

BCS Member Group Chair's Report

Member Group Name:	Coventry Branch
Year:	2021
Report Completed By:	Dianabasi Nkantah

Group Chair:	Dianabasi Nkantah
Group Treasurer:	Gary Walton
Group Secretary:	John Rendall
Group Inclusion Officer:	Irene Glendinning
Other Committee Members:	Margaret Low (Education Liaison Officer), Adrian F. Pauling (Local IET Liaison Officer), Rich Bishop, Ada Chan, Iliyana (Lilly) Hristova, Peter Mason, Don Stewart, Yuri Vershinin

The Chair's Report is a vital communication tool for the BCS Community Team to understand and support your activity as a group. The Programme, Practice, and Policy (PPP) Committee will review your submitted report, and suitable action points fed into the Community Board for strategic planning. As one of the critical communication points with our members, your completion of this report supports not only your group but ongoing support and development of other member groups and the BCS itself

Successes

Please list the top three successes the group has achieved in the past year.

Success	Additional Comments
1. Fully adapted to online monthly meetings	This has allowed the branch to continue meeting despite the pandemic. Meeting attendance has risen compared to the immediate pre-pandemic period. This has enabled us to reach international audiences. One of the meetings was tied in with the Coventry City of Culture programme.
2.Christmas Lecture	Annual Christmas lecture hosted jointly with the Coventry branch of IET and IMA. This was online. Topic: "Wonders Beyond Numbers". Lecturer: Johnny Ball – English Television personality and Populariser of Mathematics. The link to the lecture is still available on YouTube (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8iChFzWI5Uo) – this has attracted over 790 views.
3.Filled vacant Chair post	The Chair position was unfilled at the last AGM and the Treasurer had to step in as interim Chair. This was filled on 28 th April 2021 during a Committee meeting.

Plans

Please list the top three activities the group is planning for next year.

Planned Activity	Additional Comments
1.Monthly meetings	Seminar topics have been selected to cater for a diverse range (levels of experience, ages, etc.) of members and visitors.
2.Christmas Lecture	The annual Christmas lecture is part of the branch plan for the year. We expect to jointly host this event with the IET and IMT in December 2021. This event targets the wider population in the Coventry and Warwickshire area.
3.Liaison with Special Interest Groups	The plan is to link up with Special Interest Groups to enrich our seminar topics, share resources and, if possible, host joint events.

Impediments

Please list and describe the top three impediments stopping you from succeeding in your group's ambition and support the BCS vision of "Making IT Good for Society."

Impediment	Description
1. Limited member engagement	The number of members participating in branch activities is still low, even though there has been an increase in attendance at online meetings. It is hoped that a diverse range of topics will attract more members.
2.Narrow volunteer pool	The number of members volunteering for committee commitments is low. Efforts will be geared into encouraging more members to volunteer with the aim of securing the growth of the member group.
3.Lack of direct access to Special Interest Group leads	It would be useful to have an online group comprising member group and special interest group leads – this will facilitate the sharing of ideas, resources and best practices.

Additional Facts and Figures

Please provide any facts and figures you think would be useful to the Community Team for further analysis and future activity planning.

Meeting Attendance data:

Date	16th September 2020	21st October 2020	18th November 2020	20th January 2021	17th February 2021	21st March 2021	21st April 2021	19th May 2021	Average	14th October 2020
Mtg	How we gave our data away	Education in UX	HEDD	TurtleStich	NATS		Driverless cars	Personal Data Economy (HAT)		AGM
BCS	26	34	16	11	19		22	15	30	
Guest or Visitor	17	15		13	9		9	11	16	
	43	49	16	24	28		31	26	46	

Further Comments

If you have any further comments you wish to provide the Community Team; please give them below.

Nominations for Awards and Recognition

It is important that the BCS recognise deserving voluntary service. If you are aware of someone who warrants one of these awards, then please nominate them. It is easy to nominate someone, but, if you are unsure about completing the form, the Community team and your liaison in the Programme, Practice and Policy Committee can help. Please email groups@bcs.uk.

There are three levels of Recognition of Appreciation award:

- Certificate of Appreciation – going beyond the normal expectations of a single voluntary role by directly contributing to significant involvements, achievements or benefits to BCS.
- Meritorious Certificate – going beyond the normal expectations of two or more voluntary roles in different areas of BCS by directly contributing to tangible involvements, achievements or benefits to BCS.
- John Ivinson Award – significantly furthering the BCS's strategic aims and mission on a wide scope of BCS's areas of endeavour by directly contributing significant achievements and benefits to BCS. Typically, the BCS will present this prestigious award to 1-3 volunteers per year.

There are long-service awards for 5, 10, 25, and 30 years of contribution to the BCS.

Volunteer Recognition

Please complete the table below and indicate if you wish to nominate a member of your team for an award of recognition. A member of the Community Team will get in touch to help you complete the process.

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Group/Branch Member	Years of BCS Volunteering	Nomination

Honorary Fellowship

Nominees will have made an outstanding contribution to the charitable objectives of the BCS over an extended period.

The BCS award Honorary Fellowship under Byelaw 8 of the BCS's Royal Charter and Trustee Board Regulation 1.3 specifies that the BCS award may also make the award to non-members who may not be eligible for any other class of membership.

Community Board and Trustee Board will consider a candidate for Honorary Fellowship against the following criteria:

- At any time, both the contribution to BCS's work and the stature of the individual nominated should be commensurate with the standards set by previous recipients. There is no overall limit to the number of Honorary Fellows although it is unlikely that there will be more than two Honorary Fellows elected in any one year.
- To be elected, the nomination must be on the Trustee Board Agenda, and at least 3/4 of those present must resolve in favour.

If you are aware of a nominee for Honorary Fellowship; please add their details below and a member of the Community Team will raise this at the next appropriate meeting of the Community Board.