

Nuclear Physics and Defence

This talk examines how understanding of the atom was revolutionised in the early 20th Century. As the secrets of the nucleus were unlocked by a succession of Nobel prize winning discoveries the possibility of using the energy held in the nucleus led to the largest scientific project in history up to that point, the successful conclusion of which had repercussions which continue to this day.

Paul Burton gained a BSc in Physical Science at Coventry Polytechnic in the 1980s. Most of the subsequent 35 years has been spent in the nuclear industry in roles including Radiological Protection, Environmental Monitoring and Experimental Physics. He now researches and teaches the historical and political aspects of nuclear science and technology. He was elected as a Fellow of the Institute of Physics in 2014 and is also a member of the Royal Air Force Historical Society and a Civilian Instructor for his local RAF Air Cadet Squadron."