

**21 September 2006**

## The disappearance of cash – advances in payment technology

**Tim Lambertstock**, *Technology Strategy Manager, Voca*

The ever increasing use of cards and electronic payments has done little to reduce the use of cash, particularly for low-value payments. This talk will discuss how some recent and forthcoming advances in technology could change this. Topics covered will include contactless and mobile payments enabled by near field communications (NFC) and the UK faster payments scheme aimed at internet bank payments.

**26 October 2006**

## Climate Prediction and Digital Preservation: Predicting the Future and Preserving the Past

**Keith Norman & Mark Claxton**, *Tessella Support Services*

Venue: Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Chilton, Didcot, Oxon, OX11 0QX [www.cclrc.ac.uk](http://www.cclrc.ac.uk)

Two of the biggest problems facing society could be Global Warming and Loss of Digital Data. This presentation will address some of the issues involved, and potential solutions. This is a Joint Session with North Wales & Chester Branch, with presentations given at Rutherford Appleton Laboratory and Daresbury Laboratory, brought together using a video conference link. The presentations will be given by senior consultants from Tessella, who use a blend of scientific, engineering and IT skills to solve the most complex technical and business problems.

**16 November 2006**

## Extending existing applications for secure mobile use – how tough can that be?

**Stef Coetzee**, *Senior VP International, NetMotion Wireless*

Life gets turbulent for users when coupling the need for a VPN with wanting to use wireless connections. Stef's talk focuses on the technology challenges facing IT when taking into account the demands of wireless, such as application performance & reliability, network coverage issues, limited network speeds, traversing multiple networks - and making those corporate bean-counters happy.

**7 December 2006 — Prestige Christmas Lecture**

## The Machine That Enjoys Christmas: Whither Machine Consciousness?

**Igor Aleksander** FREng, *Professor of Neural System Engineering, Imperial College*

I shall look at progress in AI and the way in which some recent efforts have turned towards computational models of consciousness. I shall demonstrate some of our own work on visual consciousness based on brain modelling. This includes a consideration of emotions – so the machine might indeed enjoy Christmas!

*Mulled Wine & Mince Pies at The Lamb & Flag follow.*

### The Meetings:

- Unless otherwise stated take place at the Computing Laboratory, Wolfson Building, Parks Road, Oxford, OX1 3QG.
- Begin at 7:30pm, with light refreshments usually available from 7:00pm and end at around 9:00pm.
- ARE OPEN TO NON-MEMBERS.

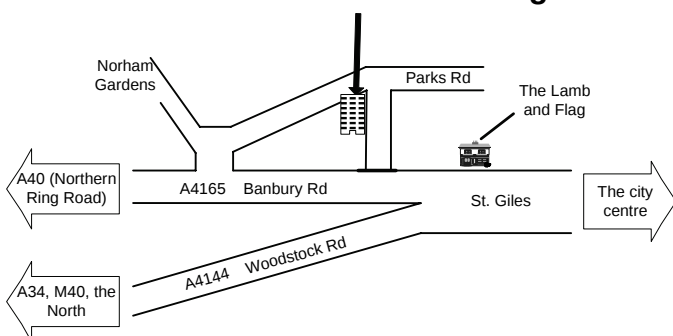
After each meeting, some of the committee visit the Lamb and Flag public house which is located around the corner on St Giles 5 minutes walk away. All are welcome to join for informal chat.

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 addresses:** [oxon.chair@bcs.org.uk](mailto:oxon.chair@bcs.org.uk), [oxon.secretary@bcs.org.uk](mailto:oxon.secretary@bcs.org.uk), [oxon.webmaster@bcs.org.uk](mailto:oxon.webmaster@bcs.org.uk).

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### Location of the Wolfson Building



Free roadside car parking is available in Keble Rd.

To remove card, bend back along right hand edge and peel out

- **21 September 2006** – Disappearance of cash.
- **26 October 2006** – Climate Prediction & Digital Preservation, venue is RAL, Didcot.
- **16 November 2006** – Extending existing applications for secure mobile use.
- **7 December 2006** – Prestige Christmas Lecture, The Machine that enjoys Christmas.

**18 January 2007****Viruses and Malware, How many more threats are there?****Stuart Taylor, Manager SophosLabs UK**

In the last ten years the number of threats has increased ten fold with approximately 5,000 new threats being seen every month. The presentation covers the rapid rise in the number of threats and the changing nature of those threats. It will discuss the issues faced by both vendors and consumers in protecting themselves against this global problem. The presentation will look at some of the myths surrounding protection and explore the reality of providing a rapid response against the unknown threat.

**22 February 2007****Towards secure distributed healthcare research and delivery****Dr Andrew Simpson, Oxford University Computing Laboratory**

The talk overviews the activities of the Software Engineering group before describing the DTI-funded project GIMI (Generic Infrastructure for Medical Informatics). GIMI focuses on development of dynamic authorisation techniques to enable secure aggregation of medical data from disparate sources.

**22 March 2007****Visit to Unipart Advanced Logistics Centre – evening visit (7:00 for 7:30pm start)**Unipart Logistics, Unipart House, Garsington Rd, Cowley, Oxford OX4 2PG [www.unipartlogistics.com](http://www.unipartlogistics.com)

Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) has attracted huge interest as a technology, particularly within logistics, but suitable applications and the cost-benefit are only starting to become clear. We have been given the rare opportunity of a hosted tour of the facility that Unipart has set-up in Oxford to test the impact and benefits of RFID deployment in terms of strategy, people and process. *Numbers are restricted and those attending must pre-register (visit the BCS Oxon web site for details).*

**26 April 2007****Ruby on Rails****Jonathan Conway, Director of Agile Evolved - a Ruby on Rails consultancy based in London**

Ruby on Rails is the new darling of the web's digerati and has taken the web development world by storm. It can be found to power a large proportion of the latest and greatest of the Web 2.0 world, but why is this? The talk will cover the following topics: A brief overview of Ruby on Rails; Ruby as an aesthetic language; Ruby based DSLs and their use within Rails; Beautiful testing with Rails; Javascript-less Javascript with RJS.

**24 May 2007****London Congestion Charge Project and Branch AGM****Derek Turner, CBE Highways Agency National Traffic Director**

A talk on the technical and management challenges of the Transport for London Congestion Charge project. The congestion charging scheme was first introduced on 17 February 2003 after 75 years of policy work on road use pricing. Once it was implemented, it took less than 2 weeks for the programme to settle down; the fear factor therefore evaporated due to the rapid stabilization. Derek was Transport for London's Managing Director of Street Management and the chief architect of the Congestion Charge. He was Chairman of the Institution of Civil Engineers Transport Board from 1999. In June 2003, he was awarded the CBE for his services to transport in London.

— See the front of this programme card for venue location and contact details —



- 18 January 2007 – Viruses and Malware, How many more threats are there?
  - 22 February 2007 – Towards secure distributed healthcare research and delivery.
  - 22 March 2007 – Visit to Unipart Advanced Logistics Centre (RFID). Venue is @ OX4 2PG
  - 26 April – Ruby on Rails.
  - 24 May 2007 – London Congestion Charge Project & AGM.
- Computing Lab is @ OX1 3QG time 7 for 7:30pm

Please place the program card above on the notice board at your place of work.