

Hertfordshire

Overview

This has been another successful year for the Hertfordshire Branch. We ran a programme of eight events and this included the fourth in our series of “kit, talk and build” run by Stephan Barnard, a member of our committee. We also ran a joint event with the Primary Healthcare Specialist Group. In December, Fujitsu provided our speaker and hospitality and we shall be visiting them again this coming December. We would like to thank the University of Hertfordshire (UH) and Sopra Steria (SS) for providing us with speakers, venues and hospitality for our events as well as Fujitsu. Our link with our local University is consolidated through our sponsorship of student prizes and a member of staff who is on our committee.

And it is to the members of our committee that final thanks should go as our achievements would not have been possible without their hard work and enthusiasm

Programme

What We Did Last Year

Details of our programme of events are shown in the table below. The programme was varied and attendance included many non-members.

| Date | Title | Speaker | Venue | Attendance | | |
|-------------|---|--|-------|------------|-------------|-------|
| | | | | Members | Non-Members | Total |
| 13 Oct 2016 | Ada Lovelace Commemorative Lecture: The brave new world of technology enhanced learning: will we still need the teachers? | Amanda Jefferies, Professor of Technology Enhanced Learning, University of Hertfordshire | UH | 21 | 27 | 48 |
| 17 Nov 2016 | Preserving patient confidentiality: the technical, cultural and political issues | Ian Herbert, Independent Consultant in Health Informatics | UH | 19 | 20 | 39 |

Chair's Annual Report 2017

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|--------------------|---|---|--------------------|-----|-----|-----|
| 8 Dec 2016 | We Can Teach it to you Wholesale ~ MOOCs: Massive Open Online Courses | Nick Parlow, Fujitsu Distinguished Engineer, | Fujitsu, Stevenage | 23 | 3 | 26 |
| 9 Feb 2017 | Cyber Security – time to start again? | Dr Stilianos Vidalis, Cyber Security Centre, University of Hertfordshire. | UH | 37 | 32 | 69 |
| 9 March 2017 | Data logger kit Talk and Build | Stephan Barnard, Product development specialist, Noble Touch | UH | 43 | 46 | 89 |
| 18 April 2017 | Safeguarding your files: backup of your personal files; the how, where and the risk | Geraint Williams, Head of Technical Services, IT Governance Ltd. | SS | 24 | 8 | 32 |
| 18 May 2017 | Staged Code Generation: The Philosophers Stone | Dr .Malcolm Sherrington, Partner, Amis Consulting LLP | SS | 17 | 4 | 21 |
| 14 Jun 2017 | Visit to Frithsden Vineyard | | Frithsden Vineyard | 18 | 1 | 19 |
| Total Attendance | | | | 202 | 141 | 343 |
| Average Attendance | | | | 25 | 18 | 43 |

Making IT Good for Society

How We are Making IT Good for Society as a Member Group

As demonstrated by our programme of events, the branch promotes IT beyond its immediate membership and we enjoy the presence of many non-members at our meetings. Our joint event with the Primary Health Care Specialist Group underlines this.



Hertfordshire Branch

Chair's Annual Report 2017

Making IT
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Community

Who We Serve and How We Engage with Our Community

The branch serves an area of the country which includes parts of Buckinghamshire and Bedfordshire, as well as the eponymous county. We have over 1700 members at all grades, and we meet approximately once per month from September to June.

In addition to our programme of events, we provide support to computing students at the University of Hertfordshire. As well as Student Prizes, we have sponsored meetings of the Computing Society and provided marketing materials including a new banner. In April 2017 we were represented at the UH "Hello world" event by three committee members.

Leadership

How we provide leadership

Leadership is about direction, and we demonstrate this through our engaging programme and by providing speakers who are leaders and expert in their fields.

Excellence

How We Excel

The feedback that we receive from both members and non-members supports our claim that we excel in our programme of events. We plan our programme a year in advance which is quite a challenge for a branch and relatively rare. Events such as our "kit, talk and build" are genuinely innovative and the high numbers of non-members reflects excellence in outreach.

Objectives for Next Year

Our Plan

1. Consolidate our relationship with UH
2. Produce a high quality programme of around seven meetings
3. Encourage wider committee membership

Achievements

Our Successes

- Outstanding programme of events
- Strong attendance by non-members
- Supporting local students including student prizes

Challenges

The Barriers We Face

Recognition – the public profile of BCS is not strong and we often need to explain what BCS stands for

Reaching the core of our membership – of our 1700 members, only a small fraction attend our events.

Inclusion and Diversity

How We Are Working for Everyone

Our committee officers have all attended Unconscious Bias Training and are aware of the implications. We have experimented with lunch time committee meetings with mixed success. Although it enabled some to attend, it excluded other members and logistics were sometimes difficult e.g. parking.



Hertfordshire Branch

Chair's Annual Report 2017

Making IT
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Committee

About the Committee

The committee met seven times for approximately two hours on each occasion. This year we had two new members including a PhD student from the University of Hertfordshire. Although he helped to reduce the average seniority of the committee, he did not help to address the lack of female members.

On a more positive note we have three members with thirteen years long service, one with ten years and five with five years service. The first group includes Siva Niranjana who chaired the committee for five years. A special note of thanks should go to Siva as he has demonstrated outstanding leadership and has left the branch committee in a strong position.

This year saw the appointment of a new chair, secretary and treasurer, all of whom attended conventions alongside other members of the committee.