



# Oxfordshire Branch 2011-2012 Programme

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**22 September 2011**

## **Sex, Lies and Instant Messenger and How to think about Security** Alec Muffett, Security Consultant

Two talks in one! The first, an investigation into the security failures of modern communications from the perspective of adulterous liaisons, and the second, a review of security perspectives which debunk the myths of "Cybersecurity".

**13 October 2011**

## **Branch Annual General Meeting, followed by Washing away cave paintings - A technical evaluation** Ian Hughes, Director of Feeding Edge Ltd

Ian will talk about the impact of social media, gaming and virtual worlds on the way that we do business. He will suggest that failure to recognise the social and cultural change that these technologies are bringing will have a serious impact. Knowing what is possible now makes it really exciting to think what will be possible in the future when all of these things become connected. Stand by as we explore the future.

**10 November 2011**

## **Smashing IT - Data processing at Large Hadron Collider** Dr Neil Geddes, Head of e-Science at STFC, STFC Rutherford Appleton Laboratory

An overview of the data processing chain for the experiments being carried out at the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) at CERN covering the event triggering and data acquisition of the Compact Muon Solenoid (CMS) detector including subsequent data analysis in the global Grid network. The experiments investigate a wide range of physics, including the search for the Higgs boson and particles that could make up dark matter.



## **1 December 2011 - Christmas Lecture** Professor Heinz Wolff Venue: Sophos plc, Abingdon OX14 3YP

Professor Heinz Wolff is perhaps best known to the general public for his appearances in television series such as *Young Scientist of the Year* and *The Great Egg Race*. He is an entertaining and humorous speaker. He will carry out experiments in front of the audience and explain many of the solutions that science brings to our everyday lives which will be fascinating to both young and old in the audience.

*Free but online bookings required for this event*

### **Meetings:**

- Unless otherwise stated, take place at the Oxford e-Research Centre, 6 Keble Road, Oxford OX1 3QG.
  - Begin at 7.30 pm and end at around 9:00pm. Sandwiches and light refreshments are available from 7:00pm.
  - **ARE OPEN TO NON-MEMBERS AND FREE (except the Museum visit for which there will be a small charge).**
- After the Oxford meetings, we usually walk along to the Lamb and Flag on St Giles for an informal chat. All are welcome.

For more details of these events and speakers, or of any late changes to the programme, please see [www.oxon.bcs.org](http://www.oxon.bcs.org)

Branch email address: [oxon.chair@bcs.org.uk](mailto:oxon.chair@bcs.org.uk) Follow us on BCS Oxfordshire Branch BCS Oxfordshire Branch

**19 January 2012**

## **Distributed data analysis** Dr Chris Lintott, University of Oxford

Researchers from fields as disparate as astrophysics and papyrology are facing a deluge of data. The solution taken by Zooniverse is to recruit hundreds of thousands of volunteers and present them with an authentic opportunity to contribute to research. Chris will outline the team's projects, explain the technical challenges and look to the future potential.

**16 February 2012**

## **Connecting a Smarter Planet** Andy Piper, IBM Hursley Lab

Interconnectivity is one of the key aspects to enabling smarter working and a Smarter Planet. IBM's Hursley Lab in the UK has been at the heart of inter-application and inter-device messaging for many years, and this talk will cover some of the innovations that have come from that lab and are now being implemented around the world.

**8 March 2012**

## **Cloud computing: a debate**

Cloud computing is a hot topic and here we will draw together several speakers to give their views on how public and private clouds are changing the way in which we deliver computer services. They will discuss the suitability of cloud computing for various applications and the precautions needed to ensure appropriate integrity and security.

**26 April 2012**

## **Visit to Museum of Computing** Venue: Swindon SN1 1QN

The Museum of Computing is devoted to the history of computing and digital development. It was the first physical museum of its kind in the UK dedicated to the history of computing. We will have a guided tour in two groups.

*Online bookings required for this event*

**17 May 2012**

## **Timing is everything** Professor Joël Ouaknine, University of Oxford

Prof. Ouaknine was awarded the 2010 BCS Roger Needham Award. Society is becoming increasingly reliant on computer systems; think of mobile phones, sat nav, the Internet and so on. This talk will examine the logic and reasoning required to enable such systems to react to their environment in real time and the problems still to be solved in this area.

**14 June 2012**

## **Sense: a new way to learn programming** Mike Richards, Open University

Computer science education has to take account of the recent changes towards smart ubiquitous computing devices. Existing programming languages are difficult for novice programmers to learn. This will introduce Sense as an extension to the graphical programming language Scratch with an associated sensor/actuator board.