

British Computer Society – South West Branch Annual General Meeting

13th May 2009
University of Plymouth, Plymouth

Chairman's Report

Throughout this year, our most visible activities from the perspective of the general membership will have continued to be the presentation sessions and our Branch website. In terms of presentations, we have enjoyed the following talks this year:

- "Agile Business Analysis" (Dot Tudor, DSDM Consortium)
- "Wireless Networking - A practical approach from Netgear" (Neil Smart, VAR Pre Sales Consultant, UKI, Netgear)
- "Robotics Research At The University Of Plymouth: From Babies To Humanoid Robots" (Angelo Cangelosi, Guido Bugmann and Phil Culverhouse, University of Plymouth)
- "How not to get bits in your beer - a look at how automation has changed our brewing heritage" (Tim Machin)
- "The Second World War code breaking centre at Bletchley Park" (John Gallehawk from Bletchley Park's Enigma Outreach Programme).

In addition, we have a further event (co-hosted with the South West SocioTechnical group) in late May, with a talk from Prof. Frank Land from the London School of Economics.

Thanks are due to all of the presenters for the time and support that they have given to the Branch. All of the related slide materials can be found on the website, and we have continued to video selected presentations throughout the year to enable them to be shared with members who were unable to attend in person. This activity will again continue into the coming session, but we hope to increase the quality of the recordings by purchasing some dedicated equipment.

The wider Branch website also continues to present a variety of information that we hope will be of interest to regional members and the wider IT community. It is worth highlighting that we are always happy to receive submissions for inclusion, and indeed articles can be submitted online via the site itself.

Recognising the importance of our emerging IT professionals, we have continued our activities to encourage computing-related students in the region. This has included the ongoing sponsorship of degree prizes for the universities of Exeter and Plymouth, with the most recent winners being Christopher Larcombe (for best Computer Science Graduate at Exeter University) and John Thompson (as the best student on a BCS-accredited course at the University of Plymouth). In addition, we have supported the IT Projects and Careers Fair at the University of Plymouth, providing a BCS Branch prize for the project that best reflected a professional and holistic approach. The winner in this case was Anthony Chellew for his project entitled "CoRT Requirements Management tool".

As always, our activity would not be possible without the enthusiasm and commitment of those who that volunteered to support the Branch. The last year has seen our Committee membership become both larger and broader than in prior years, and we have enjoyed representation from academic institutions, commercial business and public sector organisations. I would like thank the entire Committee for the time and effort they have given to support the Society in the region, and know that this commitment will continue in the year ahead.

Prof. Steven Furnell CEng FBCS CITP
May 2009