Town Hall Duke St Barrow-in-Furness LA14 2LD	Organised by: IET/BDAE Contact: Anne Morris (anne.morris@ietvolunteer.org)	Rebecca Galley CEO Tornado Wire	Tornado Wire began life as a fencing contractor in the late 1960s and has grown into one of the UK's leading manufacturers of high-quality wire fencing, exporting worldwide from its base in Millom, Cumbria. In this talk, CEO Rebecca Galley shares the story of the company's evolution, from early innovation to the technical advances that continue to shape its products today. The talk will explore how Tornado Wire has embraced innovation and investment over the decades, and how it is positioning itself for future challenges in a global market. Rebecca will also reflect on her own path into the engineering sector, leading a manufacturing business without a traditional engineering background, and what that experience reveals about leadership, learning, and building trust in technical teams.
Thursday 23rd October 11:00	Pooley Bridge Replacement	Crooklands Hotel Crooklands Milnthorpe LA7 7NW	Organised by: IET Retired Members Contact: Suzanne Flynn (suzanne.flynn@ietvolunteer.org)	Anthony Mulligan Contracts Manager Eric Wright	Pooley Bridge is at the northern end of Lake Ullswater on the River Eamont which was crossed by a 250 year old stone bridge - until that was destroyed in the floods of Storm Desmond in 2015. This has now been replaced by a new bridge which was constructed on the river bank before being craned into place and was opened in 2020. The new stainless steel road bridge is the first structure of its kind in the country and cost £7M. There is an optional lunch at £30 pp.

For the latest news on local network activities please visit our website: <https://engx.theiet.org/local-networks/nw1>
We strongly recommend that you register to attend though the link on the website - this allows us to contact you if there are any changes to the advertised arrangements.

The Institution of Engineering and Technology - Lancashire and Cumbria Network

Date/Time	Event Title:	Venue	Organised by & Contact	Speaker	Synopsis
Thursday 23rd October 19:15	The Bicycle – Not All Bicycles Are Equal!	Kendal Suite Castle Green Hotel Castle Green Lane Kendal LA9 6RG	Organised by: IET/KDES Contact: John Doffegnies (john.doffegnies@ietvolunteer.org)	Rob Waller	Rob, a lifetime cyclist, will talk us through the geometry, materials, function and artistry of bicycle design which will make you look at “a bike” in a different way!
Monday 10th November 18:30	The First of the ‘Phabulous Phantoms’	Engineering Innovation Centre - UCLAN Room EIC317 Fylde Road Preston PR1 2XS	Organised by: IET Contact: Fred Eastham (frederick.eastham@ietvolunteer.org)	Dave Ward BAE Systems Heritage	This talk describes the evolution of the a jet fighter for the US Navy, the F4H-1 Phantom II, from the first concept in 1953, through the first flight in 1958 and then up to going into service with the US Navy. The talk covers just the first 47 aeroplanes. More than 5,000 Phantoms were eventually built. Slides show some of the changes to the airframe and also show some of the development activities these aeroplanes were used for. The talk also describes how these early Phantoms set world altitude and airspeed records, easily the best in its class at the time.
Tuesday 11th November 18:30	Present Around The Network	UCLAN	Organised by: IET Contact: Fred Eastham (frederick.eastham@ietvolunteer.org)	Several	Present Around The Network is a competition for Young Professionals and Students within engineering to develop and showcase presentation skills. Prize money of £150 (and 2nd prize of £100 subject to number of entrants) available to win. You don't have to be a member of the IET to enter but must be 18-30 years of age and be prepared to: - Deliver a 10 minute presentation on any engineering or technology related area - Enhance your knowledge - Develop your skills - Increase your profile and - Open doors for your career If you are thinking of entering, please drop the organiser an email. Supporters, and anyone else who wishes to join us, are welcome.
Wednesday 12th November 19:30	The Discovery of Pulsars	Barrow Town Hall Duke St Barrow-in-Furness LA14 2LD	Organised by: IET/PESC Contact: Anne Morris (anne.morris@ietvolunteer.org)	Dame Prof Jocelyn Burnel University of Oxford	This is a fascinating story of how a PhD student was instrumental in making one of the most important leaps forward in our understanding of the cosmos. But for her diligence and attention to detail the early signs could easily have been missed. Her example should inspire others to pursue their interests and overcome all the hurdles that they encounter on the way.
Wednesday 19th November 18:30	AI Empowered Renewable Energy Systems	Engineering Innovation Centre - UCLAN Room EIC317 Fylde Road Preston PR1 2XS	Organised by: IET Contact: Bill Wilcock (bill.wilcock@ietvolunteer.org)	Dr Xiandong Ma CEng, FIET, FHEA Reader in Power and Energy Systems School of Engineering Lancaster University	More energy will be produced by decentralised renewable sources, primarily driven by the need to reduce carbon emissions and mitigate climate change. The energy systems are becoming increasingly sophisticated, requiring innovative approaches and powerful tools to enhance their management and operation. Artificial intelligence (AI) has emerged as a game-changer in the energy sector in this regard. The talk will explain AI's fundamentals and key components of the AI systems. The talk will then present and demonstrate the latest AI-based tools developed at Lancaster University. It will address how they are used to help increase performance, efficiency, availability and reliability with case studies in smart grids, demand-supply energy management, predictive maintenance, renewable energy forecasting and smart homes.
Wednesday 19th November 19:15	Engineering Aspects of the Titanic	Kendal Suite Castle Green Hotel Castle Green Lane Kendal LA9 6RG	Organised by: IET/KDES Contact: John Doffegnies (john.doffegnies@ietvolunteer.org)	Julian Blackney	The speaker will cover the design choices made, the construction methods used and the choice of materials used in the building of the liner.
Thursday 20th November 19:30	Lifting the Lid on Complex Infrastructure Projects – What Does it Take to Successfully Enable the Start of a Complex, Civil Engineering Infrastructure Project Today?	Barrow Town Hall Duke St Barrow-in-Furness LA14 2LD	Organised by: IET/BD AE Contact: Anne Morris (anne.morris@ietvolunteer.org)	Martin Coles Director Turner & Townsend	A tour of what it takes to get a complex project to construction in the UK today – how solutions are selected, defined, refined and bought to the point of construction – Martin Coles has spent his whole career in the Civil Engineering Construction Industry, he knows and has experienced what it takes to get projects off the ground. He has spent 10 yrs working alongside National Highways developing national schemes through their project lifecycle and spent 2½ years at Heathrow Airport on the expansion programme, one of the largest privately funded programmes ever developed in the UK.

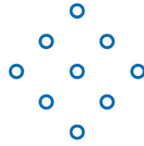
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Thursday 18th December 19:15	Design & Manufacture of Thermal Energy Meter Systems	Kendal Suite Castle Green Hotel Castle Green Lane Kendal LA9 6RG	Organised by: IET/KDES Contact: John Doffegnies (john.doffegnies@ietvolunteer.org)	Neil Parry Thermal Energy Heat System Design	Our speaker was the Technical designer for the UK manufacture of Thermal Energy Heat Metering Systems. The design included component selection, software writing and circuit board design. The speaker will discuss his experience working for a locally based manufacturer.
2026					
Wednesday 14th January 19:30	Explosive Investigations	Barrow Town Hall Duke St Barrow-in-Furness LA14 2LD	Organised by: IET/PESC Contact: Anne Morris (anne.morris@ietvolunteer.org)	Isobel Colclough Forensic Investigator	To Follow - details will be published on our website when they have been received
Thursday 29th January 18:30	What Are The Causes of Rail Accidents? The Investigation Behind the Report	Engineering Innovation Centre - UCLAN Fylde Road Preston PR1 2XS	Organised by: IET Contact: Bill Wilcock (bill.wilcock@ietvolunteer.org)	Neil Gove HM Inspector of Rail Accidents	Following on from his previous talk into what the RAIB does, Neil will start with a brief resume and then delve into actual investigations. These will include: Freight Derailment at Petteril Bridge Carlisle Grosmont Station Collision Edinburgh Waverley Sleeper Train Runaway
Wednesday 11th February 18:30	Raspberry Pi	Engineering Innovation Centre - UCLAN Fylde Road Preston PR1 2XS	Organised by: IET Contact: Bill Wilcock (bill.wilcock@ietvolunteer.org)	Pete Lomas Raspberry Pi Computer Creator	To Follow - details will be published on our website when they have been received
Wednesday 11th February 19:30	Airbus Wings	Barrow Town Hall Duke St Barrow-in-Furness LA14 2LD	Organised by: IET/PESC Contact: Anne Morris (anne.morris@ietvolunteer.org)	Chris Bennion , Head of New Airbus Wing Design IP Project	To Follow - details will be published on our website when they have been received
Thursday 19th February 19:30	Power System Monitoring in Critical Applications	Barrow Town Hall Duke St Barrow-in-Furness LA14 2LD	Organised by: IET/BDAE Contact: Anne Morris (anne.morris@ietvolunteer.org)	Gareth Brunton Managing Director Bender UK Ltd	To Follow - details will be published on our website when they have been received
Wednesday 11th March 19:30	Latest Design & Building Of Three Rolls Royce Small Modular Reactors	Barrow Town Hall Duke St Barrow-in-Furness LA14 2LD	Organised by: IET/PESC Contact: Anne Morris (anne.morris@ietvolunteer.org)	Prof Tim Abrams	To Follow - details will be published on our website when they have been received
Wednesday 22nd April 19:30	Carrier Strategy in the Pacific Ocean in WW2	Barrow Town Hall Duke St Barrow-in-Furness LA14 2LD	Organised by: IET/PESC Contact: Anne Morris (anne.morris@ietvolunteer.org)	Dr Scott M Lindgren Naval Historian	New date to avoid same week as BDAE. (Date was 15th April 2026) Please move the talk after BDAE talk on the 16th April.
Thursday 16th April 19:30	Cavendish Dock Floating Solar Project	Barrow Town Hall Duke St Barrow-in-Furness LA14 2LD	Organised by: IET/BDAE Contact: Anne Morris (anne.morris@ietvolunteer.org)	Kirsten Abbott Group Commercial Manager (Energy Generation and Storage) ABP	To Follow - details will be published on our website when they have been received

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Foothold

Supporting engineers

Play Make a Smile lottery and support fellow engineers and their families

Foothold has partnered with Make a Smile lottery to help raise vital funds for engineers and their families. Supporters can donate to Foothold whilst also having the chance to win cash prizes.

It costs **£1** per play, and you can choose to play every week or whenever you feel like taking a chance and doing something good.

There are **282** guaranteed cash prizes up for grabs each week. **1 x £1000, 1 x £200, 10 x £10, and 270 x £5**, plus a rollover of **£500**, that if not won rolls over to a maximum of **£25,000**.

[Play Make a Smile lottery here](https://www.makeasmilelottery.org.uk/partners/foothold)¹

To find out more about the partnership between Foothold and Make a Smile lottery

[Visit Foothold's website here](https://www.myfoothold.org/lottery/)²

Foothold's monthly webinar programme

Foothold offers a free webinar every month for the engineering community.

Expert speakers cover all sorts of subjects, from mental and physical health to personal finance and planning for the future.

So far, they've covered subjects as diverse as good gut health, imposter syndrome, ageing well, neurodiversity and money hacks for everyday savings. You can watch webinars back on-demand and get additional resources which complement the webinar topic.

[Browse all on-demand webinars here](https://www.myfoothold.org/how-can-we-help-you/on-demand-webinars/)³

Please note webinars are password protected and the password is: **wellbeing**

Next webinar: Building Resilience

Wednesday 24 September 2025

Join Foothold's next free webinar and learn how you can boost your wellbeing in the warm summer weather, from Vitamin D synthesis and skin health, to tasty summertime recipes.

[Sign up for the Building Resilience webinar here](https://www.myfoothold.org/how-can-we-help-you/webinars/building-resilience/)⁴

¹ <https://www.makeasmilelottery.org.uk/partners/foothold>

² <https://www.myfoothold.org/lottery/>

³ <https://www.myfoothold.org/how-can-we-help-you/on-demand-webinars/>

⁴ <https://www.myfoothold.org/how-can-we-help-you/webinars/building-resilience/>



The IET Stand – Constantly Busy

The Lancashire Science Festival May 2025

The Lancashire Science Festival is a biennial celebration of all things Science, Technology, Engineering, and Maths (STEM). The three-day extravaganza aims to enthuse, inform and inspire the next generation, with a spectacular showcase of the wonders of STEM.

Held at the University of Central Lancashire in Preston, this is the largest STEM event in the area with several thousand in attendance from schools and members of the public. The event is held over three days, with the first two for Schools only and the last day being open to the general public.

The IET Lancashire & Cumbria Local Network volunteers facilitated a very well attended interactive event stand using the IET educational resources, these were LED torch kits, hoop gliders along with a new resource “Micro:Bits & Bit:Bots”.

These resources aided our volunteers in keeping the visiting students and the general public entertained and engaged. The IET Local Network volunteers also had fantastic help from the UCLan Engineering student volunteers that provided energy that kept a real “buzz” throughout the three days.

Most schools have access to Micro:Bit computers however, there is only a small percentage utilised, this is perhaps down to a misconception of being too difficult and nerdy. One aim at the event was to demonstrate the use of the Bit:Bot and the Micro:Bit and how easy it is to have a very useful educational resource to hand. Festival volunteers Benjamin Finnemore and Louis Marchant UCLan Engineering students did a marvellous job in educating not just the students but the attending teachers and parents, the misunderstanding of the Bit: Bot and the Micro:Bit was overcome and in short, a success.

Over 200 CPD hours had been generated by this event alone and feedback was provided to the organisers to improve future events. At the venue, the Professional Institutions are co-located which enabled dialog and discussions, in addition a new joint activity will be organised for the next event with the Joint Institutions Group.

Our Local Network is very lucky to have great IET volunteers that provide their time and enthusiasm, an event such as this demonstrates our drive and commitment, of which I am very grateful and proud to be a part of.

Fred Eastham



Professional Development

As you are aware, it is a requirement of registration that professionally active members complete 30 hours of Continuing Professional Development each year – and this may be subject to audit!

To help you keep track of your CPD, the IET has a Career Manager available on the website. The link to CPD resources is:

www.theiet.org/career/professional-development

A group of UCLAN students who were recently presented with CPD certificates acknowledging their recent activities. The certificates were presented by Fred Eastham.

Bill Wilcock

Professional Registration Events 2025/6

In past years we have held free IET registration events with 1-1 sessions between potential applicants and an IET PRA (professional registration advisor). They have been successful and useful to those seeking to advance their qualifications, so we would like to continue these in the future.

The Lancashire and Cumbria Local Network covers a very wide area so our first problem is where best to hold them? Preston? Carlisle? Kendal? Or elsewhere?

The second question is how many people are likely to want to attend? Sessions would probably be in Spring and Autumn and are usually held with daytime and evening appointments.

Without your actually committing at this stage please could you let us know your views – where's best for you, would you attend, and when?

Contact one of the following:

pe.roberts@ietvolunteer.org

Artur.Majchrowski@ietvolunteer.org

Frederick.Eastham@ietvolunteer.org

Thank you.

Peter Roberts

Future Events

Present Around The Network

Present Around The Network is a competition for Young Professionals and Students within engineering to develop and showcase presentation skills. Prize money of £150 (and 2nd prize of £100 subject to number of entrants) available to win. You don't have to be a member of the IET to enter but must be 18-30 years of age and be prepared to:

- Deliver a 10 minute presentation on any engineering or technology related area
- Enhance your knowledge
- Develop your skills
- Increase your profile and
- Open doors for your career

If you are thinking of entering, please drop the organiser an email. Supporters, and anyone else who wishes to join us, are welcome. See the programme pages for details.

Contacts

Chairman

Nigel Whitaker
Tel: 07921 464062
nigel.whitaker@ietvolunteer.org

Treasurer

Anne Morris
Tel: 07793 426966
anne.morris@ietvolunteer.org

Community Secretary

Mike Bell
Tel: 07870 666917
michael.bell@ietvolunteer.org

Retired Members' Chairman

Suzanne Flynn
Tel: 01539 822510
suzanne.flynn@ietvolunteer.org

LN Education Volunteer (Lancashire)

Frederick Eastham
07990 998785
frederick.eastham@ietvolunteer.org

South Cumbria Convenor

John Doffegnies
Tel: 07759 269022
john.doffegnies@ietvolunteer.org

West Cumbria Convenor

Artur Majchrowski
Tel: 07929 846081
artur.majchrowski@ietvolunteer.org

Website and Programme Secretary

Bill Wilcock
Tel: 07784 266481
bill.wilcock@ietvolunteer.org

Social Media

David Gonzales
Tel: 07595 677721
david.gonzales@ietvolunteer.org

LN Education Volunteer (Cumbria)

Rachel Gleaves
07397 250609
Rachel.gleaves@ietvolunteer.org

IET Foothold

Bill Wilcock
Tel: 07784 266481
bill.wilcock@ietvolunteer.org

IET Staff

Senior Partnership Account Manager

Fiona Harvie
Tel: 07711 406376
fharvie@theiet.org

Local Network Manager

Julie Hudson
Tel: 01438 767285
jhudson@theiet.org

The Institution of Engineering and Technology

Futures Place, Kings Way, Stevenage, SG1 2UA

Social Media

X: @ietlancscumbria **LinkedIn:** www.linkedin.com/groups/2179430

Local Network Affiliated Organisations

The Lancashire & Cumbria network covers a vast area with diverse interests. We attempt to include the majority of talks organised by the organisations listed below in our IET and LinkedIn pages; however some events are posted only to the local organisation's events pages.

Below is a selection of the local subgroups and contacts:

Barrow and District Association of Engineers - www.bdae.org.uk

IMechE North-West - <https://nearyou.imeche.org/near-you/UK/North-Western>

Kendal and District Engineering Society -

www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=584696080327998&set=gm.550713739774041

Professional Engineers South Cumbria - <https://pesc.org.uk>