



UK-AFI

The UK-AFI 23rd AGM and Annual Training Conference: "Fires, Forensics and Findings"

Speaker Bio's

Linda Ainscough

Linda is professionally certified as a Chartered Forensic Scientist and undertakes a wide range of casework, specialising in complex scene, mortuary and laboratory examinations including the search for missing presumed deceased, the examination of burnt, fragmented and skeletalised remains, traumatic injury interpretation, mass fatality incidents (DVI) and cold case reviews.

As Science Lead for Forensic Anthropology, she is responsible for overseeing quality, training and competence as well as research and development at Cellmark Forensic Services. She is a Fellow of the Royal Anthropological Institute (RAI), an advisor to the Examination Board of the Forensic Anthropology Committee of the RAI which sets standards for UK forensic anthropology practice.

Linda has been a professional forensic anthropologist and archaeologist since 1996. Prior to joining Cellmark, Linda gained eleven years' experience as a Crime Scene Manager / Co-Ordinator with a major metropolitan force. She worked on large scale operations searching for concealed or buried human remains, archaeological excavations and examinations of human remains in a wide range of states of preservation for unexplained deaths and murder investigations.

Peter Mansi

Peter is a Certified Fire Investigator, Evidence Collection Technician, Life Member and Past President of the International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI), Member of the Chartered Society for Forensic Sciences, Fellow of the Institution of Fire Engineers, Life Member, Fellow and Past President of the UK Association of Fire Investigators (UK-AFI) and Past President of the European Association of Fire Investigators (E-AFI).

Peter served over 30 operational years in the London Fire Brigade and was the Borough Commander of the City of London and Group Manager for the Fire and Arson Investigation Teams.

He is a Partner of Fire Investigations UK, which is now in its 15th year of trading.

Lucy Pinkard

Lucy started her career working as an analytical scientist within the pharmaceutical sector. She then went on to work for her local Constabulary for 15 years as a Crime Scene Investigator. During this period, she progressed to the position of Crime Scene Manager and Fire Investigator. Lucy left the public sector in 2024 and has been working as a Forensic Investigator in the field of fire investigation in the civil sector since early 2024. She now works for Hawkins & Associates. Lucy completed her master's in 'Forensic Investigation of Explosives and Explosions' in 2025, writing her thesis in the area of thermal runaway in lithium ion batteries. Lucy also lectures in fire investigation at the University of Cranfield.

Mike Jones

Mike started his career as an electrical design engineer in the nuclear industry then moved into the petro-chemical/offshore industries as a consultant in Hazardous Area assessments, teaching technicians how to keep electrical equipment safe in potentially explosive atmospheres and assessing equipment for compliance with standards. In 1989 he moved into fire investigation, learning the craft from former Home Office and Metropolitan Police forensic scientists, and has never looked back since.

He now works as a consultant investigating all manner of causes of fires, not just electrical, and also investigates electrocutions equipment failures etc. He also assists the Police and Defence solicitors in criminal matters but most of his work these days is either for liability insures or for manufacturers. This means that he gets to read a great many reports written by others and finds a good deal of variation in the degree of applied reasoning ... and there must be reason!

Pete Stone

Pete began his career in the fire sector when he joined Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service (GMFRS) in 2003. During his 2 decades in the Fire service, he has fulfilled roles as a fire fighter, crew and watch manager. He worked as a trainer and achieved a BA(Hons) in teaching.

In 2019 Pete Joined the GMFRS Fire investigation team, attaining his SFJ level 5 certificate in fire investigation with Gardiner Associates Training and Research (GATR) in March 2022. During this time, he has attended and been the primary investigation officer for many significant and complex scenes, working closely with partner agencies from the police, HSE, and private forensic service providers. He is also qualified to level 7 in legal aspects of the role and hold both the APSIL and APAEWE.

Pete has provided witness reports to both the coroners office and CJS, and attended coroners court and crown court to present his evidence. Pete is currently developing fire investigation strategy and process to protect investigators from the risks inferred bias when challenged.

Steve Andrews

Stephen Paul Andrews BSc, MSc, FFireInv, MIAAI, MCSFS, FHEA

Steve Andrews has been a fire & explosion scientist for more than 36 years. He works for Fire Investigations (UK) LLP, which he joined as an associate in 2011, originally on a part time basis.

He started his fire career in 1989 at the BRE Fire Research Station at Borehamwood, before transferring in 1992 to the Health & Safety Laboratory of the HSE, at Buxton, Derbyshire. He then joined the Forensic Science Service in 1998 as a specialist fire and (non-terrorist) explosion reporting officer at the Northwest laboratory in Chorley, Lancashire, and supported the Wetherby and Birmingham laboratories with fire investigation cover. During his FSS career he also helped provide fire investigation training on courses at the Fire Service College at Moreton-in-Marsh, and the police CSI training centre at Harperley Hall, County Durham (CENTREX /NPIA, now College of Policing). Towards the end of his FSS career he was trained in firearms examination. When the FSS was closed down in 2010-11, he joined the University of Central Lancashire at Preston (UCLan), where he taught fire investigation at MSc level, and to 3rd year forensic science and fire engineering students. He also taught Skills for Justice level 5 fire investigation courses at UCLan. He took voluntary redundancy from UCLan in July 2024, after almost 14 years, when UCLan and many other UK universities were in a financial crisis, and increased his work with FIUK.

His presentation to this conference relates to some of the many MSc dissertation projects he supervised at the University of Central Lancashire.

Richard Hagger

Richard has been in the fire sector for 43 years, joining West Yorkshire Fire Service in 1983. He has specialised in investigating fires since 2001. Richard is a UK/Europe based senior fire investigator for Andrew Moore & Associates. He is responsible for fire, explosion and accident investigations including fire related consultancy work on both land and marine, both in Europe and worldwide. Richard has a Master's degree in Fire & Explosion Investigations, Diplomas in Strategic Management and a BTEC Level 7 Award in Expert Witness Evidence. Richard is a member of the IFE, the IAAI, the CSFS and is a Professional member, Director and immediate past President of the UK-AFI.

Rhodri Jones

Rhodri spent 18 years working in the fire sector, from incident commander to fire investigator, and international fire officer to government fire scientist. After a 2-year spell working in the Middle East, Rhodri returned to the UK and is now the technical team leader for the HSE Fire safety research team based in Buxton. He holds an MSc in Fire and Explosion investigation, diplomas in strategic leadership management and coaching and mentoring. He is a member of the I.F.E and a chartered manager with the Chartered Management Institute.

Noel Lowdon

Noel Lowdon is an accredited and highly regarded investigator having served twelve years as an investigator into serious and complex investigations during his seventeen years as a police officer in West Yorkshire Police. Specialising in fatal road traffic collisions he was regarded as one of the most experienced investigators of such incidents in the Police Service and has investigated some of the higher profile road death cases.

He is qualified in Forensic Collision Investigation alongside his accredited PIP level 2 investigation and advanced investigative interviewing (Tier 3). His experience extends to other crime types including; Homicide, fraud, firearms discharges, manslaughter and serious sexual offences. He has a keen interest in digital forensics and was a qualified district examiner of digital devices, dealing with this sensitive evidence and managing it through the court process.

Noel has achieved Crown Court and Coroners Commendations for outstanding performance as a thorough and tenacious investigator that leaves no stone unturned, evaluating complex sequences of events.

Noel left West Yorkshire Police to set up Harper Shaw Investigation Consultants Ltd to further develop his career independently and to pursue his passion for investigation, where he can exploit and harness new technologies and provide complimentary services to improve outcomes by assisting investigators in several areas.

He believes passionately that these services will improve the justice system whilst showing cost reductions for his clients by application of his extensive knowledge and experience and the ability to appropriately apply modern techniques to the investigation process.

David Schudel

Dr David Schudel has been employed as a forensic scientist since 1991 specialising in forensic chemistry (including drug analysis), fire investigation and offender tagging cases. He has worked in the UK, USA and Cayman Islands and given expert testimony in these jurisdictions as well as Guyana and Ireland. He regularly takes on cases that do not fall into traditional areas of forensic science which often involve customised approaches to reconstruction or analysis.

He is a chartered chemist (CChem), Member of the Royal Society of Chemistry (MRSC), Certified Fire Investigator (CFI) and Fellow Member of the UK-AFI (FFireInv). He has been a member of the IAAI for over 30 years and contributes as a peer-reviewer regularly to Fire & Arson Investigator as well as the UK-AFI Journal.