



and

Bristol **AERO TALKS**



‘Down the Hole’ The Whittle Turbodrill story

By Roger Gosling



After ‘Inventing’ the jet engine, Sir Frank Whittle applied turbine technology in other fields including oil well drilling.

In the 1960s, in conjunction with Bristol Siddeley Engines, development of the “Whittle Turbodrill” was undertaken at Patchway, followed by full scale testing at four sites at Severnside and elsewhere.

Roger will present this fascinating story, including a unique video of local test drilling.

Above is a complete Turbodrill ready to go into a borehole at Avonmouth.

**7:15pm on Tuesday 22nd September 2026
John James Lecture Theatre, Aerospace Bristol,
Hayes Way, Patchway BS34 5BZ**

Pre booking is not required, with no charge for entry with a voluntary ‘bucket’ leaving collection to cover costs with any residue going to support the Aerospace Bristol Museum.

There is ample easy free car parking at Aerospace Bristol, for further information including directions, please visit:

<https://aerospacebristol.org> or

<https://www.rolls-royce.com/about/heritage-trust.aspx>