The Chartered Institute for IT

Enabling the information society

bcs The Chartered Institute for IT

South Wales Branch
Annual General Meeting

To be held at Deloitte, Port Talbot

On Thursday 8th October 2026

http://southwales.bcs.org

The Chartered Institute for IT

Enabling the information society

Welcome & Notices

Annual General Meeting: Agenda 2026

1. APOLOGIES
2. AGREE LAST AGM'S MINUTES
3. CHAIR'S REPORT
4. UPDATE ON BCS WALES HUB
5. VICE CHAIR'S REPORT
6. TREASURER'S BUDGET REPORT
7. MEMSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT
8. HERITAGE COMPUTING COORDINATOR'S REPORT
9. EDUCATION LIASIONS' REPORT
10. EARLY CAREERS COORDINATOR'S REPORT
11. EVENT COORDINATOR'S Report
12. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE FOR 2026-27
13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Apologies & AGM Minutes 2024-25

- Apologies received
- Minutes of the last AGM and Chair's report available via branch web site

BCS South Wales Branch

Branch Chair's Report

Chair's Report:
Branch Committee Update

- Committee meetings
  - First Wednesday of every month
  - 11 committee meetings held since the last AGM
  - 14 volunteer members on committee
- Coopted new member, Kris Brooks
- Hosted 5 events this year
- BCS Wales Hub has been a major focus

Chair's Report:
Committee Members at 2025-2026 AGM

Who	Roles	Who	Roles
Andy Bellamy	Branch Chair** & Higher Ed' Liaison USW	**John Tucker**	Computer Heritage Coordinator & Higher Ed' Liaison Swansea U
Jonathan Fish	Branch Treasurer** Industry Liaison	**Elaine Haigh**	Inclusion & Diversity Officer, Education Coordinator & Higher Ed' Liaison Cardiff U
Milan Parikh	Branch Secretary**	**Dr 'Shinie' Bentotahewa**	Higher Ed' Liaison Cardiff Met
Paul Bulmer	Branch Vice Chair & STEM coordinator	**Kapilan Radhakrishnan**	Higher Ed' Liaison UWTSD
Fred Long	Mid Wales Branch Chair	**Simon Field**	Events Coordinator
Ruth Kanjoo Mbaindjikua	Membership Secretary	**Michael Warman**	Industry Liaison
Charles Ma	Publicity Coordinator		

Chair's Report:
Special Projects

BCS Wales Hub

Convening the IT profession for social, economic and public benefit in Wales.

Jonny Sammut, Director of Digital at the Welsh Ambulance Service is the appointed Chair of the BCS Wales Hub.

Chair's Report:
Special Projects

BCS Wales Hub

Five priorities for the year ahead

Raise the Bar: I want to see Wales leading the way in digital professionalism, where chartered status, shared standards, and ethical practice are the norm across every sector.

Grow Our Own: Champion a 'Next Gen' pipeline, building a consistent digital journey from coding clubs in schools through to digital PhDs and board-level leadership. And we won't just grow talent; we'll keep it in Wales.

Lead with Impact: From AI to automation, I want BCS Wales to be a place where we explore emerging tech safely, ethically and inclusively, a true sandbox for innovation.

Break the Mould: This is a moment for constructive disruption. I believe in 'being more pirate', challenging old norms, empowering unheard voices, and making change feel possible, not painful.

Acknowledge Risk, Own Responsibility: Whether it's digital exclusion, fragmented standards or underused talent, we'll face into these challenges directly. I believe strong leadership is about clarity, transparency and collective effort.

BCS South Wales Branch

Branch Vice Chair's Report
STEM in Wales

Vice Chair's Report:

STEM in Wales

- Aim of the Branch is to promote **STEM** subjects across Wales

- A group of volunteers working with the BCS and See Science (The STEM body for Wales) to promote the STEM subjects to help create a future workforce with the skills required to meet future UK needs

- This group mainly focuses on robotics and uses robots built using Lego to illustrate what robotics is all about. As the public have become more aware of AI we also show the long standing link between AI and Robotics.

Vice Chair's Report:
STEM in Wales

The group has:

- Produced a lesson plan to help **teach robotics** – available as a resource for teachers
- Delivers presentations to schools linked to their curriculum
- Works with companies involved with robotics
- Puts on exhibitions at science fairs and other events
- Supported large **STEM** events including **Teen Tech**, **DVLA Code challenge** ...
- Has provided a **STEM** presence at other large events such as the **National Eisteddfod.**
- The group would be interested in recruiting new members
  - *knowledge of **robotics** would be an advantage but **not** essential.*

BCS South Wales Branch

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report:
Annual Budget Report and Forecast 2026-27

2025/26 Budget

- Budget allocation was £2,296 which comprised
  - £2,296 operational spend (excluding sponsorship and prizes)
  - Zero branch income
- Spent 22% of the allocated budget
  - In person events – room hire and catering
  - Expenses for Lego Robots Group activities

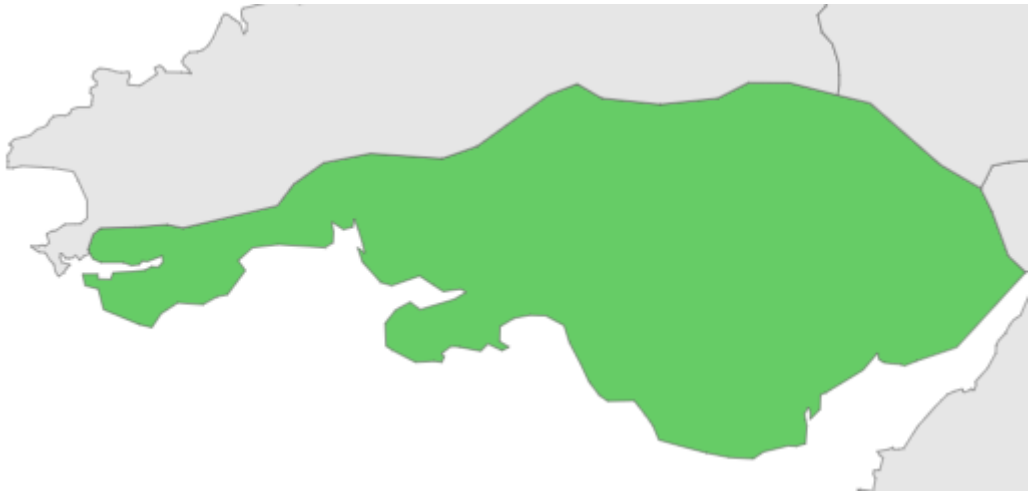
2026/27 Budget

- Budget allocation is £1,400 which comprises
  - £1,400 operational spend (excluding sponsorship and prizes)
  - Zero branch income projected
- Projected spend profile
  - In-person events – e.g. AGM, Christmas Lecture
  - Support for Lego Robots STEM activities/events
  - Additional funds via SFR as normal, if required

Chair's Report:
Membership Secretary Update

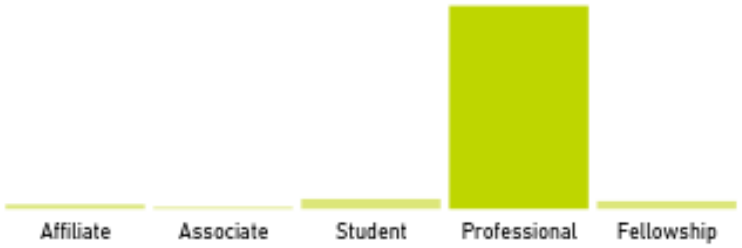
BCS South Wales Branch

Membership Secretary's Report

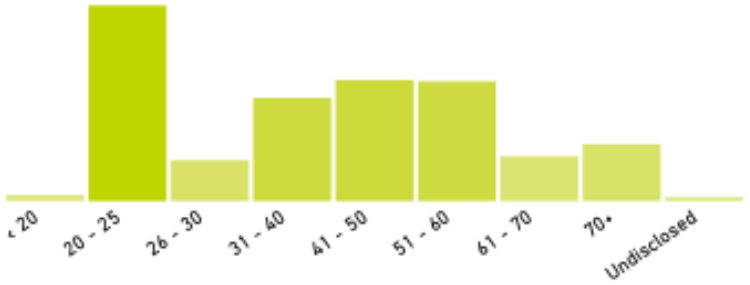


Chair's Report:
Branch Membership by category 2025

Grade Distribution



Age Range Distribution



Gender Distribution



Secretary's Report:
Membership Report 2025

Grades and %

	2026		2025		2024		2023		2022		2021	
Affiliate	45	2%	43	1%	55	1%	49	2%	53	2%	55	3%
Associate	13	1%	21	1%	28	1%	22	1%	53	2%	254	14%
Student	98	4%	675	18%	804	20%	1,773	54%	1,744	54%	112	6%
Professional	1998	90%	3,042	79%	2,969	75%	1,336	41%	1,274	40%	1,274	72%
Fellowship	77	3%	76	2%	78	2%	78	2%	86	3%	86	5%
Total	**2231**		**3,857**		**3,934**		**3,258**		**3,210**		**1,781**	

Changes in the year

	2026	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
Affiliate	2	-12	6	-4	-2	
Associate	-8	-7	6	-31	-201	
Student	-577	-129	-969	29	1,632	
Professional	-1,044	73	1,633	62	0	
Fellowship	1	-2	0	-8	0	
Total	**-1,626**	**-77**	**676**	**48**	**1,429**	

- Professional and student membership has fallen considerably since March 2026, with a slight recovery in professional membership since May 2026. We have not been able to confirm the cause but think that the drop reflects a change in how corporate and academic members are counted, and/or membership contracts that have not been renewed.
- Despite this, we are remain the largest BCS branch outside London.

Secretary's Report:
Membership Report 2025

		2026	2025
Age	<20	21	32
	20-25	629	1,430
	26-30	131	682
	31-40	334	509
	41-50	390	479
	51-60	385	403
	61-70	145	131
	70+	183	185
	Undisclosed	13	6
Sub total		2231	3,857
Gender	Female	404	404
	Male	1303	1,406
	Undisclosed	524	2,047

BCS South Wales Branch

Computer Heritage Coordinator's Report

Computer Heritage Coordinator's Report:
Branch Special Projects

South Wales BCS Branch has supported historical work locally since 2007, through its support of:

- Swansea University's ***History of Computing Collection*** which is a substantial museum and archive

- Organises and co-hosts the ***South Wales BCS Annual History Lecture***

BCS South Wales Branch

Education Liaisons Report

Education Liaisons Report:
Higher Education

Branch Engagement with Higher Ed in Wales

The committee now has representatives from :

- Cardiff University,
- Swansea University and
- University of South Wales,
- Cardiff Metropolitan
- and University of Wales Trinity Saint David

Education Liaisons Report:
Higher Education

Student Chapters

Student Chapter discussions are ongoing at Cardiff University, and First Year students are currently being invited to express interest in BCS membership again this year, with fees funded by the university.

Students from the Cyber Forensic Society at the University of South Wales are in the process of becoming a Student Chapter.

Education Liaisons Report:

Higher Education

Cardiff Metropolitan University | Prifysgol Metropolitan Caerdydd

Student Chapter: BCS Student Chapter – Cardiff Metropolitan University

Aim

We aim to bring people together—no matter their course or tech knowledge—to build a welcoming community where everyone can explore, learn, and be inspired by the endless possibilities of technology.

New chapter leaders will be appointed once the new academic year starts.

BCS South Wales Branch

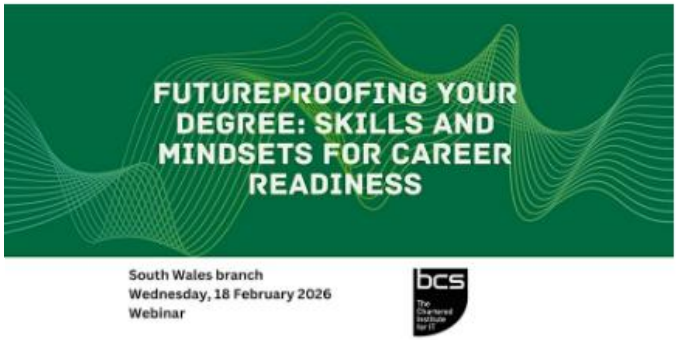
Early Careers Liaison

Education Liaisons Report:

Higher Education

Cardiff Metropolitan University | Prifysgol Metropolitan Caerdydd

Past Events



Synopsis

This session brings together expert voices to help students and early-career professionals prepare for their next steps.

Josephine Farag, Senior Lecturer and PGCE ICT Programme Leader at Cardiff Metropolitan University, will offer guidance for those considering a teaching career - whether after completing their degree or transitioning from another field.

Isabelle Ford, Senior Entrepreneurship Champion at Cardiff Metropolitan University, will help attendees explore how to apply an entrepreneurial mindset and share opportunities for those interested in launching their own business.

Joe Well, a USW graduate, will discuss how he prepared for life after university, offering insights for final-year students and recent graduates.

Date and time

Wednesday 18 February, 4:00pm - 5:00pm

Location

Webinar

Price

This event is sold out

Education Liaisons Report:

Higher Education

Cardiff Metropolitan University | Prifysgol Metropolitan Caerdydd

Upcoming talks: 28 October 2026 (17:30-18:30)

Session Title: Can AI Know?

Guest speaker: Dr Simon Thorne

Knowledge, Expertise and the Limits of Large Language Models, this is basically bringing together 3 papers I have published in 2026 on LLM reliability via a group I go lead with Prof. Harry Collins at UCL. Beginning with *Large language models and scientific discourse: Where's the intelligence?* in *Synthese*, I'll look at how scientific knowledge depends on tacit knowledge, expertise and participation in expert communities. *More problems of large language models in comparison with human knowledge*, published in *AI & Society*, develops this argument by examining the fundamental differences between the way humans acquire knowledge and the way LLMs are trained. Finally, *Large language models eroding science understanding: an experimental study*, accepted by *AI and Ethics*, puts some of these ideas to the test, showing how easily an LLM can be made to produce authoritative and convincing accounts of fringe science that may be extremely difficult for a non-expert to recognise as misleading. Together, the papers raise important questions about the difference between linguistic fluency, knowledge and expertise, and what this means for our increasing reliance on generative AI.

Collins, H. & Thorne, S. (2026). *Large language models and scientific discourse: Where's the intelligence?* **Synthese, 207**, 160. https://doi.org/10.1007/s11229-026-05531-y
Collins, H., Thorne, S., Newbury, P. & Evans, R. (2026). *More problems of large language models in comparison with human knowledge.* **AI & Society, 41**, 7241–7256. https://doi.org/10.1007/s00146-026-03021-w
Collins, H., Grote, H., Newbury, P., Sutton, P. & Thorne, S. (2026). *Large language models eroding science understanding: an experimental study.* **AI and Ethics**, in press. Preprint: arXiv:2604.25639.

Education Liaisons Report:

Higher Education

Cardiff Metropolitan University | Prifysgol Metropolitan Caerdydd

Upcoming talks: February/March 2027

Session Title: Continuing your research after your PhD

Guest speaker: Dr Chaminda Hewage

BCS South Wales Branch

Event Coordinators Report

2025/26 Events

- October 2025 Swansea
  - *The Future of IT*
    Oladapo Adekoya, Marcus Davage (followed by AGM)
- February 2026 Webinar
  - *Futureproofing your degree: Skills and mindsets for Career Readiness*
    Vibhushinie Bentotahewa, Josephine Farag, Isabelle Ford, Joe Well
- March 2026 Webinar
  - *From CyberFirst to TechFirst: Expanding the mission across Wales*
    Andrew Bellamy, Holly Lidbury
- April 2026 Swansea
  - *Emulating Classic Computers: Pilot ACE and Contemporary Wonders*
    Kris Brooks

Plus great robotics events run by the Lego Working Group

2026/27 Events

- 8th October 2026 Port Talbot
  - *Who gets to code? Is societal diversity improving in our profession and what should we as leaders be doing about it?*
  - ***Liz Jones*** (followed by AGM)
- 28th October 2026 Online
  - *Can AI Know? Knowledge, Expertise and the Limits of Large Language Models*
  - ***Simon Thorne***
- 3rd November 2025 Swansea and Online
  - *Cyber Resilience is Hard (Hosted by IET Wales South West)*
  - ***Prof. Elliott Atkins***

BCS South Wales Branch

Branch Committee Election

New Committee:
Nominated Members 2026-2027

Name	Role		Name	Role
Andrew Bellamy	Branch Chair *** HE Liaison University of South Wales		Elaine Haigh	Inclusion & Diversion Officer. HE Liaison Cardiff Uni
Milan Parikh	Branch Secretary ***		Dr Shinie Bentotahewa	Early Careers Officer HE Liaison Cardiff Met.
Jonathan Fish	Branch Treasurer ***		Kapilan Radhakrishnan	IET Liaison HE Liaison University of Wales, Trinity St Davids
Paul Bulmer	Branch Vice Chair & STEM co-ordinator		John Tucker	Computer Heritage Coordinator HE Liaison Swansea Uni.
Fred Long	Committee Member & Chair of mid-Wales Branch		Michael Warman	Industry Liaison
Kris Brooks	Events co-ordinator *(currently co-opted)*		Simon Field	Industry Liaison
Ruth Kanjoo Mbaindjikua	Membership Secretary		Charles Ma	Publicity Coordinator

Any Other Business

- No notifications received

Close

The Committee would like to thank all the members for their support throughout the year

For more information contact our Branch:

swales-chair@bcs.org.uk

http://southwales.bcs.org

https://X.com/bcs_south_wales

https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8843006/

https://linktr.ee/SouthWalesBCS