



The Institution of
Engineering and Technology

Lancashire and Cumbria Network

Interim Programme Schedule August 2026

The software that the IET uses to manage reservations for Local Network events, is being updated. As a consequence we are only able to publish the events we have scheduled up to the end of October. We have therefore taken the decision to postpone our normal August newsletter until we are able to publish our full programme. Instead, this Interim Schedule has been produced.

Once the new software is available to us, we will publish details of our programme of events. You will hear of them on EngX first, so ensure you are signed up for EngX updates.

Professional Home for Life® for Engineers and Technicians

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

The Institution of Engineering and Technology - Lancashire and Cumbria Network

Date/Time	Event Title:	Venue	Organised by & Contact	Speaker	Synopsis
Tuesday 8th September 18:30	The Sun and Climate Change	University of Lancashire Engineering Innovation Centre Room EIC317 24 Fylde Road Preston PR1 2XS	Organised by: IET Contact: Mike Bell (michael.bell@ietvolunteer.org)	Dr Robin Catchpole Institute of Astronomy 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 it's 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.
Tuesday 8th September 18:30		Wesley Hall Westby Street Lytham FY8 5LU	Organised by: IET/Lytham PROBUS Contact: Mike Bell (michael.bell@ietvolunteer.org)		
Wednesday 9th September 17:30		Barrow Town Hall Duke St Barrow-in-Furness LA14 2LD	Organised by: IET/PESC Contact: Anne Morris (anne.morris@ietvolunteer.org)		
Thursday 10th September 18:00		Lakes College Lillyhall Business Park Hallwood Road Workington CA14 4JN	Organised by: IET Contact: Artur Majchrowski (artur.majchrowski@ietvolunteer.org)		
Wednesday 16th September 19:30	Artificial Intelligence Transforming Complex Engineering	Barrow Town Hall Duke St Barrow-in-Furness LA14 2LD	Organised by: IET/BDAE Contact: Anne Morris (anne.morris@ietvolunteer.org)	Michael Mifsud Director Cappgemini Invent & Suman Dhargupta Data & AI Strategy leader at Cappgemini Invent UK	An evening talk with Michael Mifsud and Suman Dhargupta exploring how Artificial Intelligence is transforming the way complex engineering systems are designed, developed, tested and deployed. Drawing on real-world experience from across Aerospace, Defence, National Security, Telecommunications and other sectors, the session will examine how AI is being applied across the engineering lifecycle, from Requirements and Design to Manufacturing, Integration, Delivery and Through-Life Support. The talk will also explore the opportunities, risks and practical challenges organisations face as they seek to adopt AI at scale, and the emerging impact of Agentic AI. Michael Mifsud is a Director in Cappgemini Invent with over 25 years' experience leading Digital, Data and AI transformation across the full spectrum of international Aerospace, Defence, National Security and Transport. A software engineer by trade, his career has ranged from delivering cutting-edge research and innovation in radar, avionics & mission systems, command & control, autonomous platforms and training & simulation systems, to scaled delivery on large multi-national programmes including Typhoon, F-35, Reaper and more. He has also led the delivery of large Defence & Security data & analytics solutions and founded a smart-cities start-up with Google to revolutionise strategic and operational transport planning. Michael now leads Cappgemini Invent's Data, Analytics and AI business across Aerospace, Defence and National Security. https://www.linkedin.com/in/michael-mifsud/ Suman Dhargupta is a member of the Data & AI Strategy leadership team at Cappgemini Invent UK, with extensive experience delivering enterprise-scale data, AI and digital transformation programmes. He specialises in cloud data modernisation, secure data platforms, telecoms and healthcare transformation, and M&A-driven data integration. Combining an engineering background with an MBA in Quantitative Analytics and Financial Modelling, Suman helps organisations unlock business value through data-driven transformation, AI-enabled solutions and machine learning at scale. https://www.linkedin.com/in/suman-dhargupta-56239b65/
Thursday 17th September 19:15		Sir Thomas Bouch, Cumbria's Forgotten Engineering Genius			
		Castle Green Hotel Castle Green Lane Kendal LA9 6RG	Organised by: IET/KDES Contact: Anne Morris (anne.morris@ietvolunteer.org)	John Mather	Born in Thursby, Sir Thomas Bouch designed over 300 miles of railway and large bridges throughout Scotland and northern England. As well as telling something of Bouch's life and times, John will show that many of his earlier works in Cumbria were particularly ambitious & innovative although he now remains the main scapegoat for the Tay Bridge disaster.

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Date/Time	Event Title:	Venue	Organised by & Contact	Speaker	Synopsis
Thursday 8th October 18:30	The Rise and Rise of the Cameraphone	University of Lancashire Engineering Innovation Centre Room EIC317 24 Fylde Road Preston PR1 2XS	Organised by: IET Contact: David Gonzales (david.gonzales@ietvolunteer.org)	Professor Emeritus Nigel Linge	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.
Wednesday 14th October 19:30	The Mosquito Reconstruction	Barrow Town Hall Duke St Barrow-in-Furness LA14 2LD	Organised by: IET/PESC Contact: Anne Morris (anne.morris@ietvolunteer.org)	Ross Sharp Chief Engineering Officer	Mosquitos were an essential part of Britain's Air Force in WW2 but, being made of wood, none had survived. This project was to build a new one and regain its 'Airworthiness Certificate'.
Thursday 15th October 11:00	Bellringing	Garden Room Ribby Hall Village Ribby Road Wrea Green PR4 2PR	Organised by: IET Retired Members Contact: Mike Bell (michael.bell@ietvolunteer.org)	Adrian Page	The talk will include a brief history of English Bell ringing with a particular emphasis on its development at the time of the Reformation, We will use explanation, a few practical activities, pictures, very short films, stories, artifacts, models, diagrams and discussion etc to :- - understand how the Tudor and Stuart periods were ones in which design and engineering allowed for the development of new and innovative techniques in English ringing. - explore how these new engineering ideas resulted in the unique sound of English Bells, which is so very different to that of continental Europe. - look at how the bells have been used across the centuries as an early form of internet to convey key information to the populace. The talk will be followed by an optional 3 course lunch.
Thursday 15th October 19:15	The Edwardian Steamboat: SL Shamrock – Messing about in boats or Working under pressure?	Castle Green Hotel Castle Green Lane Kendal LA9 6RG	Organised by: IET/KDES Contact: Anne Morris (anne.morris@ietvolunteer.org)	Roger Calvert Helen Steeple	The Edwardian Gentleman's Launch was the Rolls Royce of steamboat luxury. This is the story of the SL Shamrock, where she came from and where she is now, and the issues of restoring, maintaining and operating her. We also follow the various propulsion systems she has had over the years.
Thursday 22nd October 19:30	Sustainable Manufacturing, Ethics and Challenges for a Circular Economy	Barrow Town Hall Duke St Barrow-in-Furness LA14 2LD	Organised by: IET/BDAE Contact: Anne Morris (anne.morris@ietvolunteer.org)	Dr. Ashwath Pazhani Associate Professor University of Cumbria	Sustainability is often associated with reducing carbon emissions and adopting circular economy principles, but true sustainability extends far beyond environmental performance. This talk explores the ethical challenges that underpin modern manufacturing and global supply chains, including resource depletion, waste generation, child and forced labour, critical minerals, fast fashion, food waste, and end-of-life product management. Through real-world case studies, the presentation examines the difficult balance between profitability, environmental responsibility, and social justice, while discussing how engineers, manufacturers, researchers, policymakers and consumers can contribute to a more transparent, ethical and truly circular economy. The session aims to encourage reflection on the responsibilities of engineering in shaping a sustainable future for both people and the planet. <i>Speaker Biography</i> Dr. Ashwath Pazhani is an Associate Professor (Senior Lecturer) in Mechanical Engineering with a Materials Specialism at the University of Cumbria and Research Theme Lead for Advanced Materials and Manufacturing for Energy, Healthcare, Defence and Nuclear. He is the Founder of the Innovation in Hydrogen Research and Sustainability (iHRS) Research Group. His research spans sustainable manufacturing, advanced materials, hydrogen technologies, circular economy, additive manufacturing and responsible engineering. Working closely with industry, government and international research partners, his work focuses on developing engineering solutions that are not only technologically innovative but also environmentally sustainable and socially responsible. Dr. Pazhani is passionate about promoting ethical engineering practices and inspiring future engineers to consider the wider societal impact of manufacturing and technological advancement.

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