

# BCS South West Branch Annual General Meeting

6<sup>th</sup> October 2015  
Met Office, Exeter

## Chairman's Report

The South West Branch now includes 1,238 members, including 614 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 South West Branch during the last year has continued to focus around the arranging and staging the presentation series, with the following talks and events having taken place during the 2014/15 session:

- “The future of GPU Accelerated Computing”, Jeremy Purches, NVIDIA (10 November 2014)
- “Retro Computing 2014”, South-West Retro Computing Archive (17 December 2014)
- “Enabling Effective Education through Mobile Apps”, Prof. Khalid Al-Begain, University of South Wales (17 February 2015)
- “You can never have enough bandwidth”, Doug Williams, BT Research (10 March 2015)
- “Women in Computing/IT and career progression”, Lynne Palmer, WISE Partnership Director (19 March 2015)
- “Confessions of a not-so-expert Witness”, Colin Pearson, Enterprise Reader (30 March 2015)

We are extremely grateful to all of those who gave their support, as well as to Plymouth University for again acting as the host venues for the majority of events.

The Branch also helped to support regional participation in the App-a-thon Guinness Record attempt, which was organised by BCS Women in June 2015. The event, which took place in around 30 locations across the UK, aimed to beat the world record for the largest number of people learning to write Android smartphone apps at the same time. A total of 1,093 qualifying participants were involved on the day, around 35 of whom were in Plymouth, setting a new world record in the process!

In addition to working with BCS Women and WISE, the Branch has continued to run joint activity with the South West Branch of the Institute of Information Security Professionals (IISP), supporting a further event in the *Secure South West* series (in April 2015), which is organised by Plymouth University and Plymouth City Council.

The Branch has also maintained its long-standing sponsorship of prizes for the best performing degree students on computing programmes at Exeter and Plymouth universities. The awards in the last year went to David Chidell from the BSc (Hons) Computer Systems and Networks degree at Plymouth University and George De Ath, who graduated from BSc Computer Science and Mathematics at the University of Exeter.

The success of BCS activities is in large part due to the involvement of the many volunteers that give their time to support it. The South West Branch is no exception, and my thanks are again given to colleagues on the Branch Committee for their efforts to promote and maintain the regional presence. I would like to give particular thanks to Dr Shirley Atkinson, who has served as Branch Secretary for the last few years, and is now stepping down in order to pass the opportunity to someone else.

As you will see from the Branch website, the 2015/16 schedule is already taking good shape, with two events each in October and November, and more in preparation as we move into the New Year. You can as always keep updated on these through the Branch's Facebook group (BCS South West) and Twitter account (follow @BCSSouthWest), and we look forward to seeing you in the year ahead.

Prof. Steven Furnell CEng FBCS CITP M.Inst.ISP SMIEEE  
October 2015