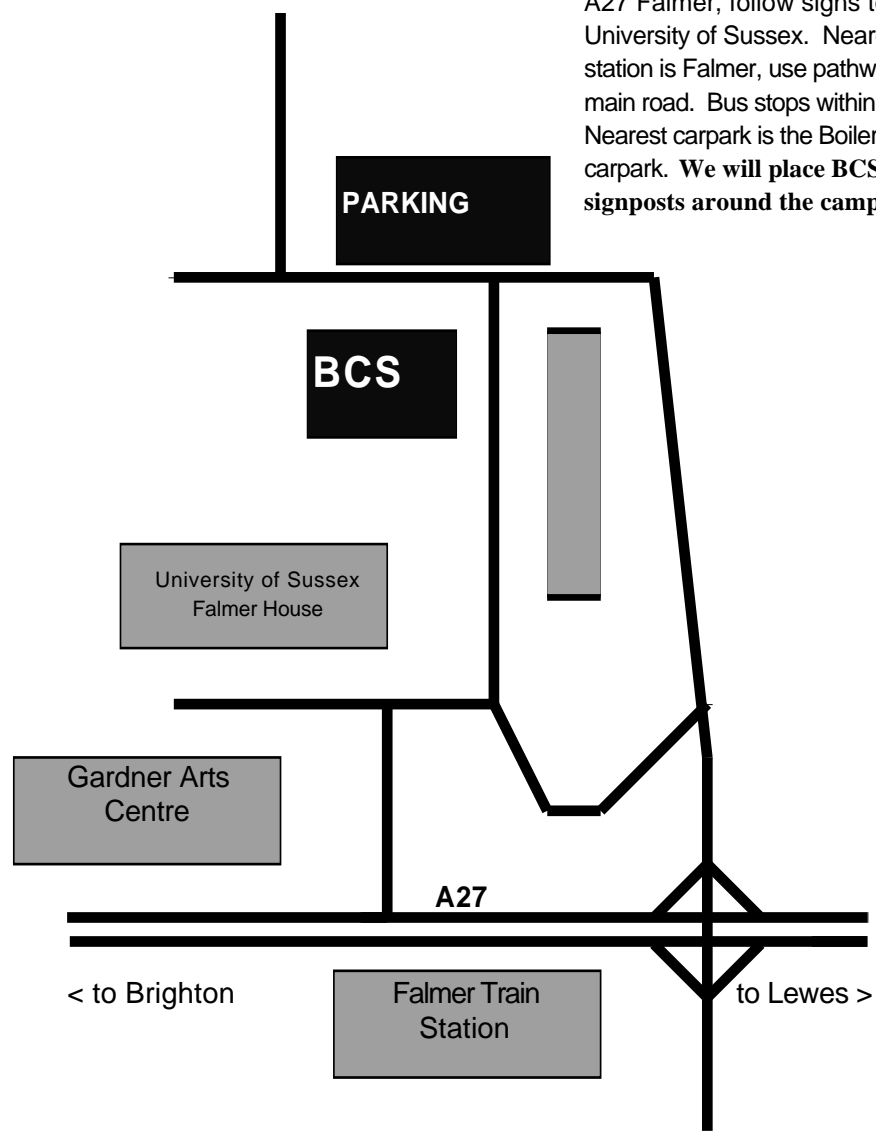


# HOWTO - Find Us

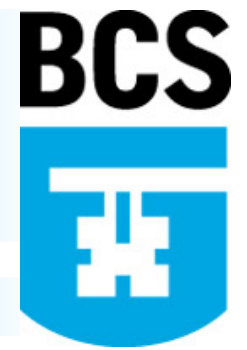
University of Sussex Engineering  
Lecture Theatre One.

A27 Falmer, follow signs to  
University of Sussex. Nearest train  
station is Falmer, use pathway under  
main road. Bus stops within campus.  
Nearest carpark is the Boiler House  
carpark. **We will place BCS  
signposts around the campus.**



# aBaCuS

Sussex Branch Newsletter



April 2003 Issue 27

## *A Message from the Chairman*

One of the most difficult things that I have to do as branch chairman is organise the meetings programme for each year and unfortunately I have not enjoyed the success that I would have wished.

It seems that the subjects that I find most interesting, such as the recent presentation on space instruments, are not as popular as the subjects which I find a bit dull. However, I have been helped out recently by Dr Peter Lappo and his Agile Sussex group which has allowed us to present interesting meetings for members on a single theme. It seems to me that there must be other such themes on which we could be giving presentations. Someone out there must have a pet topic about which they would like to organise presentations but are not too sure about organising premises, refreshments etc. For me organising premises, refreshments and such like is the easy bit! So if you think you

could organise speakers on a theme contact me and we'll try and organise something similar to the Agile Sussex group. The branch network is here to support such activities and we have some funds available for refreshments and such like.

The Agile Sussex group is going from strength to strength and we have had several excellent meetings this year. Dr Peter Lappo has arranged a series of meetings on the last Wednesday of each month and details may be found on our web site.

I have decided to move our meetings forward by a week from our traditional dates. I have done this to avoid being too close to the Agile groups programme and to fit in better with the University terms. Don't forget, if any of you would like to speak at one of the branch meetings you are most welcome. This year's program is complete but we are making plans for next year. So far I have been able to arrange for Colin Upstill from the IT Innovation Centre at the University of Southampton to come

and give his presentation on the Grid which was sadly cancelled last year. I have also asked Rob Brown from IBM to talk to us about Pervasive computing and next years president, Prof. Wendy Hall, has offered to tell us about some of the other interesting work going on at the University of Southampton. I do not have a speaker for the 12th of November so any volunteers or suggestions would be most welcome.

of years the BCS has been restructuring itself. John will explain how new ideas and initiatives such as the forums will help BCS members. We will be offering a buffet before hand and I hope that as many of you will come as possible. Once again I would much appreciate it if you could spread the word amongst your colleagues. We will try and have suitable posters put up on the web site (www.bcssussex.co.uk). Please download these, print them and put them up on your notice boards at work.

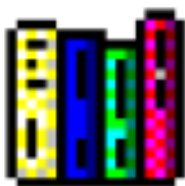
On Wednesday the 21 May 2003 we will have our AGM and Presidential Visit and there is a formal notice elsewhere in this aBaCuS.

John Ivinson, current President of the British Computer Society, will be giving a presentation on "Progress At The BCS". Over the last couple

*Rupert Harper*

## BCS Sussex Mailing List

We email to BCS Sussex members using lists received from BCS headquarters. This mailing is occasional, read-only, and details only available to the newsletter editor and the chairman. If we have your email details on record, you will be reading this newsletter online as an email, otherwise you will reading the standard paper-based newsletter. If you would like to change this, or if you would like to receive both versions, please email [sticehurst@bcs.org.uk](mailto:sticehurst@bcs.org.uk) with your preference. Alternatively, you can download PDF versions that ready to be printed via anonymous ftp at <ftp://ftp.moleville.co.uk/bcs/>



Watch this space, mailing list options may soon be available online. We may also be interested in a seperate BCS Sussex Community mailing list, allowing chat between members on any topic put forward. Your ideas, opinions, and any feedback is most welcome.

## Your Committee

Chairman, Public Relations, Meetings Co-ordinator

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# agileSUSSEX

## Meeting Programme

7.30 for 8.00 every last Wednesday of each month

Further details from <http://www.agilesussex.org>

Meetings are a mixture of formal presentations and informal gatherings.

### March Report by Graham King ([www.darkcoding.net](http://www.darkcoding.net))

Dave Putman gave a presentation on Workshare's ([www.workshare.com](http://www.workshare.com)) transition from a fire fighting development model to XP. This was a very interesting talk because here is a company that actually does XP by the book. They don't just pretend like the rest of us. At the time of their transition, and possibly still today, they were the biggest XP project in the world.

He went over the stages of the transition, teething problems, how it worked in practice, the real benefits Workshare received, and fielded questions. Dave now works with eXoftware ([www.exoftware.com](http://www.exoftware.com)).

After this we went to a pub in Falmer. I meta-geeked (geeked about geeking - you had to be there), but I gather proper topics were being entertained by other people. This was my first visit to Agile Sussex and it's great.

*billstott@iee.org.uk is currently looking for people interested in an Extreme Programming Project based in Horsham.*

# Notice is Hereby Given

## BCS Sussex AGM

"Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the British Computer Society Sussex Branch will be held at **7.30pm on Wednesday 21st May 2003** in the Engineering 1, Lecture Theatre 2, University of Sussex".

### Agenda

- Apologies
- Minutes of previous AGM
- Chairman's report
- Treasurer's report
- Election of Branch Officers

There is no provision for Any Other Business in the Rules, but any further items of business for the agenda should be notified to the Hon. Secretary. Nominations for Chairman, Hon Secretary, Hon Treasurer and Committee Members should be sent, in writing, signed by a Proposer and Seconder who are members of the Society and the Branch, to the Hon Secretary. The nominee should agree to his/her nomination. A suitable form on which to nominate Officers/Committee Members is provided here.

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British Computer Sussex Branch Election of Officers and Committee Members

We hereby nominate (print name) \_\_\_\_\_ as  
Sussex Branch: [Chairman/Hon] [Secretary/Hon] [Treasurer/Committee Member]\* at the election  
to take place at: The Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 21st May 2003.

Proposer (print name) \_\_\_\_\_ Mem number \_\_\_\_\_  
Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Seconder (print name) \_\_\_\_\_ Mem number \_\_\_\_\_  
Signed \_\_\_\_\_

## BCS Sussex Spring Programme 2003

7.15pm for 7.30pm @ Engineering 1 Lecture Theatre  
University of Sussex, Falmer, Brighton

Free to members and non-members. Further details from the Meetings  
Co-ordinator. Updates available from [www.bcssussex.org.uk](http://www.bcssussex.org.uk)

21st May, 2003

### Progress at the BCS

The BCS Sussex Branch AGM will precede this meeting. Over the last couple of years the BCS has been restructuring itself. John will explain how new ideas and initiatives such as the forums will help BCS members.

*talk to be presented by  
John Ivinson, President of BCS*

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## BCS Sussex Meeting Reports

19th February, 2003

### ECDL in the Community *talk presented by Chris Slocombe, BCS*

**ECDL from a teacher's perspective.** Earlier in the year I was lucky enough to be invited to a BCS evening focusing on ECDL or the European Community Driving License. Despite the catchy title this is nothing to do with road sense or vehicle maneuvering. ECDL is a computer skills based program, accessible to both adults and children in and out of educational settings. My interest however,

is its benefits to both teachers and pupils at primary level and beyond.

There are few in the education world who have not heard of NOF training. I coordinated this training at the primary school where I work. It was initially received with interest. There were government promises of laptops, courses and we were all sure we would reach the magical level 7. (We have all completed the training but still do not know whether level 7 has been obtained!)

In reality the training had very little to do with improving teachers knowledge and use of ICT but focused on classroom application and deliverance. To complete, teachers had to prove they were using ICT across the curriculum in ways they had not used it before. At my school this meant training teachers in their own time, outside of the program before each module could be completed.

ECDL however, seemed from, the presentation given to be just what teachers need. It is the sort of program I would have welcomed before NOF. An individual, skills based, tutored program, leading to a qualification recognised throughout the world. When you sign up for the program as an establishment you buy a certain number of each module and a test to accompany each module. The tests are taken at certain designated test centers under exam conditions. This ensures confidence and ability before progression through the modules.

ECDL is currently being trialed by some secondary schools and it will be interesting to see how the trials taking place turn out. However, I am hoping the big difference with ECDL is that the teachers whose pupils are going to be put through the program have a chance to complete it first.

I am hoping that the program will be filtered down to primary level because whilst available to staff it is currently unavailable to pupils below senior school age. I believe there are aspects which are achievable at 'key Stage 2. As we move towards a classroom culture where subjects are taught through ICT and ICT itself is taught as a core part of the curriculum ECDL should be achievable by all, resulting in computer literate children throughout our schools.