BCS Member Group Chair's Report

Report submissions must be sent to groups@bcs.uk or your Community Coordinator.

Member Group Name:	Coventry Branch
Year:	2025-2026
Report Completed By:	Dianabasi Nkantah and John Rendall

Group Chair:	Dianabasi Nkantah
Group Treasurer:	Syed Rizvi
Group Secretary:	John Rendall
Group Inclusion Officer:	Doris Anele
Group Vice Chair	Syed Rizvi
Other Committee Members:	Ebunoluwa Idowu- Early Career Advocate Wendy Brown Jianhua Yang – Education Liaison Officer Margaret J. Low – Education Liaison Officer Adrian F. Pauling – local IET Liaison Officer Bharath Sadasivaiah – Assistant Secretary

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. Branch ran four successful open meetings (including the AGM) via webinar, shared with Leicester Branch	Four other meetings did not take place due to inability to get speakers on time. A planned visit to Bletchley Park did not take place because of very limited interest from members.
2.Branch shared the Royal Institution Christmas lecture broadcast by a group at the University of Warwick	
3.Prizes were awarded to two graduating students – one each from Coventry University and University of Warwick	
4. At our AGM in March 2026, we elected more members to the committee, we now have a Vice Chair and an Assistant Secretary	

Plans

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

Planned Activity	Additional Comments
1.Provide seven branch open meetings	Seminar topics have been selected to cater for a diverse range (levels of experience, ages, etc.) of members and public, some being provided by international speakers.
2.Enable a Christmas Lecture, in association with the local Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET), Institution of Mechanical Engineers (IMechE) and the Institution of Mathematics and its Application (IMA) branches	This event targets the wider population in the Coventry and Warwickshire area. This year the BCS are due to provide a speaker. Dr Martine Barons, a Reader in Statistics and the Director of the Applied Statistics & Risk Unit at the University of Warwick is this year's Christmas Lecture Speaker. She will speak on, "Saving the Bees with Mathematics."
3. Liaison with Special Interest Groups and other Branches, to be enabled by the Hubs	The plan is to link up with Special Interest Groups and other Branches (notably Nottingham & Derby and Leicester) 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. Work commitments and illness	Branch Secretary John is still working on his enthusiasm.
2. Narrow volunteer pool	The number of members volunteering for committee commitments remains low. Efforts are ongoing; geared into encouraging more members to volunteer with the aim of securing the growth of the member group.
3. Limited member engagement	Notwithstanding the increase in attendance at online meetings, the percentage of Branch Members participating in branch activities is still disappointingly low. It is thought that many may be relying on the recordings of meetings made available later.

Additional Facts and Figures

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

Coventry Branch did not need to provide expenses to speakers; room hire or refreshment expenses. The (2025) AGM planned for 24th March 2026 went ahead, the 2026 AGM is planned.

Traditionally the meeting attendance figures are provided here, however the number of people who actually join up on the night is always less than the number who initially register, and then some people join the meeting, then leave shortly after, and occasionally re-join, so it is not possible to accurately report actual meeting attendance statistics anymore. Apparently Zoom could not be set-up to log how many attended.

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

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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.

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.