



BCS Bedford Branch Chair report to AGM 16 September 2016

The 2016-17 programme year has been another very busy year. The committee committed to sustain the two strategic initiatives in the Schools Competition, and working with the Bedfordshire and Eastern Region Police Cybercrime Prevent activities. These work were presented at the BCS Spring Convention to other Branches and Specialist Groups, and we even have a BCS Youtube interview clip in the BCS Making IT Good for Society strategy.

1. The third year of the BCS Bedford School Challenge built on our previous successes. Partnership with the Bedfordshire Police Cyber and Schools teams, the theme this year was education resources and games to help prevent falling into victims of cybercrime. The Police efforts helped to get the message to more schools. The quality of the entries were exceptional. Chief Constable Jon Boutcher, Bedfordshire Police presented the prizes at Cranfield University on 23 June. This attracted press coverage and contributes to raising the profile of computing in our schools. Thanks go to Jacq Emkes, of Biddenham International School, Jackie Samosa of CAS Bedford Hub, and Bob Bethell who represents the Branch Committee. We have the firm commitment from the Police to sustain the partnership in this work.

2. Since the launch of the Bedfordshire Police Cyber Hub in 2015, there had been changes of the police leadership and staff. BCS Bedford remains one of their local partners in their Prevent agenda. They are still developing concrete actions to work with the community and we shall support when their plans are more firm.

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

Date	Title	Partner
16 Sep 15	BCS Bedford Branch AGM2014 "Cyber – The challenge for us all" D/Supt Jon Gilbert, Bedfordshire Police	IET
29 Sep 15	UBedfordshire new Computer Science and Technology students Induction talk	U Bedfordshire
7 Oct 15	"Smartphone Security – What is phone hacking?" Geraint Williams, IT Governance Ltd	IET
30 Oct 15	BCS Student Chapter - TNMOC visit	U Bedfordshire
18 Nov 15	BCS Student Chapter	U Bedfordshire
24 Nov 15	"What is Social Media? How do I make the most of it?" Mike and Georgia O'Keefe, Look C and 2 Digital Internet Services	FSB
25 Nov 15	BCS Student Chapter - CyberSecurity Talk Phil Cobby, Jon Gilbert, Bedfordshire Police	U Bedfordshire
27 Jan 16	"How to select your new cloud provider: A rigorous, effective and proven approach" Martin Tate, Decision Evaluation Ltd	IET
23 Feb 16	"Network Rail Southeast Map Project" Alan Dalley, Katherine Thomas, Network Rail	BCS PROMS-G, IET
2 Mar 16	Biologically Inspired Computing Dr Wim J C Melis	IET Cranfield Univ

15 Mar 16	"Making IT Good for Society" Jeremy Barlow, BCS Director of Standards	
9 Mar 16	BCS Student Chapter Making a Career as a Software Developer (Software Development and Industry Projects) James (Jay) Taylerson, Senior Consultant at Fidessa and Chris Ireland, an independent software systems consultant	U Bedfordshire
26 Feb 15	BCS Bedford Branch School Challenge 2015 Launch meeting, Mark Rutherford School	CAS Bedford, Cranfield University, Open University
31 Mar 16	BCS Bedford Branch Student Prize Award Ceremony at University of Buckingham	U Buckingham
12 Apr 16	"Social Project Management – Go Social or Die" Jonnie Jensen, Live And Social	BCS PROMS-G, IET
26 April 16	BCS Bedford Branch Student Prize Award Ceremony at Open University	Open University
9 June 16	"Information Risk In The Real World" John Mitchell, LHS Business Control	BCS IRMA SG IET
23 June 16	BCS Bedford Branch School Challenge 2015 Prize Presentation	CAS, Cranfield University, Open University, Bedford Borough Council, Pilgrim Learning
8 July 16	BCS Bedford Branch Student Prize Award Ceremony at Cranfield University	Cranfield University
26 July 16	BCS Bedford Branch Student Prize Award Ceremony at University of Bedfordshire	U Bedfordshire

As we sustain the number of meetings, there are fewer members on the committee. 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.

4. University Student Prizes

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

Date		Institution
31 Mar 15	Dongxu Han Best Performing Graduate in Applied Computing	University of Buckingham
26 April 15	Ruth Wells Best project for The Computing and IT Project	Open University
8 July 16	Javiar Martínez-Conde Best Performing student in Management and Information Systems	Cranfield University
26 July 16	Robert David James Raymond Best Performing Year 1 student in Computing	University of Bedfordshire

5. Engaging members better is a recurring item in committee meetings and there are still a lot we want to do.

6. I would like to thank the committee, branch members and many other partners for their support throughout 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)

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.

Ip-Shing Fan, August 2016

Branch press presence:

http://www.bedfordtoday.co.uk/news/local/top-computer-science-student-commended-1-7506021
http://www.beds.ac.uk/news/2015/august/employable-first-year-named-best-performing-student-by-bcs
http://www.bcs.org/content/conWebDoc/56205
http://www.bedfordtoday.co.uk/news/education/children-lead-way-with-online-safety-1-7461152
http://www.ersourocu.org.uk/64/section.aspx/58/bedfordshire_chief_constable_congratulates_winners_of_bcs_bedford_school_online_safety_and_identity
http://www.bedfordshire.police.uk/about_us/news/latest_news/2016/160701_-_chief_constable_congr.aspx