

Chairman's Report, 10/10/2013

This is the North Cheshire, South-east Lancashire, South-west North Yorkshire, North Derbyshire, probably but not quite North Staffordshire, South-east West-Yorkshire, Greater Manchester, Manchester Branch's Chairman's Report. The purpose of which is to report on what this Branch has been doing since the last AGM - which can be summed up by: a lot!

The Branch has continued to run an extensive programme of events and has engaged with numerous organisations to enable this to happen. It has, with the grateful help of the Bolton, Bury and Wigan sub-group, held a series of events in Bolton. However it is becoming increasingly clear, due to the widespread nature of our membership and our increasingly limited finances, that we need to run more events online: noting the Branch's current presence on social media.

Members might be aware BCS, through the BCS Academy, has been active in getting Computing back onto the school curriculum (<http://academy.bcs.org/content/promoting-computing-schools>). The Branch has also been active in the area of computing in schools and promoting it to the under 18s. The Branch's involvement, to varying degrees, has been:

- supported local centres for Young Rewired State;
- worked closely with MadLab Under 18, who run regular coding events;
- promoting local Code Clubs (<http://www.gmchamber.co.uk/stories/chamber-calls-on-business-community-to-help-crack-the-code>);
- helped to run career awareness events;
- working with STEMNET to promote their various schemes and in particular STEM Ambassadors;
- engaging with the local Computing at School networks;
- supported the Raspberry Jamboree;
- supporting Open Computer Science, <http://opencomputerscience.co.uk/>;
- and supporting a bi-annual Family Telecommunications Exhibition.

The increasingly popular list of #MCRTechEvents provides members with an increased awareness of what events are available to them. This better enables them to identify opportunities to undertake continual professional development (CPD) and network with their peers. Indeed the main driver behind this list is to forge a true IT community in Manchester.

Last but by no means least, I offer, on behalf of BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT, grateful thanks to the many people, groups and organisations without whom it would not have been possible to have achieved everything this year:

- MMU's School of Computing, Mathematics & Digital Technology for their continued tremendous support which has enabled the Branch to do so many events;
- the committee for all their time and effort they have volunteered over the year;
- the numerous BCS member groups and other institutions, including the always inspirational MadLab, that the Branch has worked with during the year;
- Andrew Medd, past Chairman of the Joint Institutions Group, for his strenuous efforts in putting together the series of Engineering Your Future events;
- Professor Nigel Linge and his team at Salford University for organising the "From semaphore to smartphone" family events;
- Manchester University's School of Computer Science for supporting the Turing Lecture;
- 4ITRecruitment for their support of the ELITE events;
- the speakers who have all given their time freely for the benefit of the profession; and
- the thousands of people who have explored the IT profession with us by attending our events.

Andrew Mohan,
Chairman, Manchester Branch,
BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT.

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-> <http://manchester.bcs.org>

-> <http://www.facebook.com/manchesterbcs>

-> <http://www.linkedin.com/groupRegistration?gid=3913367>

-> <http://twitter.com/bcsmanchester>