

**British Computer Society, Manchester Branch,  
Chairman's Report, May 2008.**

**A good year – though a bit tiring!**

It has been another good year. The Branch continues to raise the profile of the IT profession and to fulfil the objects of the Society, as per its Royal Charter: to promote the study and practice of computing and to advance knowledge of and education in IT for the benefit of the public.

Since the last AGM the Branch has organised and supported 20 events, attended by around 4000 people. The Branch committee have also been working with, and expanding, our contacts from a large body of organisations, both engineering institutions and other IT organisations, these include: IET, IoP, IoA, IMechE, ICE, IChemE, SCL, Manchester Digital, Manchester Free Software, BCS Health Informatics (Northern) SG and BCS Quality (NW) SG.

To promote the study of IT, especially to raise awareness amongst school pupils, the Branch has been a keen supporter of a number of events held during both the Manchester Science Festival and the BA's National Science and Engineering Week. My thanks for this go to Professor Nigel Linge and his team at Salford University for organising these events.

This year's events have celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Branch and BCS and a successful Turing Lecture, which was thought provoking and well attended. Our series of events have also included speakers on simulating nuclear reactors, musical engineering and the free software movement, to name but a few.

However all the above would not have been possible without the hard work of the Branch committee, who have my grateful thanks. I would also like to acknowledge the support given to the Branch by the Manchester Digital Development Agency.

**The Year Ahead**

The Branch represents the BCS in Greater Manchester. The BCS represents the IT profession. With over 2,600 Branch members, in addition to the many thousands of IT professionals, both current and potential, who live and work within Greater Manchester, my efforts this coming year will be on the promotion to this constituency of the activities of the Branch and of all the many other IT organisations that operate in the area.

Currently the new Branch programme of events is being finalised. However it starts with two big activities. Firstly the Branch is sponsoring the Big Green Chip Award at this year's Big Chip Awards, to highlight the requirement of IT professionals to consider the environmental impact of their IT systems.

The second event on the 20th June, celebrates the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the "baby" - the Kilburn Lecture, 'The Relentless March of the Microchip' by Professor Steve Furber CBE. It is hoped that this will be the first of many such Kilburn Lectures, as we continue to celebrate the achievements of Tom Kilburn as we look at the advances made in the field of IT.

To promote the study of IT the Branch is currently working with other Engineering Institutions to stage two Career Awareness Days that aim to highlight to young people the opportunities available in engineering and to encourage them onto further study in this area.

Finally, this is your Branch, if they is anything you would like to see it doing, get involved.

Andrew Mohan,  
Chairman,  
BCS Manchester Branch.