

Bedfordshire Branch



Chairmans Report
For the Year 2005/2006

29 Jun 2006.

This year has been yet another challenging one, due to commitments of committee members, and we are sorry to receive notice of intention to resign from the post of YPG rep. from Sam Dagash, due to her almost permanent move to London. She will, however, help to find a successor before moving on, and remain available as needed in the handover.

Gary Yorke and his family have also moved to Australia and are happily settled in Melbourne.

With regret, I fear that I shall also have to declare my intention not to seek reappointment as your Chairman next year, and I feel that it is only fair to give as much time as possible to find a successor.

I suggest that it would be appropriate to seek advice, help and guidance from Mary Clarkson, who is our Branch Mentor, in rebuilding the committee and programme.

Education and University Liaison

During the course of this year, the BCS have promoted a new function of University Liaison Officer, alongside the existing post of Education Liaison Officer.

At present, we have neither. During the course of this year, I would like to be able to coach and mentor a successor as Chairman, and, with your backing, to take on these two roles.

As an initial contribution to this initiative, your committee voted recently to support the Student Awards at John Bunyan Upper School, which is a Specialist School in Maths and Computing, by donation of £200 towards the presentation of awards for related achievement. At my invitation, John Ivinson, recent past-President of the Society was the guest of honour, gave a plenary speech, presented the awards and officially opened the Independent Learning Centre at the school.

Contact has also been established with De Montfort and Luton Universities (which will together become the University of Bedfordshire) and with Cranfield University to promote Faculty Widening and develop relationships with the YPG and the BCS generally.

Professor Brian Collins, one of the candidates for next years Presidency of the BCS, MA, DPhil, FBCS, CITP, FIEE, C Eng, FIOP, FRSA is currently Professor of Information Systems and Head of Department at Defence College of Management and Technology (DCMT), Cranfield University. He is the DCMT academic leader for all ICT research and education. He is Vice President of the BCS responsible for External Affairs.

Sam has also helped significantly with this activity this year, but attending the Luton University Freshers Fair, and a Higher Education Open Evening at Bedford College.

Programme

On 11th Nov., Dr. Bob Jones, Principal Research Scientist, National Soil Resources Institute (NSRI) Cranfield University Silsoe, gave us a most interesting view of computing in the context of the contribution of the EU's Joint Research Centre (JRC) to protecting Europe's environment (The contribution of satellite imagery to protect Europe's environment)

On Dec. 6th, at Insys, Ampthill, Michael Wilson, Professional Development Manager, BCS gave a talk on SFIA (Skills for the Information Age) and it's relationship to Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and the Industry Structure Model (ISM).

On 15th Feb 2006, at Hastingsbury Enterprise Centre, Russell May BSc(Hons) CITP CEng MBCS EnCE, Manager of Special and Partner Projects (Europe, Middle East, Africa, India, Russia), Guidance Software Inc. gave a fascinating insight into solutions for Incident Response and Computer Forensics, with illustrative demonstrations.

On 6th March, at Abbey National in Milton Keynes, Peter Parkes and Frank Renouf of Peak Performance, gave a very enlightening presentation entitled 'Delivering Transformational Government enabled by Technology', based on their joint and extensive experience in the government sector.

BCS 50th Anniversary.

Firstly, as I hope you are already aware, we will be celebrating the BCS Golden Jubilee in 2007 for the landmark occasion of our first 50 years. A Steering Committee has been set up, headed by Bob McLaughlin and other committee members include various other past, future and present Presidents. Some themes for the year will be the Public Perception of IT and the Future of IT, including an emphasis on the involvement of young people.

In May 2007 there will be a special event to celebrate the BCS's inauguration, with the emphasis on looking forward to the next 50 years.

The Steering Committee would now like all Branches to consider organizing local or regional events which could come under the Golden Jubilee Celebrations banner and they have devised a Project Criteria form for submission.

All submissions will be considered by the Steering Committee and, if successfully approved, the events will be branded, publicized and 'gold wrapped' accordingly.

BCS move to new HQ premises

In February, all HQ functions in Swindon moved to new premises:

Address

The British Computer Society
First Floor, Block D
North Star House
North Star Avenue
Swindon
SN2 1FA

Telephone Numbers

The main BCS telephone number will remain as 01793 417417, but the fax numbers are changing:

Main BCS fax: 01793 417444
ECDL Fax: 01793 417570
ISEB Fax: 01793 417559

Treasurers Report.

The Branch allocation for

2006/07 is £1,199.60, but we can go back to HQ if we need more during the later part of the year. A copy of the accounts is available at the AGM if required, and they will also be posted to the branch web site.

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