

Just messing about with models: experience as an OR practitioner

**by Jane Parkin
(Independent OR Consultant)**

An introduction to the OR Society

**by Louise Orpin
(The OR Society)**

6.00 pm, 9th October 2013

(Refreshment from 5:30pm)

Room G8, Main Building, Aston Triangle B4 7ET

(Entrance marked E in the campus map ([see campus map](#)) and follow the signs)

An introduction to the OR Society

This talk aims to introduce the role of The OR Society in supporting the operational research profession and the benefits of membership.

Just messing about with models: experiences as an OR practitioner

Life as a practitioner is full of interesting questions: how do you start off negotiations with a new client? How do you get to grips with the client's business area and problem fast? How to decide on the most appropriate approach to take/model to use and how to persuade the client that your model will help to solve their problems? What do you do if the client doesn't think an analytical approach will help or even if the client doesn't realise that they have a problem? How best to manage client expectations and relationships? And finally, how best to finish off an assignment to everyone's satisfaction? These issues will be addressed via a selection of consultancy projects and there will be time for discussion on any aspect of working as an OR practitioner.

Simulation was also used, to investigate the dynamic between the availability of lifeboats, the utilisation of lifeboats and the response times to incidents when modelling the deployment of life boats to incidents around the coast of Wales, England and Ireland.

We will be taking the speakers for a drink after the talk, all are welcome.

Directions: Aston is a short, flat 15 minutes' walk away from New Street Station, through the main shopping areas of the city along Corporation Street. Directions to Aston can be found at <http://www1.aston.ac.uk/about/directions/>

Parking details: Visitors may use the pay-and-display car park in Car Park 12 (Number 28 in the campus map). Charges are £1 from 16:30 to 24:00. The barriers will lift automatically as you come in through Colleshill Street. Alternatively, there are public pay and display car parks at Millennium Point and Love Lane, both of which are within easy walk of campus. You can find more information on our maps and directions webpages

Future programme of talks

Florence Nightingale: using graphical statistical analysis to combat the spread of disease

Venue: The Club Room, The Old Joint Stock, 4 Temple Row West, Birmingham, B2 5NY

Speaker: Noel-Ann Bradshaw, University of Greenwich

Date: Tuesday, 12 November 2013 at 18:00

PhD research showcase

Venue: Warwick Business School

Speaker: Mahdi Noorizadegan and Chenlan Wang

Date: Tuesday, 28 January 2014 at 18:00 - 19:30

Modelling and measuring demand and performance in HMRC call centres

Venue: The Club Room, The Old Joint Stock, 4 Temple Row West, Birmingham, B2 5NY

Speaker: Steve O'Donnell, HMRC

Date: Wednesday, 26 February 2014 at 18:30 - 19:30

Optimising the Retail Network for New Zealand Post

Venue: tbc

Speaker: Tony Lewins, Ernst & Young

Date: Tuesday, 25 March 2014 at 18:30

Winner of the 2013 President's Medal

A model future for the UK's nuclear legacy

Venue: tbd

Speaker: Panos Frangos and Simon Hughes

Date: Tuesday, 13 May 2014

Winner of the 2010 President's Medal

Non-members welcome, no charge is made.

After the talk, you are welcome to join us and the speaker for a drink.

For further information please see <http://www.theorsociety.com/Pages/Regional/mors.aspx> or contact MidlandsORSociety@live.co.uk