

# Fortran Specialist Group Chairman's Report

2014 - 15

The highlight of the past year for me as Chairman of the Group was receiving a BCS Meritorious Service Award at the Autumn Member Groups Convention on 12<sup>th</sup> November, as shown on the home page of the Group's website, [www.fortran.bcs.org](http://www.fortran.bcs.org). It came as a complete surprise and I am very grateful to all those within the Fortran Group and other parts of BCS who proposed me for the honour.

As in 2014 I attended the BCS Treasurer's Day in February on behalf of our Treasurer, John Reid, and the Treasurers of the Birmingham and Wolverhampton Branches who were not able to attend. We were given guidance on submitting our budget bid for 2015-16 and supplementary funding requests for 2014-15 and 2015-16. I am pleased to say that once again BCS has provided funds and the meeting rooms so that we could help to ensure that the UK was adequately represented at the successful WG5 meeting held in London at the beginning of August.

David Muxworthy and John Reid will be describing later in the meeting what has been achieved by the UK participants and the rest of the members of WG5 in Fortran standardisation over the last 12 months. I was very pleased to attend the dinner for the WG5 delegates and their partners and to renew old acquaintances from the 2007 meeting. On behalf of the Group and the UK Fortran community I want to express my thanks to all those involved in making the meeting and associated events a great success, especially Jane Sleightholme and Ian Chivers.

In January David was contacted by Peter McManus who was a BBC producer making programmes about programming languages, including Fortran. David contacted me after updating Mr McManus on the current position of the Fortran language. I spoke with Mr McManus and after some investigation was able to provide him with contact details for some of the speakers from our 2007 Golden Jubilee Fortran meeting.

The programmes were broadcast between 6 and 10 April 2015 under the title 'Codes that changed the World' on BBC Radio 4 covering Fortran, Cobol, Basic and Java. and are now available on BBC iPlayer Radio. There is a link to the BBC website on the FSG Fortran Resources page, [www.fortran.bcs.org/resources.php](http://www.fortran.bcs.org/resources.php).

In February both John Reid and I were contacted by Ms Geneth Daley of Dynamic Source, a Swedish company who produce software for the technical side of the airline industry. Her company had produced a Fortran iOS compiler and wished to know what other industries might be interested in their product. Both John and I made some generalised suggestions. David also got involved after I sent an email to the FSG committee list.

I don't know what became of the development because when I looked on the Dynamic Source website last month I could find no mention of a Fortran compiler for iOS.

As I have said each year for the last few years, I have been Chairman of the Group for  $n$  years, where  $n=13$  on this occasion. I was not yet 60 when I was first elected as Chairman and now I am a grandfather, as of two weeks ago! While I am willing to stand for re-election under item (viii) of today's agenda I will continue to say that I think the Committee and the Group as a whole should consider if we need fresh blood on the Committee and at the head of the Group. We will be discussing the future direction for the Group under item (ix) of the agenda.

I want to take this annual opportunity to thank all the members of the Committee for their assistance in the smooth running of the Group during the past year. especially John Reid, our Treasurer and John Pelan as Vice-Chairman, who through his contacts enables us to organise joint activities with the Institute of Physics Computational Physics Group, such as this afternoon's presentations, and for his thoughts on options to broaden the remit and appeal of the Group, which is also down for discussion under item (ix).

I would also like to mention the willing support which I, wearing numerous hats, have received from the staff at BCS HQ and the London Office, from Judith Taylor and her Member Groups team, especially Mandy Bauer, and Sinead Champ and her colleagues here in London.

To finish on a traditional note, if anyone reading this report has any comments or suggestions relating to the Group, its activities or Fortran in general please contact myself or any other member of the Committee. Don't let the fact that we may invite you to help us put your suggestions into practice put you off!

Peter Crouch  
Chairman Fortran SG  
29<sup>th</sup> September 2015