

# The Institution of Engineering and Technology - Lancashire and Cumbria Network

| Date/Time                     | Event Title:   | Venue  | Organised by & Contact  | Speaker   | Synopsis   |
|-------------------------------|--|--|---|---|--|
| Wednesday 14th January 19:30  | Explosive Investigations   | Barrow Town Hall<br>Duke St<br>Barrow-in-Furness<br>LA14 2LD   | Organised by: IET/PESC<br>Contact: <b>Anne Morris</b><br>(anne.morris@ietvolunteer.org)           | <b>Isobel Colclough</b><br>Forensic Investigator                    | Explosions present forensic investigators with some of the most challenging incident scenes encountered. This short presentation will provide an overview of the forensic processes involved in recording, recovery, analysis and interpretation of evidence associated with explosion scenes and devices. The evaluation of explosion scenes to determine the nature and composition of explosive devices will be considered alongside the technical and forensic exploitation of improvised explosive devices and indicators of involvement in device manufacture. |
| Thursday 15th January 19:15   | Major Deep Water Oil and Gas Developments Offshore West Africa                           | Kendal Suite<br>Castle Green Hotel<br>Castle Green Lane<br>Kendal<br>LA9 6RG                                 | Organised by: IET/KDES<br>Contact: <b>John Doffegnies</b><br>(john.doffegnies@ietvolunteer.org)   | <b>Tony Oldfield</b>  | The talk will cover several 'Mega Projects' over the last 20 years, each costing 6 to 10 billion USD, The focus will be on the specifics of one project in order to highlight elements of the challenges and technologies.   |
| Thursday 22nd January 19:30   | The Edwardian Steamboat: SL Shamrock – Messing about in Boats or Working Under Pressure? | Barrow Town Hall<br>Duke St<br>Barrow-in-Furness<br>LA14 2LD   | Organised by: IET/BDAE<br>Contact: <b>Anne Morris</b><br>(anne.morris@ietvolunteer.org)           | <b>Roger Calvert &amp; Helen Steeple</b><br>The Shamrock Trust      | This is the story of SL Shamrock – where she came from and where she is now, and the issues of restoring, maintaining and operating her. In particular, the talk will follow the various propulsion systems she has had over the years.  |
| Thursday 29th January 18:30   | What Are The Causes of Rail Accidents?   | University of Lancashire Engineering Innovation Centre<br>Room EIC317<br>24 Fylde Road<br>Preston<br>PR1 2XS | Organised by: IET<br>Contact: <b>Bill Wilcock</b><br>(bill.wilcock@ietvolunteer.org)              | <b>Neil Gove MEng</b><br>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:<br>Freight Derailment at Peteril Bridge Carlisle<br>Grosmont Station Collision<br>Edinburgh Waverley Sleeper Train Runaway   |
| Thursday 5th February 18:30   | Wind Tunnel Capability in Lancashire   | University of Lancashire Engineering Innovation Centre<br>Room EIC317<br>24 Fylde Road<br>Preston<br>PR1 2XS | Organised by: IET<br>Contact: <b>Matthew Wylie</b><br>(Matthew.Wylie@ietvolunteer.org)            | <b>Craig F Eckersley CEng MRAeS</b>                                 | Join experienced wind-tunnel engineer Craig Eckersley for an inside look at Lancashire's aerodynamic testing facilities. The talk showcases the region's unique contributions to engineering innovation, highlighting how wind-tunnel testing drives product development — from concept to certification. Expect real examples, engineering insights, and a glimpse into the future of experimental aerodynamics.  |
| Wednesday 11th February 18:30 | My Journey with Raspberry Pi - From Cardboard to Space                                   | University of Lancashire Engineering Innovation Centre<br>Room EIC317<br>24 Fylde Road<br>Preston<br>PR1 2XS | Organised by: IET<br>Contact: <b>Bill Wilcock</b><br>(bill.wilcock@ietvolunteer.org)              | <b>Pete Lomas BSc MSc DSc (HC)</b><br>Raspberry Pi Computer Creator | Ever wondered how and why the Raspberry Pi computer was created. This seminar will provide the 'inside track' on origins, motivations, design agony, manufacturing challenges and how an off-chance conversation propelled us to Space.  |
| Thursday 19th February 11:00  | Pigs, Small Fish and Hitler's Beast  | Crooklands Hotel<br>Crooklands<br>Milnthorpe<br>LA7 7NW  | Organised by: IET Retired Members<br>Contact: <b>Mike Bell</b><br>(michael.bell@ietvolunteer.org) | <b>Commander Bernie Thomson</b><br>RN Retired                       | A talk to mark the 80th anniversary of Operation Source - the attack by X-craft midget submarines on the battleship Tirpitz.<br><br>The talk is followed by an optional lunch.   |
| Thursday 19th February 19:30  | Power System Monitoring in Critical Applications   | Barrow Town Hall<br>Duke St<br>Barrow-in-Furness<br>LA14 2LD   | Organised by: IET/BDAE<br>Contact: <b>Anne Morris</b><br>(anne.morris@ietvolunteer.org)           | <b>Gareth Brunton</b><br>Managing Director<br>Bender UK Ltd         | The talk will highlight the importance of resilient power monitoring in sectors where operational availability is vital, with real-world examples from healthcare, rail, E-mobility, and maritime environments.  |
| Wednesday 25th February 19:30 | Airbus Wings   | Barrow Town Hall<br>Duke St<br>Barrow-in-Furness<br>LA14 2LD   | Organised by: IET/PESC<br>Contact: <b>Anne Morris</b><br>(anne.morris@ietvolunteer.org)           | <b>Chris Bennion</b><br>Head of New Airbus Wing Design IP Project   | This talk dives into the Wing Industrial System of the Future and will provide an overview on how Airbus is partnering with various UK organisations to push the boundaries of innovation, rigorously testing and developing advanced wing technologies for the future. Learn how Airbus is harnessing automation and cutting-edge solutions to shape the next era of Industrial Systems.  |

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| Thursday 26th February 10.30 | 60 years of Land Air & Sea Projects   | The Well Community Centre<br>92 St Albans Road<br>Lytham St Annes<br>FY8 1UZ                                 | Organised by: IET/St Annes PROBUS<br>Contact: <b>Mike Bell</b><br>(Michael.Bell@ietvolunteer.org)      | <b>George Seyfang BSc</b><br>Retired Aerodynamicist<br>BAE Systems | <p>The talk will cover a wide range of Air projects that have been worked on during 42 years at British Aerospace / BAE Systems. These include the 6 well-known military jet aircraft ranging from Canberra to Typhoon, plus Concorde, Spaceplanes and also several unpublished projects.</p> <p>Following retirement, and the construction of a small wind tunnel in the home garage, a variety of Land projects have been explored, from the Greenbird land yacht which achieved a world speed record of 126mph, to fuel economy cars and streamlined bicycles.</p> <p>More recently there have been Sea projects including the Saildrone uncrewed marine research vessel that has circumnavigated the world and production has expanded to over 100 units which are at sea for months at a time. There have also been projects aimed at improving the efficiency of water-borne craft, from racing rowing boats and ferry boats to giant container ships.</p> |
| Wednesday 4th March 10.30    | Dangerous Waters  | Wesley Hall<br>Westby Street<br>Lytham<br>FY8 5LU  | Organised by: IET/Lytham PROBUS<br>Contact: <b>Mike Bell</b><br>(Michael.Bell@ietvolunteer.org)        | <b>Bernard Thompson</b>  | 'Dangerous Waters' is a talk about Maritime operations during the liberation of Kuwait 1990-1991, including his personal experiences of diving to clear the largest minefield laid since WW2.  |
| Thursday 5th March 18:30     | Networking Event - Sensors and Instrumentation                                  | University of Lancashire Engineering Innovation Centre<br>Room EIC317<br>24 Fylde Road<br>Preston<br>PR1 2XS | Organised by: IET<br>Contact: <b>Nigel Whitaker</b><br>(nigel.whitaker@ietvolunteer.org)               | <b>Nigel Whitaker</b><br><b>Matthew Wylie</b>                      | This evening will provide an opportunity over a drink and light bites for members, partners and friends, plus guests from local industry and academia, to meet and chat about the many activities and opportunities in the region. The initial meet and greet, will be followed by an entertaining half-hour talk on 'Measuring the Physical World' - a brief overview of physical and virtual sensors, data acquisition systems and data mining techniques.   |
| Wednesday 11th March 19:30   | Latest Design & Building Of Three Rolls Royce Small Modular Reactors            | Barrow Town Hall<br>Duke St<br>Barrow-in-Furness<br>LA14 2LD   | Organised by: IET/PESC<br>Contact: <b>Anne Morris</b><br>(anne.morris@ietvolunteer.org)                | <b>Prof Tim Abrams</b>   | An overview of the advances in the field of small modular reactors, potential applications and advantages over traditional approaches to nuclear power.  |
| Thursday 12th March 19:00    | Can Beer be Sustainable?  | Castle Green Hotel<br>Castle Green Lane<br>Kendal<br>LA9 6RG   | Organised by: IET/KDES<br>Contact: <b>John Doffegnies</b><br>(john.doffegnies@ietvolunteer.org)        | <b>Tim Bloomer</b><br>Director and co-founder of Fell Brewery      | Tim is now focused on decarbonising Fell's operations and making them an exemplar in small scale, sustainable brewing. Join him to learn more about the practicalities of this work and whether we can have hope for a better future, still with plenty of locally brewed ale.   |
| Thursday 19th March 19:30    | Sulzer Diesel engines for British Railways Modernisation "Barrow's Golden Mile" | Barrow Town Hall<br>Duke St<br>Barrow-in-Furness<br>LA14 2LD   | Organised by: IET/BDAE<br>Contact: <b>Anne Morris</b><br>(anne.morris@ietvolunteer.org)                | <b>John Sykes</b><br>Former BAE Systems Design Engineer            | The talk will provide the background and build details of the Sulzer engines. It will also explain the subsequent guarantee and support activities. The talk will include drawings, photographs and video clips to illustrate the project.   |
| Wednesday 2nd April 19:30    | The Surprise Japanese Attack on Pearl Harbor                                    | Barrow Town Hall<br>Duke St<br>Barrow-in-Furness<br>LA14 2LD   | Organised by: IET/PESC<br>Contact: <b>Anne Morris</b><br>(anne.morris@ietvolunteer.org)                | <b>Dr Scott M Lindgren</b><br>Naval Historian                      | <p>On 7 December 1941, units of the Japanese 1st Air Fleet launched a massed surprise attack on the US Pacific Fleet based at Pearl Harbor, drawing the United States of America into World War II. Preceded by many months of negotiations and detailed planning, the attack was a partial tactical success, sinking four capital ships, severely damaging many other vessels, and causing heavy casualties. Japan would declare war on the United States later that day; the US and Great Britain would declare war on Japan on 8 December.</p> <p>This talk provides a background to the attack, an overview of the action itself at strategic and tactical levels, and the immediate consequences involved.</p>  |
| Wednesday 15th April 18:30   | Cracking the Lorenz Cipher: Tutte, Flowers and the Birth of Colossus            | University of Lancashire Engineering Innovation Centre<br>Room EIC317<br>24 Fylde Road<br>Preston<br>PR1 2XS | Organised by: IET<br>Contact: <b>Matthew Wylie</b><br>(Matthew.Wylie@ietvolunteer.org)                 | <b>Matthew Wylie</b>   | This talk tells the story of how engineers and mathematicians at Bletchley Park overcame the formidable Lorenz cipher. You'll discover how Bill Tutte deduced the machine design, how Max Newman and Tommy Flowers turned a problem into an engineering challenge, and how their creation – Colossus, the first programmable electronic computer – transformed codebreaking. The session offers insights into the blend of mathematics, ingenuity, and technology that not only shortened the war but also shaped the dawn of computing.   |
| Thursday 14th May 11:00      | Titanic – Seaman's Perspective  | Glendower Hotel<br>32-36 North Promenade<br>Lytham Saint Annes<br>FY8 2NQ                                    | Organised by: IET Retired Members<br>Contact: <b>Suzanne Flynn</b><br>(suzanne.flynn@ietvolunteer.org) | <b>Captain Julian Blatchley</b>                                    | <p>A life-time seaman's view of what caused the World's most famous shipwreck, which uses an experienced and professional eye to eliminate the misunderstandings and focus on what really happened.</p> <p>The talk is followed by an optional lunch.</p>  |

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|-------------------------------------|--|---|---|---|---|
| Tuesday<br>8th September<br>18:30   | The Sun and Climate Change   | <b>University of Lancashire</b><br><b>Engineering Innovation Centre</b><br>Room EIC317<br>24 Fylde Road<br>Preston<br>PR1 2XS | Organised by: <b>IET</b><br>Contact: <b>Mike Bell</b><br>(michael.bell@ietvolunteer.org)                      | <b>Dr Robin Catchpole</b><br>Institute of Astronomy<br>Cambridge University | Our Earth has shown wild variations in climate over the last few hundred million years. The ultimate driver of climate is the Sun, which has increased in luminosity by 30% over its 4,500 million year current life. We will see how the sun works and how it influences the Earth and our climate on ever shorter time scales, including the 11 year sunspot cycle. Finally, we will see how recently CO2 has become increasingly important and look at the most likely future.   |
| Wednesday<br>9th September<br>10.30 |  | <b>Wesley Hall</b><br>Westby Street<br>Lytham<br>FY8 5LU  | Organised by: <b>IET/Lytham PROBUS</b><br>Contact: <b>Mike Bell</b><br>(michael.bell@ietvolunteer.org)        |   |   |
| Wednesday<br>9th September<br>19.30 |  | <b>Barrow Town Hall</b><br>Duke St<br>Barrow-in-Furness<br>LA14 2LD   | Organised by: <b>IET/PESC</b><br>Contact: <b>Anne Morris</b><br>(anne.morris@ietvolunteer.org)                |   |   |
| Thursday<br>10th September          |  | <b>Lakes College</b><br>Lillyhall Business Park<br>Hallwood Road<br>Workington<br>CA14 4JN                                    | Organised by: <b>IET</b><br>Contact: <b>Artur Majchrowski</b><br>(artur.majchrowski@ietvolunteer.org)         |   |   |
| Thursday<br>3rd December<br>11:00   | Wings Over Windermere -<br>A Story of Two Seaplanes at<br>Windermere | <b>The Netherwood Hotel and Spa</b><br>Lindale Road<br>Grange-over-Sands<br>Cumbria<br>LA11 6ET                               | Organised by: <b>IET Retired Members</b><br>Contact: <b>Suzanne Flynn</b><br>(suzanne.flynn@ietvolunteer.org) | <b>Ian Gee</b>  | This illustrated talk will detail the technical development of the Waterbird 'hydro-aeroplane' which first flew at Windermere in 1911 and of the replica which first flew at Windermere in 2022.  |
| Thursday<br>8th October<br>18:30    | The Rise and Rise of the<br>Cameraphone                              | <b>University of Lancashire</b><br><b>Engineering Innovation Centre</b><br>Room EIC317<br>24 Fylde Road<br>Preston<br>PR1 2XS | Organised by: <b>IET</b><br>Contact: <b>David Gonzales</b><br>(david.gonzales@ietvolunteer.org)               | <b>Professor Emeritus</b><br><b>Nigel Linge</b>                             | More and more photographs are taken each year yet the vast majority of those are snapped using a smartphone and not a traditional dedicated camera. It is amazing how the camera has become such an essential feature of the mobile phone. Even more remarkable considering that when it was first proposed, mobile operators were extremely sceptical if not totally antagonistic about putting a camera in a mobile phone – why would anyone want that! However, those early doubts soon evaporated when the first camera phone proved to be an instant hit. Thereafter all the major handset manufacturers followed suit, resulting in a consequential phenomenal improvement in both the quality of the camera and the capabilities of software used to manipulate the images taken. Perhaps not surprisingly, the camera has become one of the most important features that customers look for when buying a new smartphone. This talk will explore how the camera phone works, the many technical challenges that must be overcome, and the importance of megapixels when defining the resolution of the images produced. Finally, the talk will consider the many societal impacts, for the camera phone has found uses that go way beyond basic photography and the selfie. |

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