

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.

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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/BDAAE 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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