AgileNorth Speakers 2016

**Chris Matts**

**Title: The Kulcha Club**

**Description:** We are told that “Culture eats Strategy for Breakfast” but that’s an understatement. To culture, strategy is more like a spot of brown sauce on the side a healthy fry up. Come hear Chris’s tales of failure and er… more failure. Discover what he learnt from his failure. Once you start to see culture, you will be able to critically assess various approaches to scaling agile. Are they taking us in the right direction? Or over the precipice?

**About the Speaker:** Chris co-created the ubiquitous Given-When-Then approach with Dan North in 2004. Since then he has been busy harvesting tools exapted from applying Agile in new contexts. He has harvested Real Options, Value Mapping (Feature Injection), Staff Liquidity and Demand Mapping. Demand Mapping is the part of Business Mapping that Chris has been developing with Tony and Dan North to help organisations trying to unleash the benefit of Agile.

**Charles Weir**

**Title: The Agile Security Game**

**Description:** Many of us learn best from games, preferably games that are fun.  This workshop extends a game devised by people in Security Lancaster to cover app programming and project management.  In it, you will be given a secure app product and offered a variety of choices which security functionality to implement.  Based on your choices, your product will thrive or possibly wither.  Are you up to making those decisions?  Join us on the day and find out.

**About the Speaker:** Charles has many years of experience leading teams implementing mobile apps, and more recently secure mobile apps.  He is currently researching how programmers learn about security, with the Security Lancaster group at Lancaster University.  His research has turned up surprising results on the lack of incentive for programmers to implement secure systems, and a variety of positive approaches for secure app projects.  Some of these will be incorporated into the workshop – join him to find out what they are.

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**Chris Carroll**

**Title:  Agile Software Architecture**

**Description:** Agile software architecture has slowly become a thing.  This presentation will cream off some of best of the past 15 years of lessons and publications on architecture in the light of agile development, and offer you the lessons learned, practical and theoretical.

**About the Speaker:** Chris F Carroll has been writing software since the last century, and doing agile software architecture and development for nearly a decade. His previous slides on agile architecture are at [slideshare.net/ChrisCarroll2](http://www.slideshare.net/ChrisCarroll2/presentations). He has degrees in mathematics & philosophy and theology; he tried being a café manager for a while but found software less stressful. Still, he learned how to make coffee.

**David Draper and Kevin Murray**

**Title:** Assumptions and managing uncertainty

**Description:** Lean UX introduced a technique called Assumption Mapping as an approach to identifying areas of uncertainty and hence drive prototyping. We've found that this method can be tailored to provide a framework that brings together stakeholders from all disciplines.

In development of a new product or service, this approach can reduce costly mistakes by enabling prioritisation of a range of activities from data analysis and technical exploration through to user research and prototyping.

In this session you will take a new product idea and explore it from the perspective of identifying and prioritising assumptions.

We will also share some examples of where this has driven rapid delivery of MVPs as well as supporting avoidance of costly mistakes.

**About the Speaker:** David started his Agile Journey with Agile North in 2003. Since then he's worked as developer, manager and agile coach for organisations as diverse as New York Stock Exchange, Thales Underwater Systems and numerous departments of Her Majesties Government. As Head of Professional Services at Valtech, David is responsible for working with our teams to support development of tools and approaches that enable us to deliver better outcomes for our customers.

David is particularly focused creating projects that are outcome focused and hence able to make choices leading to earlier delivery of benefits.

**About the Speaker:** Kevin is a Delivery Director at Valtech with over 20 years experience in the industry.  Especially passionate about Agile in the Public Sector, Kevin manages and oversees the successful digital transformation of GDS exemplars for the Department of Work and Pensions, including the phenomenally successful Carer's Allowance digital service.  He is also highly regarded as an expert on the subject of Agile in the Public Sector. Kevin has helped in shaping Valtech's approaches to integrating our proven software engineering and agile delivery capabilities with increasing user centricity, user informed development and creative practices.

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**Duncan Nisbet**

**Title: “Testing! Be More Salmon!”**

**Description:** Where do Testers fit in this fast paced delivery cycle to continue delivering value?

When an organisation shifts towards agile/lean, delivery cycles shorten and testers are often left wondering where they fit. Ambitions of automated testing and light documentation take away things testers often hold dear.

In an agile environment testers need to be more salmon – just without the death bit! Testers need to get further upstream, they need to continue their testing throughout the development lifecycle and stop waiting for the mythical test phase.

**About the Speaker:** “Duncan Nisbet is a tester who believes development teams & the larger business can be smarter at working together. He coaches Testers, Programmers & Business folk on how they can help each other communicate & collaborate in order to deliver software which will actually help to solve the problem. His efforts are focussed both during the everyday development and in team workshops which he facilitates. Duncan also blogs at [www.duncannisbet.co.uk](http://www.duncannisbet.co.uk/) & lurks on Twitter[@duncnisbet](https://twitter.com/DuncNisbet).”

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**Mike Burrows**

**Title: Servant Leadership un-neutered**

**Description:** What is Servant Leadership? Is it just “unblocking all the things and getting out of the way”? In this session, Mike would like both to challenge that misrepresentation of this classic leadership model and to show Servant Leadership’s present-day relevance to the challenges of Lean-Agile transformation. We’ll explore six transformation strategies (honestly, with their respective pitfalls) and the opportunities for demonstrating and developing Servant Leadership that go with each of them.

**About the Speaker:** Mike is the founder of Agendashift, author of the book Kanban from the Inside, consultant, coach, and trainer. In recent months he has been the interim delivery manager for two UK government digital “exemplar” projects and consultant to public and private sector organisations at home and abroad. Prior to his consulting career, he was global development manager and Executive Director at a top tier investment bank, and IT Director for an energy risk management startup.

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**Phran Ryder**

**Title: Improving Performance**

**Description:** Improving the performance of individuals and teams is important in Agile Development. But how is that done? This session will explore and tease out good and effective techniques for improving the performance of individuals and teams.

**About the Speaker:** Phran Ryder wrote his first programme in 1978 and soon became an enemy of inefficiencies in software development. In his first job in 1986, developing a GUI centric design tool for a Macintosh, he soon wearied of testing his code and wrote automated tests - a strategy he followed until the end of the century when he stumbled on the then novel idea of writing the test before the code. That innovation came with the discovery of eXtreme programming and the Agile methodologies.

In the nineties Phran formed OOPS North West, a Branch of the British Computer Object Oriented Programming Specialist Interest Group. That grouped morphed into AgileNorth. A few years later the first AgileNorth conference took place in Preston.

Phran works for a very, very large organisation where agility is challenging but possible. He still hates inefficiency in software development.

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**Ricardo Tomé**

**Title:** **From idea to value: first step**

**Description:** The journey from idea to value is usually very intense. The initial step of identifying the right customer needs is key for success. In this workshop, you will work in teams to practice how to discover the “Jobs to be Done” and how it can be related with the creation of a Value Proposition Canvas and Business Model Canvas. These tools enable organisations to have a different level of collaboration and keep focus on achieving customer value.

**About the Speaker:** Ricardo Tomé is an experienced Lean\Agile Coach and Trainer currently working on several clients in the UK. He feels passion about helping organisations and teams to deliver products customers really need. His main goal is to achieve the right balance between inspiring people and providing them with pragmatic techniques to deliver value.

Ricardo has been an enthusiastic Agile and Lean practitioner since 2006 and he delivered critical and complex products for clients in banking, government, healthcare, telecommunications and aviation.

In a nutshell, he is a passionate leader by example with a strong track record of delivery in both small and big organisations.