BCS South West Branch
Annual General Meeting

4th October 2016
Plymouth University, Plymouth

Chairman's Report

The South West Branch now includes 1,238 members, including 614 full members, 303 chartered members, alongside a variety of members at other grades. In terms of their distribution, members are spread across the region, but the main population centres are Plymouth and Exeter (with just over and just under 200 members respectively).

The primary activity of the Branch over the last year has continued to be our event series, with the following having taken place over the last 12 months:

- "Making the weather; an overview of the changing role of Technology in Weather Forecasting'", Charles Ewen, Met Office (6 October 2015)
- "Retro Gaming 2015", South-West Retro Computing Archive (29 October 2015)
- "Cyber security, risk and resilience – why and how organisations protect themselves and why much of the money they spend is wasted; spend smart to save big", Henrik Kiertzner, ViaSat UK (10 November 2015)
- "Quantum Cryptography", Prof. Kurt Langfeld, Plymouth University (1 December 2015)
- "Early Search for Tractable Ways of Reasoning about Programs", Prof. Cliff Jones, Newcastle University (16 February 2016)
- "Safe Harbour after the ICJ", Kevin Cahill (10 March 2016)
- "From Browser Wars to Framework Wars - how to survive the next generation of Web development battles", Dr Mike Evans (29 April 2016)
- "Online data sharing: Exposing yourself and betraying your business?", Shirley Atkinson, Paul Ferrier, John Finch and Omer Rana (26 May 2016)

If you missed any of them, then many of the talks are available to watch on the Branch website, alongside copies of presentation notes and slides in some cases.

As you will see from several of the events, the Branch has continued to run joint activity with the South West Branch of the Institute of Information Security Professionals (IISP), and this also included co-supporting the *Secure South West 6* event, which continues to be organised by Plymouth University and Plymouth City Council.

The Branch has again sponsored prizes for the best performing degree students on computing-related programmes at Exeter and Plymouth universities. The awards in the last year went to Daniel Goodinson from *BSc (Hons) Computer Systems and Networks* at Plymouth University and Humphrey Shotton, who graduated from *BSc Computer Science* at the University of Exeter.   The Branch also supported younger learners, with the annual Code Skool and the first ever micro:bit challenge. We had 60 school children from years 7 and 8 attended and the Branch supplied their prizes.

The South West Branch continues to exist thanks to its volunteers, in terms of those who come to offer events and the committee that keeps things going behind the scenes. I would therefore like to record my usual thanks to all of those who have served in these capacities over the last 12 months. This year I would also like to give special thanks to two members that are standing down from the committee after many years of involvement – over a decade in both cases. The first is Ted Draper, who is stepping down having retired from the world of IT. Ted has in particular been the face of the BCS South West Branch at many of the University graduation ceremonies here in Plymouth and in Exeter, where he has been the committee member responsible for presenting the student degree prizes. Paul, meanwhile, is staying in IT but is leaving the UK to move to Australia. So, to both Paul and Ted, I'd like to offer our sincere thanks for such extensive service to the Branch.

The Branch website will soon be updated with further details of the 2016/17 schedule, and you can use the Branch's Facebook group (BCS South West) and Twitter feed (follow @BCSSouthWest) to keep updated.

We look forward to seeing you in the year ahead.

Prof. Steven Furnell CEng FBCS CITP M.Inst.ISP SMIEEE PFHEA
October 2016