



Capital

News from BCS Edinburgh Branch, September 2000

Your Branch Committee

Edinburgh Branch Committee is one of the most active and successful in the UK. Most of their work is done behind the scenes, to bring you a lively annual programme of talks and topical professional awareness courses.



We thought we would introduce ourselves over the coming issues of Capital, starting with our new Chair, Dr Alison Crerar. Alison is a Senior Lecturer in the School of Computing at Napier University. Her teaching and research are in human-computer interaction and she is best known for her work on the diagnosis and treatment of language problems following stroke.

Alison firmly believes that technology should be serving people and not the other way around. Usability analysis is one of her specialisms. She finds time to run IT-CAN-HELP in Scotland. This is a BCS initiative to help disabled people make the most of technology. Alison welcomes comments and suggestions from members at a.crerar@dcs.napier.ac.uk.

In addition to last year's line up two new members have been co-opted on to the committee. They are Andy Wallace of the General Records Office for Scotland, and Nigel Pain of the Scottish Executive.

Open University Tutors needed

The Open University is seeking tutors in computing to support students in the Edinburgh area.. Anyone interested should contact Andrew Brown, Maths and Computing Staff Tutor, OU in Scotland
a.h.m.brown@open.ac.uk>

Using more technology and less paper

The usual annual programme card is enclosed with this newsletter. The eventual phasing out of paper distribution in favour of electronic data is under consideration by the Branch Committee. As a first step, printed poster publicity will be limited to a single summary poster for all the meetings on the card with a reference to our web site where more detailed information will be available nearer the time of each meeting. In addition, posters in PDF format will be downloadable from the web for those who wish to print and display them. Electronic distribution of information to members would save considerable printing and postage costs, releasing funds for other branch activities. Feedback from members on this subject would be welcome.

Professional Current Awareness Courses

During the autumn the committee has organised two courses the first of which is a redesigned version of the Project Management School held last May. Feedback from participants indicated that, for this course, two daytime sessions would be more appropriate than four evenings. The course will therefore be held on 10th and 11th October from 9.30am to 5.00pm at the Scottish Health Services Centre. Lunches and refreshments will be provided. The presenter will be Mr Scottie Seivwright, who is a member of the Branch Committee. Scottie works for the Lothian University Hospitals NHS Trust and is IM&T Project Leader for New Build Projects

The second course will be a repeat of the introduction to UML (Universal Modelling Language) which was given last year at Heriot-Watt University's Riccarton Campus. The presenter will be Pauline Wilcox of Heriot-Watt University, and there will be four Tuesday evening sessions from 6.30 to 8.30pm starting on 7th November.

Further details and application forms for these courses are on the reverse of this newsletter.