

## Chair's Annual Report 2011/2012

7<sup>th</sup> October 2012

### *The Branch Committee*

I must begin by apologising for all the meetings/events that I have had to miss due to work commitments. The committee has run the events programme with a professional diligence and I would like to thank each and every one of them.

I would like to thank **Martin Beer** for all his work as treasurer. The austerity that affects every element of society has made the role of treasurer challenging to say the least. Martin has performed an excellent job in terms of maintaining the branch budgets and handling all financial affairs. He has liaised extensively with the BCS HQ in Swindon to ensure that we maintain our events programme.

I would like to thank **Lucian Tipi** for his work as secretary. The three office bearers have agreed to offer themselves for re-election for a further year. We would like to invite all members to join our committee and get involved with the branch. I would also like to thank **Ben Downen** for being the student and young person representative on the committee. Any student member who wishes to join our committee is welcome to do so.

We are pleased to nominate two ladies for election to the committee. **Sally Soady and Melissa Cole**. Sally is involved in IT Governance at the NHS. Melissa is a computing lecturer at the Sheffield Hallam University.

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.

### *2011 -2012 Events Programme*

During the past year we have successfully held seven monthly events and had on **average at least fifty** people attend these events. We were also able to hold a branch visit to the Ask4 Data Centre in Sheffield.

### *2012 – 2013 Events Programme*

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### *2012 -2013 Events Programme*

We normally hold our events on the third Thursday in the month, starting after the AGM this evening on Thursday 18th October 2012, except December when it is a week early (13th). Our final event of this programme will be in May 2013.

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. The prize will be awarded in the near future.

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.

Dr Rukhsar Shafiq MBCS

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