

2025 - 2026 Programme



Unless otherwise stated, all meetings commence at 7.30 p.m. and will be held in Room U005, Brockington Building, Loughborough University (see map on page 6). Lectures will also be available online via MS TEAMS.

Supporting the Loughborough Branch

All our lectures are free to attend or watch via TEAMS but, to help us cover our costs, those, who are *not* RAeS Members or students are asked to make a donation of at least £3 per lecture. Alternatively, we urge these persons, including those who watch via TEAMS, to become *Associated Branch Members* for a single payment of £15, which covers a full season of lectures, To find out how, go to the *Participation* page of our website.

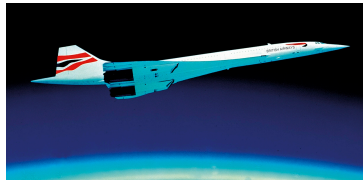
For the latest update to the Branch's programme consult our website:

www.loughborough-raes.org.uk

2025 - 2026 Lectures

2025

14 October in Room U020: *Flying Concorde*
by Captain John Tye, British Airways (Retd)



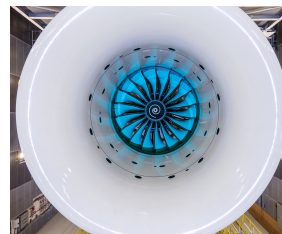
An insight to the life of an airline pilot following the ups and downs from his career on the ground at BA to flying with Dan Air and then back to BA, through to his reluctant retirement. A memorable journey to the edge of space and beyond.

04 November: *The life and times of FLYBY Technology* by Annalisa Russell-Smith FRAeS, Chief Strategy Officer, Flyby Technology

The story of a disruptive British SME on the cutting edge of warfare and drone technology 'from Death Threats to the Valley of Death and the firing of missiles along the way'.

18 November: *UltraFan Demonstrator First Engine to Test - a Once in a Career Opportunity* by Heather Dunbar, Chief Development Engineer UltraFan® Rolls-Royce

An overview of the key technologies that are part of the UltraFan architecture and how those have and continue to be individually verified. The lecture will cover the key aspects of how the multi-disciplinary and global team worked together to deliver a successful Engine Demonstrator test for a new engine architecture.



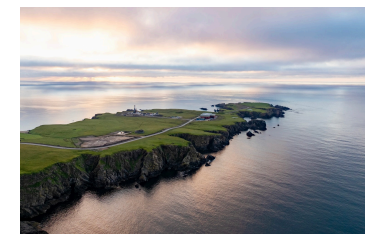
2025 - 2026 Lectures

09 December: *Buccaneer a View from the Archive* by Stephen Blee FRAeS, Ex BAE



The talk covers the development of the Buccaneer and its service in the Fleet Air Arm and the RAF. This includes carrier-borne, maritime and overland operations including the aircraft's involvement during the First Gulf War.

13 January: *SaxaVord Spaceport in Shetland* by Ruaraidh Gabraith, Launch Campaign Assistant, SaxaVord Spaceport



SaxaVord Spaceport stands as the UK's inaugural licensed vertical launch spaceport, providing local launch capability for Europe's emerging space

industry, and pushing UK national strategy from the Northern edge of the Shetland Islands. The lecture will review the logistical challenges of constructing a spaceport from scratch – including the technical challenges imposed by the extreme weather conditions, remote location, and planning process. The capabilities of the facility will be covered together with the role of small launch vehicles and medium sized payloads for Earth-observation and communications.

2025 - 2026 Lectures

10 February: *Heavy Lift Uncrewed Air Systems* by

Neil Appleton,
Chief Executive Officer, Malloy Aeronautics

An overview of all-electric heavy lift UAS for civil and military

operations and the story of Malloy Aeronautics, their challenges as a UK start-up and current examples of Malloy T-series platforms.



24 February: *In Room U020* *Elfyn Richards Prestige Lecture*

From Concorde to Boom Supersonic: the History and Future of Supersonic Air Transport by Professor Ric Parker CBE, FREng, FRAeS; Special Advisor, Ricparker Consultants Ltd



Over 27 years Concorde clocked up more supersonic flying hours than all the world's military air forces combined. But Concorde

was severely limited by not being able to fly supersonic over land because of the sonic boom produced. Only one credible successor to Concorde has emerged: Overture, developed over the past ten years by the company Boom Supersonic. In early 2025, when XB-1, a one-third scale supersonic demonstrator flew at Mach 1.18 there was no perceptible boom at ground level.

2025 - 2026 Lectures

17 March: *Windracers ULTRA: The Design of a Low-Cost Self Flying Cargo Aircraft* by Andrew Lock, Chief Designer, Windracers

Windracers provides essential logistical support to humanitarian agencies serving remote communities during times of crisis. ULTRA is a long range, self-flying cargo aircraft that provides a robust, safe and cost-effective alternative to crewed aviation and road transport to reach local and remote villages quickly and effectively.



April 14 *Grandma Flew Spitfires*

Capt. Richard Poad, Trustee, ATA Museum at Maidenhead Heritage Centre

The story of the Air Transport Auxiliary (ATA) whose male and female amateur pilots ferried over 300,000 aircraft, enabling the Royal Air Force (RAF) and the Fleet Air Arm to fight the war in the air. The talk is illustrated with many photos from the ATA Museum collection and punctuated with personal anecdotes from many of the ATA veterans whom Richard met and interviewed.



Date, venue & details to be arranged:
Loughborough University MEng Final Year Aircraft Design Projects : Joint Event with the Department of Aeronautical and Automotive Engineering.

An annual event involving two mini-lectures from groups of final year MEng students that describe the results obtained from their projects.

Branch Committee

Chairman: Professor Jim McGuirk FRAeS, FREng
Secretary: Colin Moss MRAeS, 62 Spinney Hill Dr, Loughborough LE11 3LD Tel.: 01509 239962

Treasurer: Stephen Hogarth FRAeS

Ass't Secretary: Dr John Ollerhead OBE MRAeS

Meetings Secretary: Dr Vipran Kannan ARAeS

Visits Secretary: Dan Nutt

Programme Secretary: Goff Tearle MRAeS

Other committee members: Dr Bjorn Cleton, Richard Howard FRAeS, Nigel Manning MRAeS, Professor Gary Page FRAeS, Professor Adrian Spencer FRAeS, Dr Thomas Steffen, Ashley van Bruygom ARAeS, Dr Rob Watson MRAeS. (RAeS Young Persons Representative to be appointed.)

