



**West Hertfordshire Branch**

To All Members of the West Hertfordshire Branch,

I am very pleased to have this first opportunity to address all Branch members since being elected as Chairman during our AGM in July at the de Havilland Heritage Trust. Incidentally, that was our best-attended AGM.

If you examine your accompanying programme card, you will see that your committee has organised a varied programme of topics selected from the current enormous range of computing and its applications. It is easy to fall into the trap of thinking that computing is what we ourselves do for a living, forgetting how in reality we each work in one particular area and have become very specialised without realising it. I hope the meetings will reveal to you better than any magazine article could, the fascinating things happening in other areas of computing. Meetings also score over articles in that they are interactive, by which I mean that you may ask questions to improve your understanding. Meetings also have a social function and are a perfect vehicle for personal networking over refreshments before the meeting or after the speaker's talk.

As the new Branch Chairman, I should like to thank former Chairman Allan Davidson and former Secretary Stephen Browne, for their dedication and effective work in their two rôles during a period which saw attendances at Branch meetings increase significantly. They both remain on the committee, which I genuinely appreciate, as this will give valued continuity.

We have many talented I.T. practitioners amongst our 800 or more members in the Branch. It is even possible that one or two members might like to share their knowledge by speaking at a future meeting. If so, please contact any committee member.

Remember this is your Branch and we, the committee, will listen attentively to any views you may have concerning what meetings should and should not be, and the direction they should be taking.

So having sung the praises of Branch meetings, the committee and I look forward to seeing you at the events in our new programme.

Yours sincerely,

David Smith  
Branch Chairman

November 2002