

Bedfordshire Branch



Chairmans Report
For the Year 2003/2004

28 May 2004.

This year began slowly, due to a reduced committee size and increased commitments for those of us who were left.

In April however, we had a popular meeting hosted by Insys at Ampthill and entitled 'So you want to be a Consultant...'. John Poulter, one of our branch members and an established independent consultant brought along three of his friends and colleagues, who shared their views and experiences with us. They have kindly agreed to take follow-up questions, moderated by myself, so anyone who has an interest in this topic is welcome to send them to me.

We very much hope that you will enjoy this evenings tour of Bletchley Park.

On June 23rd, we will be visiting Charles Wells (Brewers) in Bedford, courtesy of their IT Manager, David Geliher, another of our branch members. David will give us a talk in their new training centre about the introduction and use of wireless technology in their operation, before a tour of the brewery itself. Food will also again be available on that evening, as will 'take-aways !'. Further details very soon.

Having had a break in July and August to allow the holiday season to peak, we hope to present 'IT reforms in the NHS' sometime in September. John Poulter has offered to do this session for us too, drawing on collective experience in this sector. With the letting of many new national contracts high in the news recently, early views of how this is progressing should be very interesting.

During the course of last year we saw realised the planned closure of the Milton Keynes campus of De Montfort University. This brought with it confirmation of the resignation of Pat Jefferies from the committee. Jenni Ferrans has also had to give up her involvement due to pressure of other commitments. Michael Adefisan is struggling to balance studies and work, so has asked for replacement as our YPG rep.

On the positive side, we have gained the services of Gary Yorke, who now finds himself with more time available, and Ian Wilson, who is preparing to take some of the load from Jerry Crick as our WebMaster.

A member in Northamptonshire, Dave Johnson, has expressed an interest in forming a sub-branch to organize activities in our 'Northern Territories' and there has been some encouraging initial response. Watch for developments.

The past year has been one of continuing development for the BCS, particularly in the areas of membership re-structuring and our Charter. A leaflet describing the new arrangements is available. Some 2000 new applications are currently in progress, and a further 2000 recommendations on file awaiting action.

A new London office in the Davidson Building, Southampton Street, has been acquired, to take over from Mansfield Street, and should be up & running by the end of the year. The next Society AGM will almost certainly be held there.

The Annual report shows 15% growth in product sales against a general market trend of 45% decline (to about 1995 levels) which is very strong performance. New products are under development, so hopefully this success will continue.

A review of the Societies core systems and business process is under way, and various elements of this will soon become apparent, as access is seen through the new Web interface.

Thank you for your continued support, and I hope you all have a very pleasant evening.