

‘BCS London Branches 3’ – North + Central & South London Branches (supporting East London too)

Letter from the Chair - Dalim Basu - January 2023

Exploring a World of Initiatives to help make IT Good for Society!

How was it for YOU in 2021-2022?

Coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic period, going through political instability, shockwaves from war in Ukraine, economic downturn, spiralling food and energy prices, and other challenges to society as we know it. Changing work patterns and financial rewards and personal priorities, increasing mental issues. How are YOU coping?

For our 3 BCS London Branches, in our key role in The Chartered Institute for IT and our shared aim of “making IT good for Society”, it’s been a great year. I hope that you have shared and benefited from our success.

The most visible aspects have been our increased reach, planning and delivery of IT-related topics for the benefit of BCS members and others. Our product and service delivery activities have included more topics, speakers, deliverables, use of BCS facilities and products (including communications, AV, venue, books and publications).

We increased focus on events involving great speakers from large/medium/small organisations, many of whom have become great supporters of BCS.

We delivered over 30 events from late 2021 to end-2022 – for details see the North and Central London Branch websites’ lists of past events. Events were delivered in 3 formats – ‘in-person’, ‘hybrid’ and especially by live webinar. Video recordings of events were edited and made available faster to wider audiences via YouTube and Branch channels.

We increased our range of initiatives involving our great committees of enthusiastic volunteers and showcasing their skills and interests. Current initiatives include Cloud, Diversity, Eco, HEIT (Higher Education IT), Innovation, IT Heads, SecurIT, Seniors, Wominspiration - with more to come.

We also grew our own communities. Until October 2022 we comprised two Branches – Central and North London Branches (the CeNLB community).

In October we welcomed the active collaboration of the London South Branch, and are working together as the ‘London Branches 3’ community, with the ability to reach over 10,000 BCS members, as well as other groups and external organisations. A huge range of IT-related experience, capabilities, innovation and entrepreneurship.

My particular thanks to Branch Secretaries David Grundy (Central), Patrick Roberts (North) and Immo Huneke (South), plus London South Vice-Chair Jim McLean. Also to our great Committees of volunteers, plus helpful support from BCS HQ paid staff and management.

Good teamwork makes our world go round!

What's our strategy for 2023? MINCE – see below.

Planned Activity	Additional Comments
1. Marketing & Publicity	Increased focus on publicising group activities and reach out to wider audiences.
2. Innovation	Increase use and monitoring of social media for marketing/advertising etc. Initiatives with London innovation hubs, plus many other focused initiatives.
3. Networking	Webinars & other activities to help BCS members network with others, mentoring etc.
4. Collaboration	Increased collaboration with other BCS groups, and other organisations.
5. Education	Initiatives about jobhunting, soft skills, mentoring, new technologies. Work with academics, seniors, early careers.

We enjoy sharing opportunities and overcoming challenges to deliver positive results.

Get involved. Share your inspiration and skills.

Want to know more? Come and meet us!

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