



Enabling the
information society

BCS The Chartered Institute for IT

South Wales Branch Annual General Meeting

To be held at Cardiff University
On Wednesday 9 October 2024

<http://southwales.bcs.org>



Enabling the
information society

Welcome & Notices

Apologies & 2023-24 AGM Minutes

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



Annual General Meeting: Agenda 2024



1. APOLOGIES
2. MINUTES OF LAST YEAR'S MEETING
3. CHAIR'S REPORT
4. VICE CHAIR'S REPORT
5. HERITAGE COMPUTING COORDINATOR'S REPORT
6. EDUCATION LIASION'S REPORT
7. TREASURER'S BUDGET REPORT
8. SECRETARY'S REPORT
9. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE FOR 2023-24
10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS



BCS South Wales Branch

Chair's Report

Chair's Report: **Branch Committee**



- Committee meetings
 - First Wednesday of every month
 - Traditional business meetings and themed meetings
 - 11 committee meetings held since the last AGM

Chair's Report: Committee Members 2023-2024

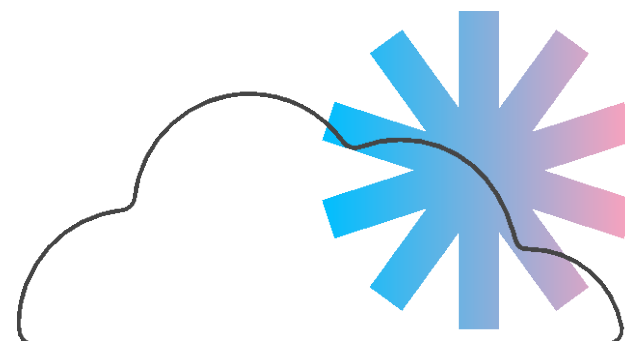
Who	Roles	Who	Roles
Andy Bellamy	Branch Chair** & Higher Edu Liaison USW	Fred Long	Mid Wales Branch Representative
Jonathan Fish	Branch Treasurer**	John Tucker	Computer Heritage Coordinator & Higher Edu Liaison Swansea U
Michael Warman	Branch Secretary** & Membership secretary	Rob Ludman	Committee Member
Paul Bulmer	Vice Chair & STEM Coordinator	Steve Mason	Co-opted Member
Elaine Haigh	Inclusion Diversity Officer & Higher Edu Liaison CU	Jonathan Ayodele	Early Careers Liaison & Social Media Officer

Chair's Report: Special Projects

* My Digital Future

Piloted in 2023 and launched this year BCS has developed locally responsive mentoring and coaching programmes to transform individual life chances, creating a movement of inspirational role models, extending opportunities to young people facing challenging circumstances to create a more diverse profession

These programmes, drawing on the skills and experience of BCS members, are collectively known as My Digital Future



Chair's Report: **Special Projects**

BCS Wales Hub

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

Chair's Report: **Special Projects - BCS Wales Hub**

Strategic Focus

- Convene BCS employers, educators, networks and policy makers to work together to support social and economic benefit in Wales through a joined up IT profession:
 - Facilitate employer and educator collaboration
 - Understand and address the digital skills gap
 - Develop a competent and ethical profession
 - Address digital poverty

Chair's Report: Special Projects - BCS Wales Hub

FY 2023-24

- Engaged with employers, educators and branch network to build a joined up vision of how we can work together in Wales
- Hosted a round table dinner to develop strategic focus
- Launched BCS Wales Hub at Cardiff University event
- Developed a new student chapter at Wrexham University to help widen BCS engagement into North Wales
- Focussed resource on increasing BCS employer organisations in Wales and enablement to support funding of the BCS Wales Hub
- Initiated Community Leader recruitment*

*The role is now being reviewed to make it more manageable, with the intention of splitting the role into a Chair of the Hub Leadership group and multiple ambassador roles to help with advocacy and enablement.

Chair's Report: Special Projects

Special Projects - BCS Wales Hub

- Development of the Hub's first digital skills gap initiative – Return, Restart or Pivot into Tech scheduled for February 2025
- The event is a pilot to be hosted in Cardiff aimed primarily at supporting Women into careers in technology, although open to anyone looking to career change into tech – this event will feature talks on entering the profession, guidance on funding available, how to support career transitioners and also include a careers fair with recruiters and trainers.
- Reconvene the Hub Leadership Group to meet quarterly, along with appointment of a Chair person.
- BCS Wales Hub - Digital Skills Report
- All Wales Webinar Programme Events
- Continue to broaden BCS influence in Wales, with an increased focus on policy makers and continued employer engagement.

Chair's Report: **Branch Events in 2023-24**

A History of Concurrency Primitives in Computing

The CyberFirst Wales Ambassador Network

Hopfield Networks, bat recognition and beyond

Skills-based volunteering for BCS community leaders

BCS Benefits and how to access them

BCS Wales Hub Launch Event

Lyons and the Emergence of Business Computing

**IET and BCS Summer Lecture 2024 –
Mission to Mars: will your brain survive?**

Chair's Report: Upcoming events for 2024-25

- Xmas Robotics Event
- Annual History Lecture
- Higher Edu & Student Chapter Event
- Showcase – IT Resources for STEM

... and more to come for 2025

Keep UpToDate on our Upcoming Events on the Branch site

<http://southwales.bcs.org>

Our events are always free and open to BCS members and non-members

How can you get involved with our events?

Chair's Report: **Branch Social Media & Web Site**

- Full revamp of our Branch web pages led by Branch Secretary
- Contains links to:
 - Extensive Archive of Past Events (also available on our YouTube channel)
 - Information on your committee members and their roles
 - Links to related Welsh Branch committees
 - Mid-Wales branch (their Branch Chair also representative on our Committee)
 - Chester and North Wales branch
- We are also active on social media, and you can follow us on X and LinkedIn for updates
 - https://x.com/bcs_south_wales
 - <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8843006/>



BCS South Wales 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 the skills required to meet future UK needs
- This group mainly focuses on robotics and used robots build using Lego to illustrate what robotics is all about

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 ...**
- The group would be interested in recruiting new members
 - *knowledge of **robotics** would be an advantage but **not** essential.*



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
- The ***BCS Annual History Lecture*** held in April with international speakers
- BCS Project with Swansea University to discover
What did south Wales ever do for computing?
- The recently founded **Cardiff History of Computing Committee (CHoCC)** is based on a collection of equipment from the 1960s at the University
 - *CHoCC organises pop-up exhibitions to engage with the public with retro computing*



BCS South Wales Branch

Inclusion and Diversity Officer's Report

Inclusion and Diversity Officer's Report: **Inclusion and Diversity**

- Inclusion Officer Event held at BCS London on the **30th November 2023**
- BCS Unconscious Bias Training delivered to committee members on the **6th December 2023**
- **Help us make the South Wales Branch more diverse**





BCS South Wales Branch

Education Liaison Report

Education Liaison's Report: **Higher Education & Student Chapters**

Branch Engagement

Higher Education's engagement with the Branch has been less frequent over the past 3 years down to additional pressure on staff due to the pandemic, and in some cases, staff retirement

New links have been formed more recently with a number of Higher Ed institutions across the region and the committee now has representatives from Cardiff University, Swansea University and University of South Wales. The Branch plans to host an event bringing members from all 3 HE institutions together at least once this coming academic year.

Student Chapters

Student signup again this year, with heavier promotion of BCS SIG activities and increased engagement with SW Branch. Networks include Cyber Societies, and three new student focused / led Cyber clusters
Student Chapter discussions are ongoing.

Education Liaison's Report: Higher Education & Student Chapters

Student Engagement

At Cardiff we have encouraged students to take part in BCS competitions with some success, and we hope to build on this in the future.



Abdulahim Umaru won a Bronze Medal for the Animation and Games Development SIG Competition, receiving the Judge's feedback

"This project aims to help disadvantaged students into the workplace with Ai powered simulations of situations and courses and that is an admirable concept that looks to be seeded into a startup. Helping people to flourish and progress is a great use case. "

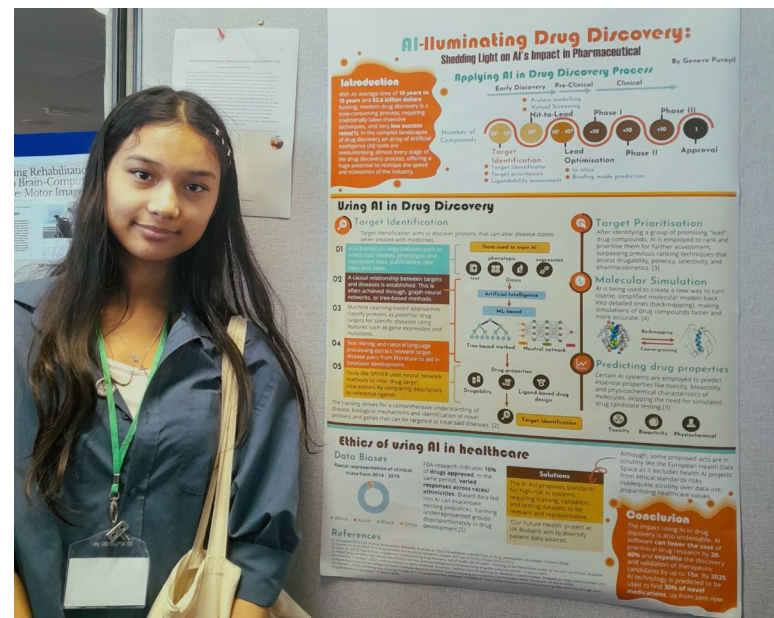
Abdulahim has been accepted onto the Alacrity Foundation programme to develop his idea

Education Liaison's Report: Higher Education & Student Chapters

Geneve Purayil and Lakshmi Sikha were chosen as finalists in their selective year groups for the BCS Lovelace Colloquium, which took place at the University of Liverpool on 4 April, an entry level conference event for young women.

Geneve Purayil won first prize in the Second Year category for her poster, titled 'AI-Illuminating Drug Discovery: Shedding Light on AI's Impact in Pharma.'

Geneve said: "Winning gave me a stronger sense of confidence in my own abilities to research and explain complex computing topics in a creative manner.... "However, what really impacted me the most was talking with other contestants about their work, especially third year students and masters students, and seeing what they could achieve in their dissertations made me excited to start my own next year."





BCS South Wales Branch

Industry Liaison's Report

Industry Liaison's Report: **Branch Engagement in Industry**

- The BCS South Wales branch has been actively reaching out to up to 40 tech groups across Wales to invite their participation and collaboration.
- This outreach aims to foster collaboration, share industry insights, and engage with a broader audience within the Welsh tech community.
- By involving these diverse groups, we hope to build stronger connections, highlight key developments in technology, and ensure a more inclusive and informative outreach of information.



BCS South Wales Branch

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report: Annual Budget Report and Forecast 2024-25

2023/24 Budget

- Budget allocation was £2,000 which comprised
 - £2,000 operational spend (excluding sponsorship and prizes)
 - Zero branch income projected
- Spent 96% of the allocated budget
 - Lego Robots equipment renewal – Lego SPIKE sets + iPads
 - Expenses for Lego Robots Group activities – e.g. Wrexham event
-

2024/25 Budget

- Budget allocation is £2,565 which comprises
 - £2,565 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



BCS South Wales Branch

Branch Secretary's Report

Secretary's Report: Activities from 2023-24

BCS Branch and MyBCS websites

The branch is committed to support the BCS Community Support Committee in a new online design to enhance our member's experience.

Awards

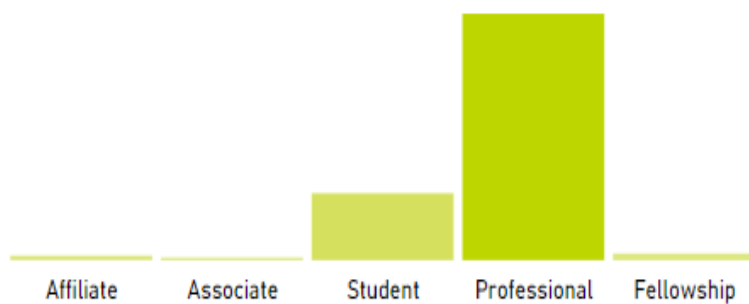
- Welsh Water has recently been awarded prestigious Gold Partner, a prestigious award in recognition of their contributions to the BCS.

Other activities

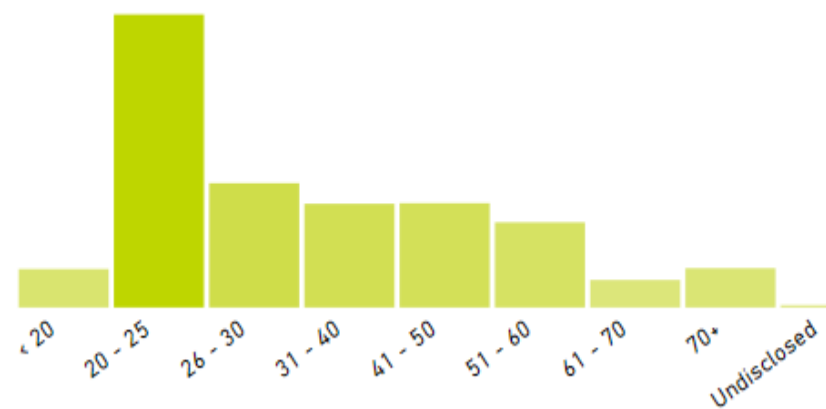
- Offered the role of an ambassador for the BCS Wales Hub

Secretary's Report: Membership Report 2024

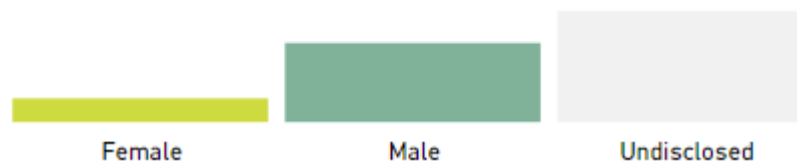
Grade Distribution



Age Range Distribution



Gender Distribution



Secretary's Report: Membership Report 2024

Grades and %

	2024		2023	
Affiliate	55	1%	49	2%
Associate	28	1%	22	1%
Student	804	20%	1,773	54%
Professional	2,969	75%	1,336	41%
Fellowship	78	2%	78	2%
Total	3,934		3,258	

Changes in the year

	2024
Affiliate	6
Associate	6
Student	-969
Professional	1,633
Fellowship	0
Total	676

- Our membership has growth for an impressive fourth year in a row, due to the hard work and commitment of your volunteers
- Only London Central has more members
- The biggest shift has been a move from Student to Professional grades (presumed due to graduates)



BCS South Wales Branch

Branch Committee Election

New Committee: Nominated Members 2024-2025

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**	Elaine Haigh	Inclusion & Diversity Officer & Higher Ed Liaison CU
Michael Warman	Branch Secretary** & Membership Secretary	Rob Ludman	Health & Care Liaison
Paul Bulmer	Branch Vice Chair & STEM coordinator	Steven Mason	Industry Liaison
Fred Long	Mid Wales Branch Chair	Simon Field	Events Coordinator

Positions to be filled for 2024-25: Early Careers Liaison, Marketing & Social Media Officer

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>