BCS Berkshire Branch 2020 Annual General Meeting Agenda
29-Sept-2020

<u>Venue</u>: On Go-To-Meeting
<u>Time</u>: 19.00

1. **Welcome and Introductions**
2. **Apologies for absence**
3. **Minutes of the previous AGM**
4. **Matters arising from the minutes**
5. **A report from the Chair on the year's activities**
6. **A report from the Treasurer, including a review of income and expenditure against the budget agreed with BCS Swindon for the past year and an explanation of next year's budget request**
7. **Election of Chair, Treasurer and committee members**
8. **Any other business**
9. **Talk on 'Using AI for good in the Workplace' by Richard Foster-Fletcher to start around 19.30**
10. **Q and A around 8.15pm**
11. **Finish around 8.30pm**

<u>Chair's Report for 2019/2020</u>

This is going to be the year we don't forget, in many different ways. We started our academic year last September with the strategic vision of reaching out to communities and growing our exposure in the Berkshire area. We held a few meetings around GDPR One Year On, our Xmas social and CV Clinic before Covid hit the world.

It has obviously changed the branch and how we operate, but with the processes we put in place, we were able to adapt as a committee team. Promotion of our events is primarily happening online through our social media channels of Twitter, Facebook and YouTube these days. We also took it upon ourselves to update our new committee document. Mike Buckland, our Communications Lead has been instrumental in leading the effort to update it for new members as an easy way to understand what our Branch is all about and how anyone can help out with our mission of Making IT Good for Society. We will be sharing this document with our membership going forward.

Another highlight of our year was engaging with our community. Not only did we expand our network to include Reading Google Developers, ISACA and especially Clare Stratford at Thames Valley AI Hub. We look forward to working closely with them over the next few years, bring you the latest in AI thinking. However, it was our Volunteering effort, led by Lee, which saw remarkable traction. Lee created a website for Twyford Volunteer Drivers, who came to us for direction. The website can be viewed here - well done Lee!

This year, we were also supportive of communities by setting aside part of our budget to support Yota Dimitriadi and her work at Reading University supporting employability skills for students with special needs and disabilities by helping development of their cyberprevent skills.

Other highlights included Blessing Mbipom's video on our you tube channel talking about the branch, using our budget to help purchase schools equipment and student prizes whilst delivering talks around the areas of Cryptocurrencies, Smart Cities, Connected Communities, Javascript and Diversity. You could say that it's been a very diverse year considering the changes we've been through.

As with other branches and a lot of other BCS members, this year has been viewed as somewhat of a reset. Of expectations, the new normal and new modes of operation. I became Chair in 2013 - 7 years ago. In that time I've seen vast changes around sustainability, environment, cyber security, fake news and the new digital landscape we all play in. I have personally pushed for branch processes and onboarding documents for committee members to help the branch run smoothly during my time. I feel that with this soft reset of how we conduct activities in the branch, it is a good time for a change of leadership in the branch I will be stepping down as Chair of the Berkshire Branch at our September AGM to pursue the management of my business and my an increasing workload.

It's been my pleasure to work with such a dedicated, enthusiastic and knowledgeable committee. I will look forward to being a regular committee member to guide the branch during the next year, but I have full confidence that they will be able to take this branch forwards with the processes we now have in place. It will be my focus over the next year to ensure team members who have helped me over the years are recognised within the BCS.

Focus for the branch in the next year needs to be on community involvement, digital enablement and improving our exposure and relevancy in this new normal. I wish my successor all the best when putting their best foot forward. If anyone would like to be part of this talented committee, please do put your name forward or email our secretary on secretary.berkshire@bcs.org.uk

Many thanks for an enjoyable 7 years,

Anthony Parker

Chair, Berkshire Branch

2013 - 2020