

British Computer Society – South West Branch Annual General Meeting

3rd October 2013
Plymouth University, Plymouth

Chairman's Report

The last year has continued to maintain a significant amount of Branch activity, with the following ten events taking place between September 2012 and May 2013:

- AGM followed by "A slice of Raspberry Pi", Richard Bennett (Raspberry Pi Foundation) and Dr Shirley Atkinson (Plymouth University) (26 September 2012)
- "The "Business" of Malware", Alan Thake, ESET (24 October 2012)
- "Energy Efficient Computing with GPUs", Dr Lanfear, NVIDIA (30 October 2012) Retro Computing, Plymouth University/BCS South West (21 November 2011)
- "When Machines Think – A Quantification of Intelligence", Dr Peter Cochrane, Cochrane Associates Ltd (20 November 2012)
- "Retro Computing", Plymouth University/BCS South West (26 November 2012)
- "Cloud and Virtualisation: Security issues", Andrea C Simmons, HP Enterprise Services (16 January 2013)
- "The Second World War code breaking centre at Bletchley Park", Mike Chapman and Tom Briggs, Bletchley Park Trust (29 January 2013)
- "Social Media in the Business World", Chris Wood, Q Social Media (25 February 2013)
- "Is there really a career in penetration testing and intrusion analysis", Ian Glover, CREST (20 May 2013)
- "Integrated Care Services – Implementing the Vision", Stephen Hope, Docobo Ltd (21 May 2013)

Several of our events have continued to be jointly promoted with the South West Branch of the Institute of Information Security Professionals (IISP), and the BCS Branch has also supported the security theme with its support for the second *Secure South West* event, which was run by Plymouth University and Plymouth City Council on 25 March.

In terms of other activities, the Branch continues to sponsor degree prizes for the best performing students on computing programmes at our local universities. This years prizes were awarded to Justin Turner from the University of Exeter and Aleksandrs Ulme from Plymouth University.

If you missed the talks, many of the slides and videos of the sessions themselves are available on our Branch website (alongside materials from various events back to 2004). The website also has a range of other materials, including news articles and details of the committee members that support the Branch. It is also worth noting that you can keep in touch with the Branch through its Facebook group (BCS South West) and Twitter account (follow @BCSSouthWest), both of which would always welcome new members and followers.

In closing the report, I would like to extend thanks to all of the presenters that gave their time to support the Branch, and to Plymouth University for providing the main venues for the events. I would also like to add my regular thanks to my colleagues on the Branch Committee, all of whom give their time voluntarily to support BCS activities in the region. Our ability to build and maintain the range of activities that we now support is very much thanks to their efforts.

We already are actively planning our events schedule for 2013/14, and I am confident that it will be another active year for the South West Branch.

Prof. Steven Furnell CEng FBCS CITP M.Inst.ISP SMIEEE
October 2013