



SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Keynote Speakers



Event 1: Lord (Chris) Holmes of Richmond MBE

Chris is a passionate advocate for the potential of technology and the benefits of diversity and inclusion.

Chris is co-author House of Lords Select Committee Reports on: Intergenerational Fairness [2019], [Artificial Intelligence](#) [2018], [Financial Exclusion](#) [2017], [Social Mobility](#) [2016] and [Digital Skills](#) [2015] He is co-chair of Parliamentary Groups on Assistive Technology, Fintech, Blockchain and the 4th Industrial Revolution and has published a report; "[Distributed Ledger Technologies for Public Good: leadership, collaboration and innovation](#)" calling on the Government to look at the challenges and opportunities of this technology for improving public services. A [progress update](#) was published in November 2018.

Chris advises the Government on Diversity & Inclusion and is Chair of the Global Disability Innovation Hub, a Paralympic legacy project that is leading the way in applying technology and innovation to accessible design. Chris is also Deputy Chair at Channel 4. An ex-Paralympic swimmer, Chris won nine gold, five silvers and one bronze medal across four Games, including a record haul of six golds at Barcelona 1992.



Event 2: Dr. Robert M. Learney, Lead Technologist - Blockchain & DLT, Digital Catapult

Dr. Robert M. Learney is a technology enthusiast and qualified doctor who studied medicine at Oxford University and Imperial College. He completed his PhD in Biomedical Engineering at Imperial College, funded by the James Dyson Fellowship.

In 2014 Robert co-founded the Imperial College Centre for Cryptocurrency Research and Engineering and has been following developments across the sector ever since. He is a recognised international speaker on DLT/blockchain, routes to adoption, and its broader societal impacts.

He is currently the Lead Technologist in Blockchain/DLT at Digital Catapult, working to improve the UK's economic position through use of this transformative technology.



Event 3: Tim Carey Director - Sunesis

Tim Carey is Director for Willmott Dixon Sunesis, a recently established business aimed at driving platform-based solutions which enable Willmott Dixon's Construction division to deliver higher quality, higher performing buildings at a reduced cost to their customers.

Willmott Dixon Sunesis' solutions embrace the use of off-site and precision manufacturing, through the development and maintenance of a design and procurement platform from which a range of standard building forms ("products") are then assembled and delivered.

Tim's previous role was for 7 years as National Product Director for Willmott Dixon, with a portfolio covering design, innovation, quality, offsite and digital construction. He led their National Product Team, whose focus was to identify and promote innovative methods and products that constructively challenge Willmott Dixon's existing approaches and improve the quality, efficiency, and cost effectiveness of its end product.

A Fellow of the CIOB, Tim studied at the University of Greenwich before being subsequently awarded both an MBA and a RICS Post-Graduate Diploma from the University of Reading.

Tim is a workstream lead for the Construction Leadership Council, and an official Prince of the Nkwen tribe in Cameroon.

Guest Speakers



Marcus Bennett, CITB's future skills strategy

Marcus is CITB's future skills and innovation strategy lead, with responsibility for CITB's approach to: digitalisation; immersive learning and modern methods of construction.

He previously led a programme of research quantifying the demands, risks and training provision for construction occupations aimed at informing skills plans across the UK. Prior to joining CITB Marcus gained experience in the public and private sectors



Mark Taylor, Partner, Osborne Clarke

Mark is a Partner with extensive experience in technology and data protection matters, having worked in the TMT sector for over 20 years.

Mark has a long track record of advising clients on all aspects of the implementation, transformation and exploitation of IT and novel technologies, and on the closely related areas of data protection (including data breaches), cybersecurity and interception of communications. He has an active interest in Blockchain and has advised clients on a number of Blockchain projects, as well as coordinating Osborne Clarke's Blockchain team.

Prior to becoming a lawyer, Mark worked for IBM writing software. He is a past Trustee of the Society for Computers and Law and is recommended in Chambers and other legal directories ("*extremely knowledgeable and commercial*"). Mark was also recommended in The Times' Best Lawyers 2019.



Fernando Santiago-Cajaraville, Blockchain Researcher & Project Manager at Big Innovation Centre

Fernando Santiago-Cajaraville is a Civil Engineer that leads the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Blockchain (APPG Blockchain) and the Blockchain for Government Council, both for the UK Parliament.

With more than twelve years' experience in Project Management, he is passionate about the uses of Blockchain in the construction industry and how society can benefit from the full potential of blockchain and other distributed ledger technologies (DLT).

Fernando Santiago-Cajaraville holds an MSc Logistics, and Supply Chain from Cranfield University, an MEng Civil Engineering from Alfonso X El Sabio University, a BEng Civil Constructions at Salamanca University, Executive Education from IESE Business School and is a Prince2 Practitioner.

"New technologies adoption, like Blockchain, confronts the society with a new order of things full of challenges; however bigger will be the opportunity to set up a new decentralised order of things for the benefit of all."



Damien Ward - Technical and Compliance manager, Checkmate

Damien is a member of the Institution of Fire Engineers (IFE), with a foundation degree (science) in construction management and a Bachelor of Science (hons) in fire safety engineering.

Damien began his career within the civil engineering division of The Carey Group, before joining the Building Research Establishment (BRE), where he stayed for almost 10 years as their Senior Certification Manager.

Moving on to his current role as the Technical and Compliance Manager at Checkmate Fire Solutions, Damien's responsibilities range from advising on frameworks, to supporting both the technical and operational teams on new developments. With his hands-on approach to technical documents and consultation, he's also renowned for squeezing every last bit of information into our newly revamped CPD seminars and training modules!



Andrew Gamblen - Digital Manager for Willmott Dixon Construction London and East

Andrew began his career as a Structural Engineer working with Supply Chain before eventually moving into design management with WDC London and East in 2015. Here he was introduced to BIM and Digital Construction and in 2017 moved over departments to become a Digital Manager working with a colleague to ensure implementation within the business.

His focus is on ensuring the basics are understood and implemented and making sure that the information gets to those who really need it. Collaborative working practices, leveraging technology where it provides benefit, and understanding the value of working in a standardised way to create quality data are all methods used to help with the implementation.



Sam Gamble - CEO for Automated Markets

A technologist and entrepreneur with 20 years in the tech industry, Sam has significant experience creating market changing software platforms in the fields of insurance, banking and self-sovereign identity.

A pivotal moment for Sam's relationship with blockchain was when he was working with KPMG to restructure the European non-performing loan market. The aim was to open this market up to more investors and drive the price of the asset up to a fair value. The key was to create common data standards and data sharing protocols powered by blockchain. The idea being, get the data right then build real value on top of it. In this case, once the

data was right electronic trading venues could be created to trade the asset, authorities could monitor the market digitally and banks could offer credit at lower rates (or create larger profits, but that is a wider discussion). Realising the power of blockchain to enable the idea of 'get the data right then build new value on it', Sam set up Automated Markets to work with innovative, forward thinking companies to bring solutions to life



Steve Cook, National Product Manager for Willmott Dixon Construction

Steve has 30 experience years working in the construction sector having joined the industry as an apprentice carpenter, he now works in Willmott Dixons National Product Team focusing on improving the technical and quality aspects relating to the delivery of projects. Steve also leads the development of the Yellow Book, a digital manual for efficient design, and the Fire Safety Requirements Policy reducing risks to the business and its customers.



Simon Tranter – Head of Sustainability, Willmott Dixon Interiors

Simon had been Head of Sustainability at Willmott Dixon Interiors since January 2017. His main role is to influence leaders to move beyond theory to the practical implementation of sustainable development principles. He designs and implements strategies to drive business improvement and cultural change, and has specific interests in supply chain management, innovation and workplace productivity. Simon is a member of the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment and holds an MBA from Surrey University. His professional motivation is to help Willmott Dixon adopt a long-term approach to sustainable development and in doing so generate real competitive advantage and value for the business. Simon is leading Willmott Dixon's approach to adopting blockchain technology.