



A new Institution from the IEE and IIE

# Lancashire & Cumbria Local Network

[www. iee.org/lancscumbria](http://www.iee.org/lancscumbria)  
Newsletter Vol. 3 No. 2  
January 2007



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## Cover picture:

### Arkwright Water Frame

Our cover image shows the only known complete Arkwright Water Frame, located at Helmshore Mills Textile Museum, Rossendale. The picture is provided courtesy of Lancashire County Council.

Helmshore Mills will reopen later this year after a £1M renovation. An IET visit is being planned for the summer. In the meantime Lancashire County Council's Head of Collections, Ian Gibson, will speak on "Lancashire textiles" at Darwen on 19 April – see page 5 for details.

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## From the editor

Welcome to the latest newsletter from the Lancashire and Cumbria Network of the IET.

This issue lists events from January to April 2007. Highlights include the ever-popular Retired Members' lectures and lunches, both in the Preston area this term. In February Maureen Baxter will talk at Wellington Park, Leyland, about her varied career in the airline industry. In April we visit a new venue – the University of Central Lancashire's Harris Park – to hear Eurofighter Typhoon test pilot Mark Bowman talk about a very different aspect of aviation! More details are in the event listing; booking slips are being distributed along with this newsletter as loose leaf inserts.

We are also introducing extended opportunities for networking at evening lectures. We have always offered light refreshments at our talks; at our next event, at BAE Systems' Lightning Club on 31 January, there will also be a free buffet, available from 6.30. Please do come along, meet other

local network members, and hear Michael Green talk about Blackpool Airport – past and present.

I should also like to draw your attention to the Younger Members' section "Present Around the World" competition (formerly the "short presentations" competition). Our local heat takes place at Lancaster University on 7 March, and is open to all members under 35 or in the early stages of their careers – not just students. If like me you're too old to qualify please do encourage younger members of your acquaintance (and young engineers who haven't yet joined the IET) to enter. Details are on page 5.

This issue also includes a report on activities in Furness, kindly contributed by Ralph Hobson, our Barrow Convener and delegate to PESC – Professional Engineers South Cumbria (see page 10). If there's anything you'd like to see in the newsletter, or you have something of interest to contribute, please contact me at [spplatt@iee.org](mailto:spplatt@iee.org). Copy deadline for the next issue is 1 March.

**Simon Platt**

## Friends of the IEE/IET

Many readers will be aware that the Friends of the IEE Lancashire & Cumbria Branch have been responsible for financial administration of many events organised in our local network area in recent years. The Friends' bank account details will shortly be updated to reflect the creation of the IET. In the meantime, please continue to make cheques payable to 'Friends of the IEE Lancashire & Cumbria Branch'.



## Forthcoming events

### Blackpool Airport – past and present

Talk preceded by buffet and networking

Date: Wednesday 31 January

Time: 6.30 for 7.30 p.m.

Speaker: E. Michael Green,  
Blackpool International Airport

Venue: Lightning Club, BAE  
Systems, Mill Lane, Warton

Joint with: IMechE and RAeS

Contact: Eric Sarti 01772 685332,  
[ejsarti@iee.org](mailto:ejsarti@iee.org)

From the trams to the tower Blackpool has always been at the forefront of innovation. Six years after the Wright brothers' historic first flight at Kitty Hawk, Blackpool held the first British flying event at Squires Gate – now almost 100 years later the site of Blackpool International Airport. This presentation will look at the history of flying at Blackpool, and why Squires Gate became what it is today.

## Disclaimer

IET Lancashire and Cumbria arranges lectures, site visits and other events of professional and general interest to members and their guests. In doing so the IET endorses neither the opinions of speakers nor products and services supplied by them or by their companies.



## From galley to cockpit

talk and demonstration followed by lunch

Date: Thursday 8 February

Time: 10.30 for 11 a.m.

Speaker: Maureen Baxter

Venue: Wellington Park, Church Road, Leyland

Contact: Brian Flynn 01772 330278 or 07798 858746, bflynn@iee.org

Mrs. Baxter will outline her twenty-plus years in aviation. As an Air Stewardess she flew with BEA on European routes and with BOAC all round the world.

She gained her Private Pilot's Licence, Flying Instructor Rating, Multi-Engine Instructor Rating, then Commercial Pilot's Licence with Instrument Rating.

She flew commercially with a private engineering company as their only Company Pilot on a twin-engine Cessna 401 aircraft, and finally with British Island Airways (later Air UK) as First Officer.

Mrs Baxter will bring photograph albums and items of aviation memorabilia for members to peruse.

Wellington Park has plenty of parking and good disabled facilities. All members and guests are very welcome. Coffee and tea will be available on arrival from 10.30 a.m.; the talk will commence

at 11.00 a.m. This will be followed by a three-course lunch @ £16 per person. Booking is required for the lunch – see the enclosed flyer.

Booking confirmations and directions will be sent.

## Forensic fire investigation

talk followed by dinner

Date: Thursday 15 February

Time: 7 for 7.30 p.m.

Speaker: John Williamson, FireSkills Ltd.

Venue: Whitehall Hotel, off Ross St. Darwen

Joint with: IPlantE

Contact: Jim Hindle 01282 771355, jim.hindle@btopenworld.com

Lecture at 7.30pm, followed by dinner. Booking required @£17 for dinner.

## Fire safety

Date: Thursday 1 March

Time: 7 for 7.30 p.m.

Speaker: Jim Fay, Cumbria Fire and Rescue

Venue: Crooklands Hotel, near Kendal

Joint with: KES

Contact: Richard Harrison 01524 733898, rharriso@globalnet.co.uk

This talk will describe the effects of new legislation, the "Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order", which

came into force on 1 October 2006, including the impact on businesses and residential properties with regard to fire prevention.

## **Present around the world – Younger Members’ short presentations competition**

Date: Wednesday 7 March

Time: 6 for 6.30 p.m.

Venue: George Fox Building, Lancaster University

Contact: Gareth Holland 07932 612618, [gareth.holland@britishnucleargroup.com](mailto:gareth.holland@britishnucleargroup.com)

Present Around the World is the IET’s presentation competition for Younger Members.

All members under 35 and those in the early stages of their career are eligible to enter. Competitors give a presentation for 10 minutes on a subject of relevance to the IET and answer questions for a further 5 minutes.

The judges’ emphasis is on presentation skills, enabling young engineers at different levels of their studies or career to take part.

There are cash prizes and the chance to qualify for later stages of this worldwide competition offering greater prize money and the opportunity to travel.

The winner and runner-up also

receive one year’s free membership of the IET – and non members are eligible to compete (so please encourage them!).

Entrants should provide a short synopsis of their presentation (100-200 words, about as long as this synopsis) to Gareth Holland – contact details above. Good luck!

## **Power systems for remote locations**

Date: Wednesday 28 March

Time: 7 for 7.30 p.m.

Speaker: from Genesys Power Systems Ltd.

Venue: Forum 28, Duke St., Barrow in Furness

Joint with: PESC

Contact: Ralph Hobson 01229 583762, [ralph@thehobsons.co.uk](mailto:ralph@thehobsons.co.uk)

## **Lancashire textiles talk followed by dinner**

Date: Thursday 19 April

Time: 7 for 7.30 p.m.

Speaker: Ian Gibson, Head of Collections, Lancashire County Council

Venue: Whitehall Hotel, off Ross St. Darwen

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Joint with: IPlantE

Contact: Jim Hindle 01282 771355,  
jim.hindle@btopenworld.com

Lecture at 7.30pm, followed by  
dinner. Booking required for  
dinner.

We are also planning a visit to the  
Helmshore Textile Museum in the  
summer of 2007 – see April's  
newsletter for details.

Below: 'Peace', the motive force behind the  
world's last surviving 19th century steam-  
powered weaving mill, Queen Street Mill  
Textile Museum, Burnley.

© Lancashire County Council



## Typhoon operations

Date: Thursday 19 April

Time: 10.30 for 11 a.m.

Speaker: Mark Bowman, BAE  
Systems

Venue: Harris Park Conference  
Centre, Garstang Road, Preston

Contact: David Knowles 01254  
246146, d.knowles@btinternet.com

Following on from the Tornado the  
Typhoon is now entering RAF  
squadron service. It is a  
remarkable aircraft in both  
performance and construction. It  
has been designed in a European  
collaboration and is built in  
Lancashire with final assembly at  
BAE Systems at Warton. Many of  
you will have shared its flight  
trials!

Mark Bowman spent his early days  
as a RAF pilot and is now one of  
the Eurofighter Typhoon project  
pilots with considerable  
experience of test flying the  
aircraft and bringing it into  
squadron service with the RAF.

The Harris Park is a new venue for  
us. It is the Business and  
Conference Centre of the  
University of Central Lancashire.  
It is an interesting historical  
building and is located off the A6,  
at Garstang Road, Fulwood,  
Preston, not far from M6 junction  
32 at Broughton. There is plenty of  
parking and good disabled  
facilities.

All members and guests are very  
welcome. Coffee and tea will be  
available on arrival from 10.30  
a.m.; the talk will commence at  
11.00 a.m. This will be followed by  
a two-course buffet lunch and  
coffee @£13 per person. Booking is  
required by 5 April for the lunch –  
see the enclosed flyer. Booking  
confirmations and directions will  
be sent.



Eurofighter Typhoon aircraft from RAF Coningsby in a 'diamond nine' formation.  
© Eurofighter GmbH



## Advance notices

Look out for details of these and subsequent events in the April newsletter!

### Membership clinic

Date: Tuesday 1 May

Time: from 5.30 p.m.

Venue: Lightning Club, BAE Systems, Warton

### Membership clinic

Date: Wednesday 2 May

Time: from 12 noon

Venue: Novotel, Bamber Bridge

### Are we alone?

Date: Wednesday 9 May

Time: 7.00 for 7.30 p.m.

Speaker: Dr Robin Catchpole

Venue: Forum 28, Duke St., Barrow in Furness

Joint with: IMechE, PESC, & CMI

### RAF Spadeadam site visit

Date: Wednesday 16 May

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## Feature

### Is there life at the end of the cul-de-sac?

The cul-de-sac in question is the A590 to Barrow-in-Furness and the answer is “yes” – there is life at its end, not least that provided by PESC – Professional Engineers South Cumbria.

PESC is currently a ten-man committee with representation from most of the local Professional Engineering Institutions (PEIs), including the IET. It was initiated in 1985 to try and bring the PEIs together. Attendance at talks organised by individual institutions (the IEE organised two a year) was at that time very poor – fingers of one hand in many cases. The result over the years has been very successful, with emphasis on talks getting engineering over to the general public and to schools. Thanks to the hard work of an earlier PESC member, the Barrow Evening Mail takes a pre-meeting write-up and very often their

reporter will attend meetings.

Either he or a PESC member will also prepare a post-meeting report. From the same hard work, Radio Cumbria also carries pre-meeting information. Posters are placed in local schools, colleges, companies, and shop windows!

The 2006/7 programme has twenty talks on a wide variety of subjects. Previous years' attendances averaged about 100 with about 70% from the general public. All talks are listed in the North West Professional Engineering Development (PED) Handbook, and a local programme sheet is available at all meetings.

So yes, PEI life is viable in our cul-de-sac and if anyone out there would like to join in, you would be very welcome.

**Ralph Hobson**

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