

A few words about myself:

I came into engineering through an inspirational math's teacher who in 1967 got hold of an ancient Ford Anglia and a group of us dismantled it under his guidance after school. He managed to cadge all the replacement parts from the Ford Motor Company, we rebuilt it and amazingly, it worked... We promptly got suspended for pulling handbrake turns all round the playground one summer's evening.

I lived fairly near Brands Hatch in Kent, and got hooked on motor racing before it became so commercialised and computerised. I became involved with a club racing team - an engineering degree in automotive engineering at Loughborough beckoned.

I spent my year in industry with London Transport, really enjoyed the surprising engineering innovation in buses (hydrostatic transmission, regenerative braking), and graduated to a position with Leyland Truck & Bus. And then Mrs Thatcher all but obliterated the bus industry... Politics and engineering...

My proudest achievement was as a young graduate, being able to technically out-argue the esteemed designers and providers (AP Precision Hydraulics) of an hydraulic brake system for a new bus. I proved that the materials they used were 1950s vintage, had no 'recovery', and coupled with poor quality machined surfaces, gave rise to almost permanent and totally unacceptable leakage. My changes must have worked - the buses are still in service today (some in Cumbria), almost 30 years later.

Leyland Bus is why we moved to Cumbria in 1984. Like many engineers, a very demanding career (when there was such a thing.) and parenthood severely limited my time to become involved in the Institution. To be honest, my industry did not demand full Chartership before career progression.

I am pleased that Adrian revived interest, and I now have (some) time to give back to helping IMechE West Cumbria become a shining beacon area within the Institution. It is only by putting on an open programme as we do, involving schools where we can, that the seeds may be planted for the engineers of tomorrow. I am proud of what we have achieved here, and I am particularly passionate about communication and presentation. In the end, successful engineering is all about communication.

I think that's way too much.

Cheers!

Chris George
Chairman IMechE West Cumbria Area