

# British Computer Society – South West Branch Annual General Meeting

26<sup>th</sup> September 2012  
Plymouth University, Plymouth

## Chairman's Report

The last year has seen a significant number of events, in fact double the number that took place in the prior branch year. Specifically, the following ten events took place from September 2011 through to June 2012:

- AGM followed by "Independent Games Industry", Dr Dan Livingstone, Plymouth University (29 September 2011)
- Web 2.0 Applications - Do they help your Business?, Paul McKay, Bond Pearce LLP (10 October 2011)
- Advanced Evasions Techniques (AETs) - The NEW threat, Alan Cottom, Stonesoft (1 November 2011)
- Retro Computing, Plymouth University/BCS South West (21 November 2011)
- Learning and teaching in the digital age, Steve Wheeler and Peter Yeomans (Plymouth), Zena Wood (Exeter), Plymouth/Exeter University (15 December 2011)
- Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) in an Electronic Age, Nigel Cheffers-Heard and Garry Mackay, Ashford Solicitors (23 January 2012)
- IT Security: obstacles between theory and practice, John Finch, ICT Security & Network Team Leader (Plymouth City Council) and Chair of South West WARP and Devon Information Security Partnership (28 February 2012)
- Devon and Cornwall Police, High Tech Crime Unit: Evolution to e-crime, Steven Slater, HTCUCU (6 March 2012)
- Knowing me, knowing you: Defeating identity fraud using the best biometric system in the world, Jeremy Newman, New Model Identity (22 May 2012)
- Everything is Broken, Mike Kemp, Xiphos Research Labs (19 June 2012)

Many thanks are due to the various presenters that gave their time to support the Branch, and to the universities in Exeter and Plymouth for providing the venues. For anyone who missed the talks, many of the slides and in some cases videos of the sessions themselves are available on our Branch website (alongside materials from various events back to 2004).

In addition to the Branch website, our digital presence is now expanding. The Branch now has a Facebook group (BCS South West) and a Twitter account (follow @BCSSouthWest), both of which can be used to keep track of, and engage with, Branch activities.

Given the security focus of several of the talks, it is worth noting that they were promoted as joint events with the South West Branch of the Institute of Information Security Professionals (IISP). Continuing this theme, the Branch also supported the *Secure South West* event held at Plymouth University on 20 September, and jointly organised with Plymouth City Council.

In terms of other activities, the Branch continues to sponsor degree prizes for the best performing students on computing programmes at Plymouth and Exeter. This years prizes were awarded to Harvey Gomez from *BSc (Hons) Computer Systems*

*and Networks* at Plymouth University, and Thomas White on the *BSc IT Management for Business* course at the University of Exeter. Meanwhile, in terms of student events, we have again supported the *Postgraduate Conference for Computing: Applications and Theory*, this year hosted by Plymouth University.

I would like to extend my thanks to all of the volunteers that have again given their time to serve on the Branch Committee and support the BCS activities in the region. Without their input and commitment it would not be possible for the BCS to have the active presence in the South West that it now enjoys.

We already have four events scheduled before the end of 2012, with several other opportunities being pursued. As such, I am sure that we can look forward to another active year for the South West Branch.

Prof. Steven Furnell CEng FBCS CITP M.Inst.ISP SMIEEE  
September 2011