

Chair's Annual Report 2010/2011

The Branch Committee

I am standing down as branch chair due to work and family commitments. I will remain a branch committee member (if elected) and you will still see me at the presentation evenings.

The vice-chair **Rukhsar Shafiq** will take over the reigns as chair and I would like to wish him the best of luck in this role.

I would like to extend my thanks to the branch committee for its support and effort during the past year – without their help and support none of the nine events we have held would have been possible.

My thanks also go to **Martin Beer**, our treasurer who ensures that all the bills are paid, we stay within budget and deals with the BCS's finance department. Martin has been proposed and seconded to continue the role of treasurer for another year.

Branch Secretary

Migara Ekanayake was voted on to the committee and made branch secretary in November 2010, as he was a final year student, he is now standing down from the role, as he is moving out of the area. We are now actively looking for a branch secretary, we have emailed the BCS South Yorkshire members appealing for volunteers.

Louise Webb & Anna Smallwood have tendered their resignations from the committee, we now have no women on the committee and would like to encourage any women that are interested in IT to join our committee.

Finally, I would like to thank our webmasters **Chris Gray** and **Gavin Whitelaw** for the time and effort in making the necessary changes to our branch website, it can be found at <http://sy.bcs.org>

It continues to be the source of information regarding upcoming events, and where you register to attend meetings.

Our branch committee is vital to planning and organising our events, if you would like to be part of the committee and can spare 1 hour an month for an evening meeting in Sheffield you would be welcome.

If you are interested in joining the committee please contact us via the web site or at any of our meetings.

2010 -2011 Events Programme

During the past year we have successfully held eight monthly events and had on **average at least fifty** people attend these events. One of these events was shared with the IET.

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2011 – 2012 Events Programme

We normally hold our events on the third Thursday in the month, starting after the AGM this evening on Thursday 20th October 2011, except December when it is a week early (9th). Our final event of this programme will be in May 2012.

Anyone who wishes a topic to be included please contact us via our web site, or a committee member at a meeting.

All details of the programme will be available through the branch web-site: <http://sy.bcs.org> and via email to the branch list. Please register if you are coming to a meeting via the web site at least a week before the meeting date so we can ensure we cater for the right number of attendees.

Annual Student Prizes

We continue to award the annual “Eliot Chiat” student prize, named after our long serving branch Secretary who died in January 2003, to a second year single honours student in the Department of Computer Science at the University of Sheffield. We also award a prize for best performance in professional development on a computing undergraduate course at Sheffield Hallam University

Our Sponsors

As in previous years, I would like to thank the continuing support of our sponsor - 'The Training Foundry' at Sheffield Hallam University for their support throughout the year, in providing a venue both for many of our public and committee meetings.

Communications Policy

Our policy is to deliver all our communications to members via e-mail and through our website: <http://sy.bcs.org> and we also started to use social networking to communicate with groups set up on Facebook[®], Linked-in[®] and now have a Twitter[®] account @BCS_South_Yorks. I would encourage you to ensure that the BCS HQ has an active email address for you.

I hope you enjoy the events programme in the coming year and look forward to seeing you at our events.

Steve Hartley MBCS CITP