

I would like to start by thanking Lloyd Neale for all his excellent work in developing our web-based systems and changing the local engineering community's luddite culture towards a more IT culture.

I was asked to produce a quick resume of my reasons for getting involved with the local engineering fraternity.

First of all I don't think I had much choice in getting involved because the Area Committee had all but disbanded. A small number of individuals had been involved in running the Area on a shoestring of support. On returning back in the UK from a number of years abroad working for Engineering Consultants I felt there was something missing in the local area for the local Engineers. I started making a few enquiries with Birdcage Walk and quickly found that no one was really interested in setting up a programme of events for the local Engineering Community. I quickly came to the conclusion that something had to be done and got support from a number of like minded colleagues. I'm proud to say that those Colleagues are still active today and are excellent guardians of the Area.

I got involved because in life you need to give something back. I'm proud to say that over the last 6 years I have made some excellent friends, watched young engineers grow into competent Chartered Engineers and better than all that, seen young people discover engineering through visits and lectures prepared by us and take on study in engineering or science subjects. I always say if by what I have done ONE individual becomes an Engineer, takes up a Science subject, gets Chartered, fulfils a dream or gets some direction in life, I have made a difference. I can't take the credit for this because people will have made those decisions at some time anyway but I can take the "shared credit" for making all this available. In life you need the right type guidance with the right direction and I feel what we are doing here is giving individuals that choice.

To conclude, the most interesting job I had was working abroad in the Petrochemical Industry during my Engineering Formative Years. The responsibility and experiences thrown at you are incredible whilst the opportunities available are exponential as your experience grows. All this and you get paid to travel the World and meet people of all Races and Cultures whilst continuing your life long learning.

Being a Mechanical Engineer makes you a professional with the widest scope of all the professions. Take a look at any project and you will find Mechanical Engineers at the heart of the project and through every layer you care to investigate. This is why Mechanical Engineers must ensure that the profession is promoted effectively and professionally whilst retaining the integrity "of Engineering" and preventing the unqualified from representing our interests or damaging our profession.

My main driver these days is to present Engineering to the Next Generation, and whenever I can this is what I do. They are the Engineers of the Future and without guidance will be lost. They need to be cultivated and grown by us whilst being given the opportunity to make their minds up with the facts in front of them. I suppose this is why I am working as the Schools Liaison Officer.....

Eur Ing Adrian.H.Norendal CEng IMechE Slo BEng Hons BA