

British Computer Society – South West Branch Annual General Meeting

7th October 2014
Plymouth University, Plymouth

Chairman's Report

The South West Branch has again provided and supported a significant amount of activity for the BCS membership in the region. As usual, our principal contribution has been via the regular branch presentation series, with a total of nine events taking place between October 2013 and May 2014:

- AGM followed by “Computing in schools.... The role of the CAS Master teacher and the path from Industry to Education”, Steve Greenhough - the CAS Master Teacher, Jon Evans - Computing Lead Practitioner, The Learning Institute South West (3 October 2013)
- “Retro Computing”, Prof. Steven Furnell and Dr Paul Dowland, Plymouth University/BCS South West (18 November 2013)
- “Cryptography - From Black Art to Popular Science”, Professor Fred Piper, Information Security Group - Royal Holloway (10 December 2013)
- “The British Library, "Scaling up to preserve the UK web", Helen Hockx-Yu, Head of Web Archiving at the British Library (14 January 2014)
- “Apple: More than the iPad - The True Story Of Innovation, from the Garage to Mega Stardom”, Duncan Eadie (12 February 2014)
- “Integrated Compliance and Risk Management using STREAM”, Richard Mayall, Acuity Risk Management LLP (11 March 2014)
- “Teaching the Police to Program”, Paul Stephens, Canterbury Christ Church University (24 April 2014)
- “Forensics and the way forward”, Andrew Jones, Edith Cowan University, Perth, Australia (6 May 2014)
- “Configuration and IT Asset Management”, Richard Josey and Brian Scott, Configuration Management SG, Joint event with the Configuration Management SG (13 May 2014).

I would like to give thanks to all of the presenters for the time that they offered in support of the Branch, as well as to Plymouth University for providing the main venues for the events.

A number of these events have continued to be jointly promoted with the South West Branch of the Institute of Information Security Professionals (IISP), and in the same topic area the BCS Branch has supported for two further runs of the *Secure South West* event series (in December 2013 and July 2014), which is organised by Plymouth University and Plymouth City Council.

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.

Aside from running and supporting events, the Branch has again sponsored prizes for the best performing degree students on computing programmes at Exeter and Plymouth universities. This year's prizes were awarded to Tom Shopland from the BSc Information Technology Management for Business degree at the University of Exeter and Jake Evans from the BSc (Hons) Computer Science degree at Plymouth University.

Before closing the report, 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 the year ahead, and 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.

Prof. Steven Furnell CEng FBCS CITP M.Inst.ISP SMIEEE
October 2014