



IES News Bulletin

The Institution of Engineers in Scotland A Multi-disciplinary Engineering Institution



December 2025



Welcome to our December Bulletin

I am happy to report on recent activities; we had a successful James Watt Dinner, which showed a small profit, attracted sponsorship and our JWD offer on membership attracted eight new members!

Dinner guests were very complementary about our jazz quartet from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.

We had a few technical issues with the online sound for our first lecture on Hang Gliding, but we have re-recorded it and the recording is now available on YouTube – it is worth watching!

We have since had two great lectures, one on Carnot Batteries and one on innovation, these recordings are available too.

Hang Gliding –

<https://youtu.be/doGCJ5BERSA>

Carnot Batteries –

<https://youtu.be/TfiE1hP-akk>

Innovation –

<https://youtu.be/rOwg3rqhJ-A>



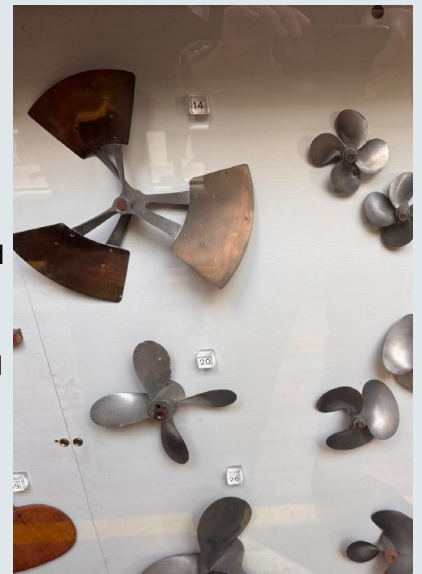
Visit to Denny's Tank on 20th Nov

We enjoyed a Members' Visit to the Denny Tank in Dumbarton and have another planned for 17th Dec to the Clydeside Distillery – there are a few places left

We have another visit planned for 27th Feb, to the Glasgow Museums Resource Centre at Nitshill, a bespoke tour looking at Caledonian Railway artefacts – full details will be announced in early 2026

IES Member, David Watson, arranged a talk on space engineering at Saltcoats secondary school which was very well received by the pupils

I have included the remainder of the programme for this session in this bulletin, I hope you find something of interest and join us in-person or online

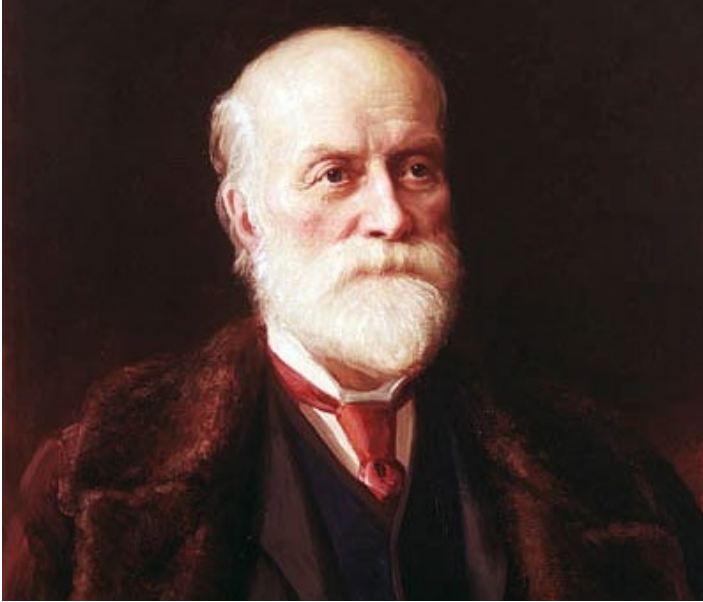


Our Cuppa and Chat meetings have started up, and are proving popular once again.

James Watt Dinner

Four new inductees into the Scottish Engineering Hall of Fame were announced at the James Watt Dinner on Friday 3rd October 2025

Sir Sandford Fleming (1827-1915)



Leading railway engineer in Canada and promoter and first Chief Engineer of The Canadian Pacific Railway which was to be instrumental in creating a viable nation.

Promoter of the Pacific Cable, which transformed Canada's communication connections.

Devised and promoted the 24-hour clock and time meridians

John Boyd Dunlop (1840-1921)



The inventor whose pneumatic tyres led to the creation of the corporation that bore his name, Dunlop.

Lesley Scott Souter (1917-1981)



Pioneering electrical and electronic engineering researcher. First woman to graduate in electrical engineering from the University of Glasgow

Sir Iain Gray (b 1957)



Sir Iain Gilmour Gray, aeronautical engineer and businessman. A leading advocate for the aeronautics and space industries in the UK.

"In my case I have had the privilege to work with outstanding engineering teams mostly in the field of aerospace." – Sir Iain Gray 3rd Oct 2025

The evening in pictures...





IES

Lecture Programme for 2025-2026

Joint meeting with RINA

Hydrogen for the Net Zero Energy Trilemma

Nigel Holmes

This talk will highlight the use of hydrogen as a clean energy vector which compliments the wider electrification of the Scottish and UK energy system, together with examples of current and planned deployments of hydrogen across Scotland.

Tuesday 9th December 2025

In-person at 6.30pm - Registration for

[In-person](#)

Online at 6.30pm – Registration for [Online](#)

Joint meeting with IMarEST

Sustainable Marine Propulsion with Next Generation Fuels

Paolo Tremuli

Paolo will explore the transition to green fuels in the marine industry. This presentation covers key fuel sources, including methane, methanol, ammonia, and hydrogen. He will examine how reciprocating engine technologies will adapt and the readiness of turbochargers for these alternative fuels. Paolo will conclude with insights on the industry's path towards sustainable propulsion.

Tuesday 13th January 2026, 6.30pm

Please register via the [IMarEST website](#)

Chips or not: Semi-conductors in Scotland

David Milne

David will describe the semiconductor industry in Scotland from its origins in the early 1970's to the present day including of course Wolfson Microelectronics. David will then consider the impact of government policy and the need for a better Scottish economic performance.

Tuesday 10th February 2026

In-person at 6.30pm - Registration for

[In-person](#)

Online at 6.30pm – Registration for [Online](#)

Shaky Foundations:

The Fragility of Cybersecurity in the Modern Age

Matt Lewis

This talk will explore cybersecurity weaknesses in modern systems and through real-world examples, demonstrate how complexities and vulnerabilities in people, processes and technology combine to create opportunities for cyberattacks.

Tuesday 10th March 2026

In-person at 6.30pm - Registration for

[In-person](#)

Online at 6.30pm – Registration for [Online](#)

Marlow Lecture

Achieving Net Zero by 2050: Taking an Engineering 'Whole Energy Systems' Approach to Delivery

Prof Sir Jim McDonald

This talk will cover the required actions to tackle climate change and create critical national infrastructure that realises a new 21st century, low-carbon energy system. It will also present a review of several renewable and low-carbon energy technologies that offer the route to decarbonising our power and energy system.

Tuesday 21st April 2026

In-person at 6.30pm

Online at 6.30pm

AGM – April 2026

Full details will be confirmed in due course

Please check your subscriptions are up-to-date!



Dr Andy Pearson was delighted to show Prof Lemort the plaque installed by IES at Rankine's home (now Haggs Castle Golf Club) when Prof Lemort visited Glasgow to deliver the MacMillan Memorial Lecture on 28th October

Our lectures will be hybrid events. Our lectures will be held at the Royal Faculty of Procurators in Glasgow (RFPG), 12 Nelson Mandela Pl, Glasgow, G2 1BT.

The full details and registration (and subsequent Zoom details) can be accessed via our website www.engineers.scot/events/ies-events or via our Eventbrite page.

One more detail to note – the lectures will start at 6.30pm

