

# **Chairman's Report for the Year 2007 / 2008**

## ***Dear Member,***

This year I have stepped down as Chairman of the London Central Branch. I have been Chair since 2002 and after six very enjoyable years I think it's time to let someone else take the reins. Over this period we have seen several important changes, perhaps the most important of which was our move of venue for our programme of meetings from what was the IEE to these excellent facilities in Southampton Street. As well as the meeting rooms, the foyer space here has allowed us to introduce a networking dimension to our meetings. For most of us coming straight from work, the introduction of light refreshments after the talk not only meant we could avoid a hungry journey home, but also that we have become part of what has begun to feel much more like a community of interest. The second major change has been to use email and the website to communicate more effectively, not only about our own meetings, but also about a variety of other items of interest. The ability to send reminders and link to an informative website has had a significant impact on the numbers of members and visitors attending events, at least doubling our normal attendance figures and again contributing to the sense of being part of the branch. (If you haven't given HQ your current email address, it would be helpful to do so). None of this would have been achieved without the time and contribution of the Committee and I would like to thank them all for their unfailing loyalty and support.

## ***This year's programme***

Yet again it has been another year of deeply interesting speakers at the top of their profession presenting a wide variety of topics about our endlessly changing world of information systems, and it has been wonderful to see so many members contributing and taking part. Thank you to everyone who has helped in so many different ways to make London Central Branch such a thriving and vigorous focus of professional activity. As ever, this year I have been delighted by the level of audience participation which always makes for a lively evening, as well as the impressive quality of the contributions from fellow members. In my experience, the combination of speaker candour and insightful questioning that we experience at our meetings is something you will not find easily elsewhere. Apart from anything else, it represents great value for your membership fee.

As ever our programme included a mix of case studies, emerging technology and best practice. We began the Programme by following up the BCS Health Informatics Forum report on National Programme for IT with a critical appraisal of the Programme by Brian Derry and Andrew Haw. In October we turned to a more global perspective with an expert assessment by Charles Chang of the threats and opportunities presented by the rapid changes in China and India. For the past three years we have had very popular talks on career development, and this year's was no exception. Ben Clark and Ben Lamb gave a hard hitting



Branch visit to the London Eye on a clear night in November.

appraisal of what it takes to get your next job in IT in November. In the same month we had a social outing, with a spectacular trip to the London Eye to see London at night, followed by pizza. In a joint meeting with Kingston and Croydon in December, David France of Honda Racing explained how to deliver even when under the sort of pressure that most of us will never experience.

In the New Year we heard three talks on different challenges to successful delivery: creativity, agility and complexity. We know that poor designs are often poor because they simply automate an existing process, but how do you create a new one? In January Neil Maiden described to a fascinated audience how he and his team at City University use analogies between surprisingly different domains (flight planning and peace negotiation) to generate new solutions. What if requirements keep changing? Jennifer Stapleton explained how to structure and manage a programme that needs to be agile. This was followed by a joint event with the Association for Project Management where Dr Peter Parkes and Dr Mark Winter provided an update on the use of Soft Systems Methods for addressing highly complex public sector projects.

As our contribution to Science Week, Professor Clive Holtham explained how accountancy and general management will bring a paradigm shift in the intelligent exploitation of IT. Continuing the theme of looking at how different disciplines might work together in our second joint meeting with Kingston and Croydon, Professor Sir Tony Hoare, reviewed, with much audience help, the wide cultural gap between scientists and engineers and suggested how to bridge the gulf.

And finally, we were pleased to welcome Chris Potts who kindly stepped in at the last minute to share his insight into the way IT strategy is changing.

### ***Special Thanks***

I know you will wish to thank all our speakers for helping make the branch Programme a success this year. The staff at Southampton Street deserve our recognition for their willing support. As well as reiterating thanks to the committee on behalf of the branch, I must also especially thank Simin Kamali for her organisational skills as Secretary, Paul Colton for managing the finances so efficiently, Alan Jones for maintaining and improving the website, Jeff Hillmore for as always his unstinting contribution and Tony Miller for managing communications and publicity, particularly for new members.

If you feel you could contribute, please let us know.

***Simon Jewell***

***London Central Branch, May 2008***

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### **London Branch Committee**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
Ms Funmi Adeusi	Chair	Mr Simon Jewell	Vice Chair
Dr Sue Black	Women in IT	Mr Alan Jones	Webmaster
Mr Paul Colton	Treasurer	Mrs Simin Kamali	Secretary
Mr Adrian Hall	Education Liaison Officer	Mr Anthony Miller	Membership Secretary
Mr Jeff Hillmore	Branches Congress Rep	Mr David Oshilaja	Committee Member
Mr Stephen Hoey	Committee Member	Dr Omid Shabestari	Committee Member
Mr Akhigbe Itua	Committee Member		

For more information please visit the branch website:

[www.londoncentral.bcs.org](http://www.londoncentral.bcs.org) or Email: [londoncentral@bcs.org.uk](mailto:londoncentral@bcs.org.uk)

**THE BRITISH COMPUTER SOCIETY - LONDON (CENTRAL) BRANCH PROGRAMME 2008/2009**

<p><b>Thursday</b> <b>25 Sep 2008</b></p>	<p><b>Avoiding the Trap of IT led business change - Benefits realisation in practice</b> <i>Gerald Bradley, Chairman, Sigma Consulting</i></p> <p>In spite of all the statistics showing that IT-led business change invariably fails, many continue to fall into this seductive trap. Effective benefit realisation turns this around, starting with the desired outcomes and then exploring how to realise them. Having been refined and proven the over 22 years, the approach has become a de facto public sector standard, recommended as 'best practice' by the Home Office and used as a basis for the benefits part of MSP.</p> <p>Gerald is the author of 'Benefits Realisation Management', a regular conference speaker and a leading expert in the field of benefits realisation.</p>
<p><b>Thursday</b> <b>16 Oct 2008</b></p>	<p><b>User Centred Design: Delivering the Web Proposition</b> <i>Andrew Lamb, Service Design Manager, Directgov</i></p> <p>How often have you found web applications that don't deliver what you want or are so badly designed they're frustrating to use? User centred design is the discipline used to discover a meaningful proposition and create a user experience that customers will thank you for. Andrew will describe current best practice and share his own successes and failures from nine years of pushing the boundaries.</p> <p>Andrew is an e-business development specialist who has worked in every web discipline. Previous to his role at Directgov, he was accountable for the customer experience and delivery of NorwichUnion.com, RAC.co.uk and BSM.co.uk.</p>
<p><b>Thursday</b> <b>20 Nov 2008</b></p>	<p><b>British Computer Society: adapting to our constantly changing world</b> <i>Ian Ryder, Director of Brand, Marketing and Professionalism &amp; International, BCS</i></p> <p>Ian will examine the growing contribution of the BCS to public and private sector thinking on information technology issues, and the importance of the role of brand and reputation in achieving influence. He will outline his aspirations for the BCS and explain his confidence in its future.</p> <p>Ian is a pioneering thinker, author and lecturer on the subjects of brand strategy, reputation and customer management. Before joining the BCS he was vice president, brand and communications EMEA for Unisys Corporation and director, global brand management for Hewlett Packard. Ian has held senior marketing roles in several major technology companies and has provided independent brand strategy advice to many other companies inside and outside the technology industry.</p>
<p><b>Tuesday</b> <b>2 Dec 2008</b></p> <p><b>Joint Meeting with Kingston &amp; Croydon Branch</b></p>	<p><b>Eight significant events in Computing</b> (please register with Kingston &amp; Croydon Branch) <i>Dr William Olle, T. William Olle Associates</i></p> <p>Retired consultant Dr William Olle, will describe eight of the most important developments of the past 50 years of computing, ranging from the first programmable computer, the creation of memory and discs, through to the invention of the first personal computer in the '80s, and the explosive impact of the World Wide Web and Internet in the '90s.</p> <p>Bill Olle entered the computing field in 1953 as a graduate student at Manchester University. In 1957, he moved to the Netherlands where he worked in computing for a NATO organization. In 1964, he moved to the USA where he was employed by Control Data and then by RCA. In 1972, after a year in Norway, he returned to the UK and established his international computing and lecturing practice. He retired in 1993. He has attended every IFIP congress and has previously been an invited speaker in Stockholm in 1967 and Canberra in 1996</p>
<p><b>Thursday</b> <b>15 Jan 2009</b></p>	<p><b>The Search for Shared Meaning: How Social Media Changes Everything</b> <i>Dave Briggs, Independent Consultant, Davepress.net</i></p> <p>Blogs, online video, photo sharing and social networking are redefining the way that people interact with each other and with organisations. Understanding the implications of this is vital for any organisation which wishes to remain relevant in a Web 2.0 world. Dave will discuss how organisations can approach these new tools, and how such an approach should relate to existing strategies and communication plans.</p> <p>Dave is the author of Dave Press, a blog about digital participation, and has been quoted in The Guardian about the issue of public servants blogging. He is an independent consultant, working mainly with government, helping civil servants communicate and collaborate online.</p>

<p><b>Thursday</b> <b>19 Feb 2009</b></p>	<p><b>The Power of Personal Information</b> <i>Tom Ilube, CEO, Garlik</i></p> <p>Who owns your personal information? Every time you buy something and register a new account with a company you lose control over private knowledge about you. Against a background of increasing concern about data protection and privacy, Tom will consider the options for putting control back into the hands of consumers, and the impact this will have.</p> <p>Through his company, Garlik, Tom is pioneering a range of services to help give people real power over their personal information. Previously, Tom was Chief Information Officer of Egg plc, the innovative online bank. Tom's career spans 20 years with companies including Goldman Sachs, PwC and the London Stock Exchange.</p>
<p><b>Monday</b> <b>9 Mar 2009</b></p> <p><b>SCIENCE WEEK and Information Retrieval Specialist Group</b></p>	<p><b>Search - the Science Making Tomorrow's World</b> <i>Dr Andy McFarlane, Senior Lecturer, Department of Information Science, City University</i></p> <p>After five millennia, are traditional 'libraries heading for the dusty storeroom as loose agglomerations of on-line knowledge are searched by increasingly sophisticated methods? What does the history; current science and practice tell us? When the Google-generation come to power will they burn the books or reach for their library tickets?</p> <p>Andy is chair of the Information Retrieval Specialist Group and co-Director of the Centre for Interactive Systems Research, City University. He will be joined by leading colleagues from the profession.</p>
<p><b>Thursday</b> <b>19 Mar 2009</b></p>	<p><b>Understanding the bigger picture of business and technology and what that means to you and technology</b> <i>Andy Mulholland, Global Chief Technology Officer, Capgemini</i></p> <p>Everyone knows that Web 2.0 is considered to be 'the' technology game changer, but why and how can this affect Enterprises, and how do other popular new terms such as 'Agile Enterprise', Enterprise 2.0, Business Technology and Mesh Collaboration connect with this? This will prove to be a thought provoking session that introduces many new ideas.</p> <p>Andy is a leading thinker and practitioner helping clients realise the impact of new technologies on their business models and has published white papers.</p>
<p><b>Thursday</b> <b>16 Apr 2009</b></p>	<p><b>Intelligent Fraud Detection: Neural Computing and Artificial Intelligence in the detection of payment fraud</b> <i>Nick F Ryman-Tubb, Honorary Visiting Research Fellow, City University</i></p> <p>The Times headline reported in July 2008, "<i>Huge rise in card fraud as criminals find rich pickings online</i>", with over £535m being lost in the UK to criminals, often used to fund organised crime and terrorists. Clearly the tools already in place to tackle the problem are not keeping pace. Nick will describe a practical application of Neural Computing and Artificial Intelligence in the detection of such fraud. His project uses a pioneering approach to using "<i>thinking computers</i>" that adapt to the temporal nature of transactions. Nick Ryman-Tubb has developed solutions for businesses using neural computers for almost 20-years. He founded and was CEO of the UK neural firm that now protects 1-in-7 of the world's mobile telephone subscribers from fraud. He is a well-known innovator, with successes such as the first neural computer to "taste champagne" and "sniff out explosives and drugs".</p>
<p><b>Thursday</b> <b>21 May 2009</b></p> <p><b>Joint Meeting with BCS Women AGM at 1815</b></p>	<p><b>Customer service oriented government: The challenge of public sector service transformation</b> <i>Alexis Cleveland, Director General, Transformational Government, and the Cabinet Office Management</i></p> <p>Transformational Government is uniquely positioned to deliver the capability for personalisation across public services by focusing on the citizen, joining up across delivery bodies, and enabling efficient handling of complex issues. Responsible for the Service Transformation Agreement, Alexis Cleveland will assess progress to date and the challenges that lie ahead for this ambitious agenda.</p> <p>Alexis Cleveland was Chief Executive of The Pension Service, an agency of the Department for Work and Pensions, until August 2007.</p>

Meetings will be held in the BCS London Offices, the Davidson Building, 5 Southampton Street, London. WC2E 7HA (Tel: 01793 417 666) except where otherwise stated.  
Southampton Street is located just off The Strand. Arrive at 6pm for a 6:30 start.  
The evening will end with a networking session where wine and light refreshments will be served.



**London Central Branch**

**2008-2009**