# South Yorkshire Branch

## Chair's Annual Report 2018

## Overview

A warm welcome to all BCS South Yorkshire Branch members from myself, Chris Gray, as part of the Branch AGM Chair's Report.  2017 – 2018 has been my third and final year as Chair and I would like to thank the committee, members, speakers, attendees and Sheffield Hallam University for another successful year for the branch, as well as Andrew Shaw who will be standing for Chair at this AGM.

## Programme

**What We Did Last Year**

During the past year we have successfully held six monthly events with average attendance of 15 people.  Events are typically held on the third Thursday of the month between October and May, with the last year seeing events including:

- Cybercrime
- Careers In IT
- Windows 10
- Part-of-speech disambiguation using patterns in text
- Raspberry Pi Jam
- Health Care Robotics

Many thanks to the speakers for presenting and who attended ensuring lively debate as always.

# Making IT Good for Society

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

This year again saw the BCS South Yorkshire branch sponsor both Kids Tracks (ages 4-9 and 10+) at Steelcon[i], Sheffield's Security Conference, for the fifth time.  The Kids Track provided the equipment and workshops for the attendees to be introduced to the world of IT and supporting BCS's Computing at School programme[ii].  Steelcon continue to gain in popularity, selling out all tickets in advance and attracting many speakers and attendees from around the UK's cyber security field.

# Community

**Who We Serve and How We Engage with Our Community**

We continue to award the annual "Eliot Chiat" student prize, named after our long serving branch Secretary who died in January 2003. The prize will be awarded at the start of the 2018 – 2019 Events Programme.

# Leadership

**How we provide Leadership to Our Community**

The Branch Website[iii] continues to be the main source of information for upcoming events, event registration and contacting the Branch.  The website is supported by the Branch's LinkedIn group, mailing list and main BCS site.

We continue to work successfully with Sheffield Hallam University, and thank them for their support through venues, collaborative events and colleagues who are an active part of the committee.

# Excellence

**How We Excel**

This year, in collaboration with Sheffield Hallam University, we held our first Raspberry Pi jam.  This event brought together technologists, students and hobbyists to showcase projects and share stories.  The event included prizes for the best project, best talk and a "hackspace" with all the equipment provided to tackle a project there and then.  Feedback for the event was very positive and we look forward to supporting the event again next year.

# Objectives for Next Year

**Our Plan**

As we start the 2018 – 2019 year we hope the events will provide networking, learning and discussion opportunities across IT topics for all members, with a number of events already lined up[iv].  We welcome suggestions from the Branch for topics and anyone who would be interested in speaking.

# Achievements

**Our Successes**

This last year the Branch has been pleased to deliver a number of events across the IT field, and sponsoring the Steelcon Information Security conference which continues to go from strength to strength.

# Challenges

**The Barriers We Face**

The branch committee is vital to planning and organising our events, and for the continuing operation of the branch.  We are always looking out for new members with new ideas for how to improve the branch and organise events to represent the IT community.  Anyone interested in joining the committee, or helping out in any other capacity, are welcome to speak with us at any event.

# Inclusion and Diversity

**How We Are Working for Everyone**

We are always looking for volunteers to help run the branch and speakers for events, and invite any members interested in reach out to us[v].  Without volunteers on the committee we would be unable to operate the Branch for the members, or ensure a good variety of topics events.

# Committee

**About the Committee**

As always thanks goes out to all the committee for helping to run the branch and organise the Events Programme.  In particular, thanks go to Martin Beer and Lucian Tipi who have continued their roles as treasurer and secretary respectively, key officer roles required for the South Yorkshire branch to operate.

Gavin Whitelaw, Eva Barabas, Andrew Shaw, Colin Smythe, Colin Brooks, Kai Bentley and Neil Bizzel form the rest of the active committee providing the support necessary, including YPG, Email Communications and Website Administration, to keep the Branch running.


Chris Gray
BCS South Yorkshire Branch Chair

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[i] https://www.steelcon.info/
[ii] http://www.computingatschool.org.uk
[iii] http://sy.bcs.org
[iv] http://www.bcs.org/category/18936