

Barrow & District Association of Engineers



www.bdae.org.uk

President: Russ Watson

Secretary: Anne Morris

NEWSLETTER FOR THE SESSION 2026/2027

Dear Member,

In our Annual Newsletter we look forward to the forthcoming lecture season and look back at the BDAE Bursary activities over the past year.

All lectures are open to the General Public. Due to closure of The Forum all Barrow Lectures will be in the Town Hall and usually at 7.30 pm but check emails and notices to confirm dates and details of lectures. Note that the November Bursary evening lecture will start at 7.15. All Kendal Engineering Society meetings will be held at the Castle Green Hotel in Kendal and start at 7.15.

BDAE & other Engineering Lectures 2026/2027

Listed below are this season's lectures organised by BDAE and other local engineering societies for which details have been received. Details were correct at the time of publication but are subject to change.

Date	Title & Speaker		Venue
Wednesday 2 nd September 2026 at 7.30pm	RINA Lecture. Marine Accident Investigation Board – Current Activities and Future Challenges. Given by Simon Graves (Note that this will be a hybrid talk via Video link).		Barrow Town Hall
Wednesday 9 th September 2026 at 7.30pm	PESC/IMechE/IET Lecture. Our Sun and Climate Change. given by Dr Robin Catchpole, Research Astronomer, Cambridge University.		Barrow Town Hall

Date	Title & Speaker		Venue
Wednesday 16 th September 2026 at 7.30pm	BDAE Lecture. Artificial Intelligence Transforming Complex Engineering. Given by Michael Mifsud, Director & Suman Dhargupta, Data & AI Strategy leader at Capgemini Invent UK.		Barrow Town Hall
Thursday 17 th September 2026 at 7.15 pm	Kendal Engineering Society Lecture. Sir Thomas Bouch, Cumbria's forgotten genius. given by John Mather.		Castle Green Hotel, Kendal
Monday 5 th October 2026 at 7.30pm	RINA Lecture. Titanic Revisited. given by Stephen Payne.		Barrow Town Hall
Wednesday 14 th October 2026 at 7.30pm	PESC/IMechE/IET Lecture. Gravity – Serious Science given by Ian Palmer		Barrow Town Hall
Thursday 15 th October 2026 @ 7:15 PM	Kendal Engineering Society Lecture. The Edwardian Steamboat: SL Shamrock - Messing about in boats or Working under pressure? Given by Roger Calvert and Helen Steeple.		Castle Green Hotel, Kendal

Date	Title & Speaker		Venue
Thursday 22nd October 2026 at 7.30pm	BDAE Lecture. Sustainable Manufacturing, Ethics and Challenges for a Circular Economy. given by Dr. Ashwath Pazhani, Associate Professor University of Cumbria.		Barrow Town Hall
Wednesday 4 th November 2026 at 7.30pm	RINA Lecture. Fifty Years of Shipbuilding. Given by Alan Phizacklea.		Barrow Town Hall
12 th November 2026 at 7.15	Kendal Engineering Society Lecture. “A Post Card from Sharjah”. A journey round the world in 1937. given by John Sykes.		Castle Green Hotel, Kendal
Wednesday 18th November 2026 at 7.30pm	BDAE Bursary Evening and Lecture. Submarines - How sound design supports progressive life extension. Given by Gavin Leckie, Engineering Director BAE Systems Submarines.		Barrow Town Hall
Wednesday 25 th November 2026 at 7.30pm	PESC/IET/IMechE Lecture. “Best Before” and “Use by dates” for Body Armour – Food for Thought? Given by Dr Eluned Lewis of QinetiC.		Barrow Town Hall

Date	Title & Speaker		Venue
Monday 30 th November 2026 at 7.30pm	RINA Lecture. Historic Vessel Conservation – Theory and Practice. Given by Stephen Beresford.		Barrow Town Hall
Thursday 10 th December 2026	Kendal Engineering Society Lecture. Clipper Challenge – A round the world sailing race. Given by Nigel Odling.		Castle Green Hotel, Kendal
Wednesday 6 th January 2027 at 7.30pm	RINA Lecture. HMS Ocean. given by John Hudson.		Barrow Town Hall
Wednesday 13 th January 2027 at 7.30pm	PESC/IET/IMechE/CQI/IHEEM Lecture. Bulletproof Evidence? Forensic Investigations of Firearms Offences. Given by Isobel Collclough, Forensic Investigator.		Barrow Town Hall
Wednesday 20th January 2027 at 7.30pm	BDAE Lecture. Careers in STEM - Interesting insights of careers, and tips for those identifying, preparing for and securing roles. Given by Representatives from three design, engineering and P3M businesses, ranging from degree apprentice to Director grade hiring managers.		Barrow Town Hall

Date	Title & Speaker		Venue
Wednesday 3 rd February 2027 at 7.30pm	RINA Lecture. Whatever happened to our Shipbuilding Industry? Given by Paul Scott.		Barrow Town Hall
Wednesday 10 th February 2027	PESC/IET/IMechE/ICE Lecture. Geological Disposal facility. Given by John Corderoy, Chief Technical Officer, Nuclear Waste Services.		Barrow Town Hall
Wednesday 17th February 2027 at 7.30pm	BDAE Lecture. RAF StormShroud capability and future UAS Strategy. Given by Sqn Leader Stu Quinn Reservist Officer 216 Sqn RAF.		Barrow Town Hall
Wednesday 24 th February 2027 at 7.30pm	IMechE/PESC/IET Lecture. Motorbike Talk (details TBA).		Barrow Town Hall
Wednesday 3 rd March 2027 at 7.30pm	RINA Lecture. The Stability of Large Sailing Yachts. Given by Jerry Turner		Barrow Town Hall

Date	Title & Speaker		Venue
Wednesday 10 th March 2027 at 7.30pm	PESC/IET/IMechE Lecture. Thorium: The Future for Nuclear? Prof Tim Abram, University of Manchester. Followed by IMechE AGM.		Barrow Town Hall
Wednesday 17th March 2027 at 7.30pm	BDAE Lecture. My Journey with Raspberry Pi: From Cardboard to Space. Given by Pete Lomas BSc MSc DSc (HC) Raspberry Pi Computer Creator.		Barrow Town Hall
Wednesday 14th April 2027 at 7.30pm	BDAE AGM & Lecture. Physical Testing - is it still relevant in a Model Based Systems Engineering workflow? Given by Matthew Wylie IET Lancashire & Cumbria Chair.		Barrow Town Hall
Wednesday 19 th May 2027 at 7.30pm	PESC/IET/RINA/IMechE/IMarEST Lecture. WW2 Battles of Coral Sea & Midway. Given by Dr Scott Lindgren, Naval Historian.		Barrow Town Hall

Further details of lecture organisations will be found at:-

Barrow & District Association of Engineers.....www.bdae.org.uk
 Chartered Quality Institute.....www.quality.org
 Institution of Civil Engineers.....www.ice.org.uk
 Institution of Engineering and Technology.....www.theiet.org
 Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology.....www.imarest.org
 Institution of Mechanical Engineers.....www.imeche.org
 Institute of Healthcare Engineering and Estate Management www.iheem.org.uk
 Kendal Engineering Society.....Facebook page “Kendal and District Engineering Society”
 Professional Engineers South Cumbria.....www.pesc.org.uk
 Royal Institution of Naval Architects.....www.rina.org.uk

BDAE Engineering visit.

Following a very insightful talk from Tornado wire *"Wired for Innovation: Tornado's Journey from Field to Factory"* by Rebecca Galley CEO, we have arranged a visit to the Tornado Wire factory in Millom on 24th September 2026. The visit is open to members of BDAE and has been arranged as part of National Manufacturing Day but is limited to 20 members.

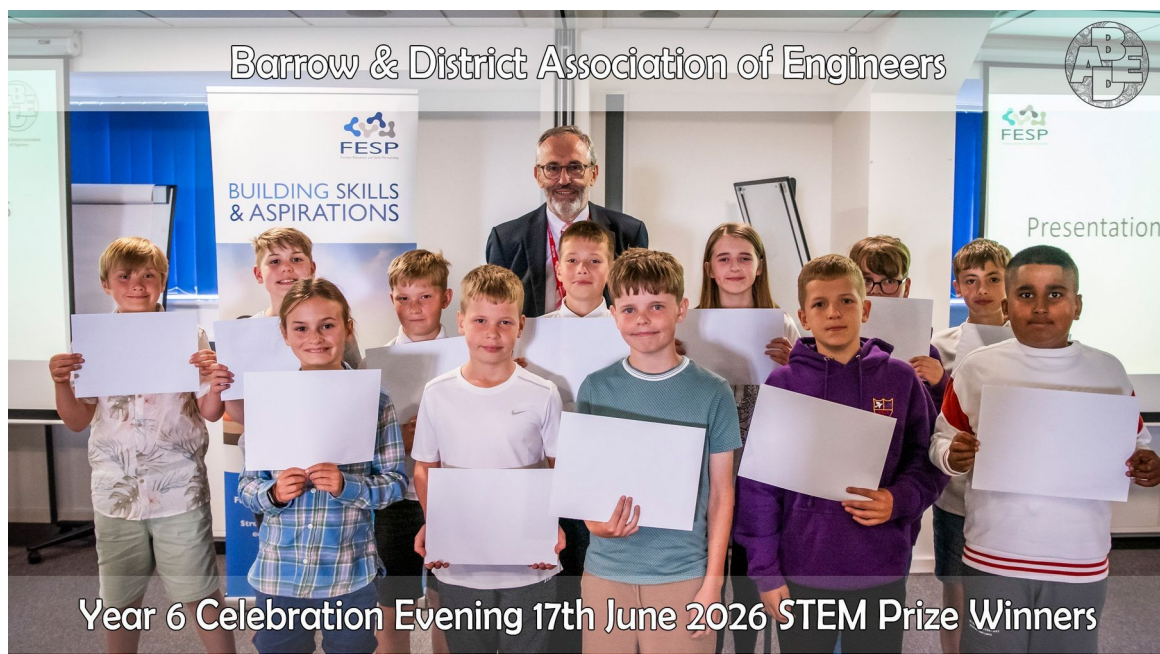
To register for the visit, please send your name and email address to anne.morris4@baesystems.com

BURSARY SCHEME & ENGINEERING SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS.

The Bursary Awards made in 2025/2026 were as follows;-

PRIMARY SCHOOL AWARDS

On 17th June 2026 we held our most recent Year 6 Primary Schools Award evening. The evening included an overview of BDAEs work in STEM, a fabulous talk by Charlie Spencer, Engineering Degree Apprentice at BAE Systems Submarines, celebration of the £100 Bursaries, FESPs Journey and the support they provide and the awards presentations.



Our guest speaker Charlie passionately explained her journey from "School to Submarines" giving an insightful real world demonstration of her earliest STEM memory and how this translated into real world "Work" at BAE Systems. She then explained what a typical week looked like, why STEM matters and finished by congratulating all winners.

We then celebrated the six school winners of £1000 for 2026:-

- Askam Village School
- Yarlside Academy
- Victoria Academy
- Sir John Barrow School
- Newbarns Primary and Nursery School
- Coniston Primary School

Feedback from the schools was again very positive - “These resources are already helping us strengthen the teaching of number, reasoning and problem-solving and will benefit pupils across all year groups for many years to come.”

The evening concluded with the presentation of prizes to year six students to recognise their achievements in STEM in their last year of Primary School. This year we received fewer applicants from the schools, hence we are now working with the schools to look at timing of the awards in future years.

SECONDARY SCHOOL AWARDS

STEM Prizes

STEM Prizes were offered to all years, 7 to 11, in our local Secondary Schools. The individual year winners, were selected by the schools on both academic and general interest in engineering. Winners received a BDAE Certificate for their portfolio, in an identical way to the Primary School STEM Prize Winners and Amazon Vouchers of £25.00 year 7, £30 year 8, £35 year 9, £40 year 10 and £50 year 11 were awarded.

Local Secondary School offered STEM Prizes were:

- Cartmel Priory
- Chetwynde
- Dowdales
- Millom
- Furness Academy
- John Ruskin
- St Bernard’s
- Ulverston Victoria
- Walney

Student Bursaries

The Student and Engineering Scholarship winners were awarded at the Bursary Awards and Lecture Evening in November 2025 by Martin Coles, Director, Turner and Townsend.

The winners of this year’s awards were:-

Furness College Bursaries [Each awarded £300]

- Troy Varol Craft Engineering
- Finn Docherty Technical Engineering
- Dempsey Newton “T-Level” Digital Production Design & Development, Year 1
- Philip McHale “T-Level” Digital Production Design & Development, Year 2
- Holly Mossop “T-Level” Design & Development for Engineering & Manufacturing, Year 1
- Lee Nicholson “T-Level” Design & Development for Engineering & Manufacturing, Year 2

Student Bursaries [“A-Level” Year 1, each awarded £300]

- Ella McMillan Ulverston Victoria High School,

- Al Sarker Barrow Sixth Form College
- Wojciech Szeligowski Barrow Sixth Form College
- Amelia Wisniewska Millom School

Amelia Wisniewska also received the “best of the best” student award by the BDAE Bursary Committee and an extra bursary of £100

Engineering Scholarship Winners [Each awarded £1,000]

- Aishvarya Ranjith Sheema University of Manchester, Chemical Engineering
- Leo Macdonald University of Manchester, Masters of Mathematics and Physics
- Theo Coates University of Bristol, Masters in Engineering Mathematics
- Daniel Wager Lancaster University, MEng General Engineering
- Kat Gannon University of Oxford, Biochemistry (MSc)
- India Taylor University of Newcastle, MMath Mathematics.



ENGINEERING EXPLORERS

Following a successful trial of Engineering Explorers in 2024 at the Forum, BDAE again held this event at Furness Academy on Saturday October 18 2025 for 8-13-year-olds. The day consisted of three presentations by the “Science made Simple” team with interactive stalls open before and after each presentation

Although the event was again a success with positive feedback from all that attended we saw audience numbers drop and hence we sought feedback. This years event will therefore be held on a Friday in half term (30th October 2026) to avoid clashing with Saturday sporting activities and will be held more centrally at the Bridge facility.



UlverSTEM

BDAE has been represented at the annual November UlverSTEM event since its inception and we again supported the event to raise awareness of the BDAE Bursaries and lecture programme. Together with a wide range of local industries and supporting science shows we aim to make local students aged 6-16 years aware of the enjoyment and potential of engaging in a STEM related career. Students (and parents!) attending were able to take part in a wide range of interactive demonstrations, hands-on activities and themed challenges designed



to spark curiosity in science and technology. The BDAE stand was supplemented by the use of Lego where we challenged students to "Build something you would see in the future".

UlverSTEM 2026 is scheduled for Saturday November 14th at Ulverston Victoria High School.

Charity Registration.

The Barrow & District Association of Engineers (BDAE) was registered with the Charity Commission on 22nd April 2022 as Charity Number 1198693.

The BDAE income for the year 2025- 2026 remained below the £25000 level at which the Charity Commission require a full report and checked accounts. Our two Hon. Auditors Steve Liddicott and Bernard Jackson have approved the accounts and the Charity Commission has been notified of the financial details

The Trustees of BDAE are;

Russel Watson (Chair)

Joshua Ashley

John Sykes

Anne Morris

BDAE COUNCIL

The organisation is managed via Trustees and Council Members, who are elected at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and meet about once a month to discuss lectures and visits.

Current Council Members are:-

Russell Watson (President), Joshua Ashley (Council Minutes Secretary), John Sykes (Treasurer and Newsletter Editor), Kath Walley (Schools Liaison), Anne Morris (Programme Secretary), Russell Davison (Student Bursary Co-ordinator), Thomas-Joshua Richardson (Website Co-ordinator), Denis Lidstone, Martin Bates, Ian Palmer, and Ryan Wilson,

Honorary Vice Presidents; Charles Rowntree, Peter Gillett.

Hon Auditors; Steve Liddicott and Bernard Jackson

BURSARY SPONSORS

We are grateful for the help from our Sponsors for the Bursary Scheme:

Sponsor	Logo
BAE Systems	
Barnes Wallis Foundation	
Thomas Graham & Sons Ltd (Trading as B L Gilbert)	
Furness College	
Furness Engineering and Technology Limited (FETL)	

Furness Plastics	
Institution of Engineering and Technology	 The Institution of Engineering and Technology
Morgan Sindall	
Oxley Developments Company Ltd	
Sir John Fisher Foundation	
St. James's Place Charitable Foundation	
Turner & Townsend	

John Sykes
BDAE Treasurer and Newsletter Editor 12/10/26