

BCS Manchester Branch, Chairman's Report, 12th November 2012

I'm pleased to report that the Branch continues to fulfil its primary purpose of running a number of events that:

- enable members to undertake continual professional development (CPD);
- provide opportunities for members to network with their peers;
- promote IT/computing/engineering as a worthwhile career; and
- engage with teachers to support the teaching of computing in schools.

However it is clear to me that with increasing demands placed upon our already limited budget the Branch must increasingly engage with a wide range of IT groups and companies to maintain an active diary of events. This collaborative approach has enabled us to run and support over 50 events in the last year with many hundreds more being promoted via email and twitter (@BCSManchester) and I hope that this level of activity can be maintained.

I encourage members to attend the Branch's events and would welcome your thoughts on ideas for future events or collaborations. To see just what the Branch's events are like, why don't you watch the couple of events that are now on the Branch's YouTube channel – ManchesterBCS.

To bring the Branch to more members throughout Greater Manchester the committee has established a Bolton, Bury and Wigan sub-Branch. This sub-Branch has now run some events and has its first AGM later this month. The committee would welcome offers from any member who would like to establish a sub-Branch in their area of Greater Manchester.

I'm delighted that the Branch has started to run a regular series of ELITE events. With the next one planned later this month on BYOD.

The plan for the future is to do more of the same with two additional activities: to engage more with local organisations, both public and private; and to work with student groups to assist them in finding opportunities to explore their chosen career and to enhance their employability.

Last but by no means least, I offer, on behalf of the BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT, grateful thanks to the many people, groups and organisations without whom it would not have been possible to have achieved everything this year:

- the committee for all their time and effort they have volunteered over the year;
- MMU's School of Computing, Mathematics & Digital Technology for their tremendous support which has enabled the Branch to do so many events;
- the numerous BCS member groups and other institutions, including the truly inspirational MadLab, that have worked with us during the year;
- Andrew Medd, Chairman of the Joint Institutions Group, for his strenuous efforts in putting together our series of Engineering Your Future events;
- Professor Nigel Linge and his team at Salford University for organising the "From semaphore to smartphone" family events;
- Manchester University's School of Computer Science for supporting the BCS/IET Turing Lecture;
- 4ITRecruitment for their support with the ELITE events;
- the speakers at our events who have all given their time freely for the benefit of our members and the profession;
- and the thousands of people who have attended our events.

Andrew Mohan,
Chairman,
Andrew_Mohan@bcs.org.uk