

# bcS Hertfordshire

Enabling the information society



## 2016-2017 Events Programme



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The BCS promotes wider social and economic progress through advancement of information technology science and practice

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University of Hertfordshire **UH**

October

*Ada Lovelace  
Commemorative  
Lecture:*

The brave new world  
of technology  
enhanced learning:  
will we still need the  
teachers?

7.30pm

**Amanda Jefferies, Professor of Technology Enhanced Learning,  
University of Hertfordshire**

Thursday 13th October, University of Hertfordshire

Many colleges and universities already make learning materials available online for students to access anytime and anywhere, whether through a Managed Learning Environments (MLE) or online courses. What could the future of learning look like and how is the way that people learn affected by this growing use of technologies? Will there be any need to attend a university campus in the future?

In this lecture Amanda will discuss the growing impact of technology in education, how it supports and enhances learning and the impact of technical advances on teaching design and delivery. Amanda will consider what the raised public awareness of online learning can offer in terms of satisfying a global desire for education at all levels and how research into student experiences, provides answers to some of the questions raised.

November

Preserving patient  
confidentiality: the  
technical, cultural  
and political issues

7.30pm

**Ian Herbert, Independent Consultant in Health Informatics**

Thursday, 17th November, University of Hertfordshire

Health informatics is a relatively new, but rapidly growing profession and one which is now an attractive career choice for many IT professionals. It can be defined as using the knowledge, skills and tools which enable information to be collected, managed, used and shared safely to support the delivery of healthcare and promote health. Preserving confidentiality whilst actively sharing records to ensure continuity of care can be a difficult balancing act which clinicians, particularly GPs, face every day - usually doing it to the patient's satisfaction. Add in secondary uses such as the need for financial accounting and research and the water gets muddier. Ian will examine the issues being identified and will reveal where mistakes and breaches have occurred - highlighting best practice - and lead a discussion on the way forward.

December

We Can Teach it to  
you Wholesale

MOOCs: Massive Open  
Online Courses

7.30pm

**Nick Parlow, Fujitsu Distinguished Engineer, Fujitsu**

Thursday, 8th December, Fujitsu, Cavendish Road, Stevenage, SG1 2DY

It is possible to learn anything online, from programming to dental photography to a foreign language to dog emotions. Some courses are provided by the best universities in the world, others decidedly not. This will be a presentation on the range of online learning tools available both for Continuing Professional Development and personal interest, including Massive Online Open Courses. Nick will describe the experiences using these tools in a large multinational company, both positive and negative before discussing how Fujitsu intends to improve on their implementation. Finally, there will be some tips on how to get the most out of them for individuals.

January

Safeguarding your  
files: backup of your  
personal files; the  
how, where and the  
risk

7.30pm

**Geraint Williams, Head of Technical Services, IT Governance Ltd.**

Tuesday 17th January, Sopra Steria

As our lives have become inexorably more digitalised and as the threats of the on-line world increase, there is a growing need to make sure that we are all properly backing up our files. But how many of us are?

Proper backups require the solutions to provide 'confidentiality', 'integrity' and 'availability' if they are to protect our identity and memories. This talk covers what these mean and looks at how we have a whole range of backup options available to us from storing them on the device, on removable media, local NAS solutions and the cloud. Geraint discusses the solutions available, the advantages and disadvantages and explains the risk to our identity and memories.



February

## Cyber Security - time to start again?

7.30pm

**Professor Andy Jones MBE, Director of the Cyber Security Centre, University of Hertfordshire**

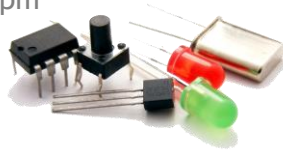
Thursday, 9th February, University of Hertfordshire

This presentation will look at a number of the elements that come together to make up the cyber security environment and review the current state of cyber security and the threats that there are to it. Professor Jones will look at a number of the predictions for the future and propose some potential steps that can be taken to improve the situation and to reduce the level of risk as we move forward.

March

## Data logger kit Talk and Build

7.30pm



**Stephan Barnard, Product development specialist, Noble Touch**

Thursday, 9th March, University of Hertfordshire

Attendees will be given data logger kit to build and keep. The kit contains a very capable micro-controller, prototyping breadboard, battery, LEDs, and other electronic components. The accompanying talk will explain the electronic circuit as well as the low power consumption techniques used to allow the kit to log data for a long time on a small battery. The talk will also describe how to program the supplied micro-controller.

April

## Quantum Communication and Networks

7.30pm

**Dr. Joseph Spring, Senior Lecturer, University of Hertfordshire**

Thursday, 27th April, University of Hertfordshire

Recent developments in technology are opening up new and exciting possibilities for the practical application of quantum concepts to networks and distributed systems opening up the potential, for a quantum based internet. Quantum repeaters are currently reported as achieving distances in excess of 100km, with quantum based dark fibre networks achieving distances of 2000km. Quantum based satellite communication are currently proposed with a view to achieving a global network by 2030. A UK National Quantum Technologies programme has been unveiled, to realise the UK as a world leader in academic and commercial quantum technology innovation. In this discussion we consider the progress being made in this field, together with a selection of issues relating to quantum based communication.

May

## Staged Code Generation: The Philosophers Stone

7.30pm

**Dr. Malcolm Sherrington, Partner, Amis Consulting LLP**

Thursday, 18th May, Sopra Steria

Until recently, programming languages divided into two camps: interpreted and compiled. While the former have found favour due to their convenience, they are regarded by many as being too slow and for serious work and frequently must be combined with one (or more) compiled languages to achieve acceptable performance. In the last five years a new breed of languages has emerged which utilises Just-in-Time (JIT) compilation techniques to combine the best features of both. These include Google-V8, Lua, Rust and MIT's Julia; which is rapidly gaining popularity in serious scientific and statistical computing.

Dr. Sherrington will discuss why Julia is so fast. He will show that just merely JIT-tering code is insufficient to realise performance and will pose the question as to whether Julia's speed can be retrofitted to existing languages such as Python and R.

June

## Visit to Frithsden Vineyard

7.00pm

**BCS Hertfordshire Visit**

Wednesday, 14th June, Frithsden, Hemel Hempstead, HP1 3DD

A tour of the vineyard with supper and wine tasting: Frithsden Vineyard is a boutique growing, pressing and bottling English vineyard set in the foothills of the Chilterns with in excess of 6000 vines with unusual, specially developed varieties designed to grow in our cooler climate. Free to members and £25 for non-members.

September

## AGM & Visit: Chalk Streams, The Hertfordshire Heritage

7.00pm

**Stephen Wilson, Vice Chair of Dacorum Environmental Forum**

Thursday, 21st Sept., Boxmoor Trust, London Rd, Hemel Hempstead, HP1 2RE

Our AGM is followed by a short presentation from the Boxmoor Trust describing the work that they do. This will be followed by the main presentation about chalk streams. There are only around 200 chalk streams in the world, 85% of which are found in England. Most are located in the south and east of England. The rarity of chalk streams puts them in the same league as other rare world ecosystems and endangered species meaning that conservation and management is imperative. However, our chalk streams are under great threat from the over-abstraction of water as well as pollution from drains and agriculture. The impact of climate change on these precious resources will also be considered.

The committee of the BCS Hertfordshire branch is made up from a diverse range of volunteers with experience in the IT and Communications sectors. The committee represents the interests of BCS members located in Hertfordshire as well as parts of Buckinghamshire and Bedfordshire.

If you have any feedback, comments or would like to get involved with the committee, please contact us using the information below or make yourself known to any of the BCS committee members at one of our events.

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**Feedback:** If you have any feedback, questions, suggestions, ideas or comments; or you would like to get involved with BCS Herts, please contact any committee member or visit:

[www.herts.bcs.org](http://www.herts.bcs.org)

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## How to Book

To register your place at any of our events please visit [www.herts.bcs.org/events](http://www.herts.bcs.org/events). All events are free to both members and non-members unless otherwise stated.

If you require any further information, would like to discuss facilities or special requirements or require transport assistance while visiting a BCS Hertfordshire event please contact [herts\\_sec@bcs.org.uk](mailto:herts_sec@bcs.org.uk) with your query.

## Venues

How to get there: [www.herts.bcs.org/findus/](http://www.herts.bcs.org/findus/)

### Sopra Steria

**Address:** Sopra Steria, Three Cherry Trees Lane, Hemel Hempstead, HP2 7AH  
**By Road:** Near M1 Junction 8, M25 Junction 21 | **By Rail:** Hemel Hempstead via Euston

### University of Hertfordshire

**Address:** Lindop Building, University of Hertfordshire, College Lane, Hatfield, AL10 9AB  
**By Road:** Near A1(M) Junction 4 | **By Rail:** Hatfield via Kings Cross



**Note:** All meetings qualify as Continuing Professional Development. Any product, venue, activity or opinion expressed at a BCS Hertfordshire event does not imply any support, endorsement, or promotion of such products or views by the BCS.