



Lichfield Science & Engineering Society

LICHFIELD **GARRICK**
Theatre & Studio

PATRON

Professor Elizabeth Barnes CBE
HM Lord Lieutenant of Staffordshire

CHAIRMAN
Alan Hooper

PRESIDENT
Professor Janet M Lord CBE, FMedSci

7:30 p.m. Thursday, 6th November 2025
in the Main House of the Lichfield Garrick

The 35th Erasmus Darwin Memorial Lecture **ADVANCES IN AIR MOBILITY**

Professor Dame Helen Atkinson

DBE, FEng, DL, HonDEng, FIMMM, FIMechE, FRAeS



In the hundred-plus years since the beginning of powered flight the way we travel by air has changed out of all recognition. Wilbur Wright was alone, we can travel with 500 other people. Propellers have largely given way to jet engines which are themselves developing, becoming quieter and more efficient. But the advance continues and Dame Helen will describe the current situation and future possibilities, including electric aeroplanes and “flying taxis”. This talk will bring us up-to-date with the way in which we will use air transport in the future.

Dame Helen is originally a metallurgist, having gained her PhD. at Harwell. She became a Professor at Leicester University as Head of Engineering and joined Cranfield University in September 2017 as Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the School of Aerospace, Transport and Manufacturing, In August 2024, she was made Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Sciences.

Her service on national bodies has included the Skills Panel of the Institution of Engineering and Technology, the Engineering Leaders Panel of the National Council for Universities and Business and for five years chairing the Education and Skills Committee at the Royal Academy of Engineering. With the MoD she was a Secretary of State appointment to a major safety committee. For six years she chaired ‘This is Engineering’ for the Royal Academy of Engineering, a large-scale social media campaign which aims to encourage more young people to consider engineering as a career, and was the first woman President of the Engineering Professors’ Council in its fifty-year history Dame Helen is a role model for young people, especially women, entering the world of Engineering.

Tickets from the Garrick Box Office 01543 412121 or online.
Price £17

If you are not already one of our 300+ Members why not join us?

In addition to our monthly lecture meetings we often arrange visits to manufacturers and research establishments, and also hold social events. For more information, including our current programme and membership details.

visit <https://www.lses.org.uk/>