

September 2006



Dear Branch Member,

Welcome to the new 2006/2007 season

If you enjoyed last season's programme, then I'm sure that you will like our new programme. Our previous one was well-received, judging by the continuing healthy attendance figures at Branch meetings. We are most appreciative of the support given to the Hertfordshire Branch by Steria Limited, who made their conference room available to us throughout the year for Branch meetings - even in January, despite the shattered plate glass windows being totally boarded over after December's Buncefield Oil Depot explosion. Steria Limited has once again sponsored the production of the new programme card and we are very grateful for this too.

In our choice of topics our policy remains mostly to look for emerging technologies, methodologies and practices. These will be topics about which we currently know little but would like to learn more if we are to remain up-to-date with our professional knowledge. If you are practising the BCS Individual Continuing Professional Development scheme (CPD), then certificates are available after each meeting.

Next year, 2007, the BCS celebrates its 50th anniversary. The profession has come a long way since 1957. Computers like the English Electric KDF9, Leo, and Ferranti Mercury seem to belong to another age. The Hertfordshire Branch is planning a special anniversary event, not merely to celebrate the past, but mainly to look forward to the future. Please see our Branch website nearer the time for details of this event.

Incidentally, any member who was a founder member of the BCS in 1957, 1958 or 1959 should contact me, please. This also applies to any founder member of the West Hertfordshire Branch, as it was then called.

On the back of the accompanying Programme Card you will find a list of contact details of all committee members, who are always pleased to receive feedback from Branch members. I must add my congratulations here to committee member Siva Niranjani, who has just become a BCS Fellow. Well done! Remember you may volunteer for the committee at any time, not just at AGMs. Why not give it a try?

I remain convinced that Branch Meetings are a major advantage of BCS membership. Firstly there is no substitute for listening to an expert, especially when there is ample opportunity to ask questions. Secondly of course there is the social element, being able to mix with and talk to fellow members. So do come along to at least some of the meetings we have organised.

Your committee members and I look forward to seeing you at our future meetings. We promise that you will find the experience both worthwhile and enjoyable.

Yours sincerely,

David Smith

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Hertfordshire Branch Chairman