



Bedford Branch

Chair's Annual Report 2018

An Overview

The 2017-18 programme year has been another very busy year. The committee continues our commitment to sustain the two strategic initiatives in the Schools Competition, and working with the Bedfordshire and Eastern Region Police Cybercrime Prevent activities. These work are important to our future membership and fully in line with the BCS Making IT Good for Society strategy.

1. The fifth year of the BCS Bedford Schools Challenge built on our previous successes. The competition this year covers from Year 5 to Year 10. Again we work closely with the Bedfordshire Police as well as the Eastern Region Special Operations Unit (ERSOU). Through the Bedfordshire Police Regional Trust Group, additional companies joined as sponsors to the competition and support us to widen the communication. A new contact list has been built using OFSTED data of all the eligible schools in Bedford, Central Bedfordshire, Luton, Milton Keynes and Buckinghamshire areas. This results in a wider range of schools entering. About 80 students, teachers, parents and sponsors joined the prize giving ceremony in Cranfield University on 12 July 2018. I thank again Jackie Samosa of CAS Bedford Hub, and Bob Bethell who represented the Branch Committee. We shall continue to work and improve schools Computing in our area.

2. The Bedford Branch has been authorised by BCS HQ to be an Associate Member of the Regional ICT Trust Group of local security businesses. Through the Branch connections, one of our member is now serving as a Cyber Special, helping to spread the e-safety messages in schools. We shall continue to support the Police community work in ways we can.

3. I would like to thank the committee, branch members and many other partners for their support throughout the year. We are delighted to be able to co-op Phil Cobley to join the committee during the year. Our committee members of the year are:

Position	
Chairman / Email Co-ordinator	Ip-Shing Fan (IF)
Secretary / Email Co-ordinator	Saverio Bongo (SB)
Treasurer	Richard Maddison(RM)
Webmaster	Ian Wilson (IW)
Membership Secretary / Education Liaison Officer	Sue Brandreth (SB1)
Committee member / Project Management	Chris Ireland (CI)
Committee member	Phil Cobley (PC)

Thanks also to Bob Bethell who is not officially on the committee but do a lot to help in the work with the School Competition project.

Programme

What We Did Last Year

We again have another successful series of joint meetings with many other partners, sustaining high level of attendance.

Date	Title	Partner
12/09/17	Scratch: programming language for 5 years old and beyond (Inc. Branch AGM)	CAS Bedford
26/09/17	The Kata of Change - How to Flow with the Unknown	
5/12/17	Digital Aviation - e-enabled Aircraft and Implications	Cranfield University
6/02/18	"User Friendliness - 'P' soup"	IET
22/02/18	GDPR: Of course you are ready (collaboration with Bedfordshire Police regional cyber trust group)	Bedfordshire Police
21/03/18	High Performance Computing in Cranfield University	Cranfield University
18/04/18	Demystifying data - What truly is big data, IoT, the cloud and being "data driven"?	
22/05/18	Changing Security Behaviours – From Knowing to Doing	
26/06/18	IOT Update including Smart Metering, Smart Cities	BCS Northants
12/07/18	BCS Bedford Challenge School Competition Prize Award	CAS Bedford, CAS Milton Keynes, Bedfordshire Police, ERSOU, Cranfield University, Regional ICT Trust Group
22/07/18	Bletchley Park - The National Museum of Computing - Family Day	BCS Northants

In addition, we supported University of Bedfordshire Student Chapter meetings in the last year:

26/09/17	Introduction to the Beds Comp SU Society / BCS Student Chapter
11/10/17	Welcome to the Beds Computing Society - Introductory Games Night
18/10/17	TUI job opportunities
25/10/17	Student Visit to TUI's Luton HQ
22/11/17	TUI Hackathon 2.0
22/11/17	Talk on Making a Career in Software Development
2/12/17	Penetration Testing 101 Boot Camp
13/12/17	FAST LANE Programming Workshop
16/12/17	Pentesting Boot Camp 2.0 (Competition)
8/01/18	My First Year Since Graduating in IT Security
24/01/18	Programming Workshop - Learn Rapid Application Development from Scratch with Sparta Global
10/04/18	IBM Blockchain Workshop
25/05/18	Robotics Showcase of Year 2 (Computer Science and Robotics) Student Projects

We presented prizes to all four universities in our area. It was a delight to present prizes to the worthwhile recipients.

University of Buckingham	Alastair Cota Best Performing Graduate in Applied Computing
Open University	Joseph Benjamin Cooper Best project for The Computing and IT Project
Cranfield University	Alice Michel Best Performing student in Management and Information Systems
University of Bedfordshire	Justyna Kurczaba Best Performing Year 1 student in Computing

As we increase the number of meetings, we continue to suffer the weaknesses in the communication before meeting, recording of meetings, reporting after the meeting, and various opportunities of communication. We can do with additional skills and more hands. If you can help, please make contact anytime in the year.



Making IT Good for Society

How We are Making IT Good for Society as a Member Group

The Bedford Branch has been a recognised body within the local community for Making IT Good for Society. The annual BCS Bedford School Challenge works with the local CAS Hubs, schools, universities, Police and business to encourage secondary school students into computing.

Our links with the Cyber Crime Units of Bedfordshire and Eastern Region Police force has been an long standing partnership and led to one of the branch member volunteering as a Cyber Special of Bedfordshire Police.

The regular evening meetings are open to non-members and the branch partner with the local IET Chapter, Royal Aeronautical Society Chapter and Federation of Small Business for meetings. The wider public benefits from the Branch's talks.

Every year, Bedford and Northampton Branches jointly run a Family Fun Day at the National Museum of Computing in Bletchley Park, subsidising members to bring their families into computing.

Community

Who We Serve and How We Engage with Our Community

BCS Bedford Branch has about 850 members registered, about 400 are based in the Bedford area and another 360 in Hertfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire. We also have members as far afield as Auckland, Texas, Singapore, Karachi and Lagos.

The geographical area is largely rural with concentrations of business and professional employment in Bedford, Luton and Milton Keynes. A sizable body of professionals commute to work in London. There are four universities in our patch and a number of FE colleges.

We have meetings most months. The main series of meetings is in the Park Inn Hotel in Bedford. These meetings are opened to non-BCS members and have been well supported by local business and students.

BCS Bedford Branch has two strategic initiatives in our local area. Since the 2013 academic year, we have been running an annual school competition to encourage Key Stage 2 and 3 students (10-15 years old) to develop coding skills and take up Computing as one of their GCSE subjects. The Branch has also been working with the Bedfordshire Police Cyber Hub since its launch in 2015 to help in their Prevent agenda, promoting knowledge to avoid



citizens and businesses becoming victims of cybercrime.

We work with the local IET branch, the Royal Aeronautical Society as well as the Federation of Small Business to coordinate meetings.

Student prizes are awarded to all four local universities.

Objectives for Next Year

Our Plan

- Sustain professional evening meeting programme
- Enlarge BCS Bedford School Challenge participation
- Strengthen Police Cyber Prevent collaboration
- Support University of Bedfordshire Student Chapter

Achievements

Our Successes

The regular programme sustain a good core attendance of members in the regular professional meetings.

The BCS Bedford School Challenge is a high point every year. There is a larger group of schools and businesses supporting the activities.

The University of Bedfordshire Student Chapter has been particularly active this year, through the hard work of Sue Brandreth and the student committee.

Committee

About the Committee

The 2017-18 committee has a stable core of 7 members, the longest serving member has been on the committee for more than 30 years. We also have a retired member Bob Bethell who continues to support in the Schools Competition.

Apart from the AGM, the committee met three times a year, typically as an extended



gathering after one of the evening meetings. The rest of the branch business is done by emails and other online systems.

Appeals for committee members is made at every meeting. We have been particularly looking for YPG representatives who can help us to reach the starting career professionals. We also want digital natives who are addicted to social media.

All invitations to Conventions are circulated to all committee members. It has been difficult to encourage folks to take work time out to go to London.