

NEW TO THE BCS COMMITTEE

BCS MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

JACK PRICE

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Apart from a four-year stint in Birmingham, I have lived in the Black Country all my life: born in Willenhall, living in Bilston, having attended college in Stourbridge, and now working a dreary office job in Wolverhampton. The odd remarks my dad, Phil, would make on the region's heritage and importance as I was growing up piqued my interest in the area, but my determination to better understand and champion my native region was cemented by the constant flow of detrimental remarks about the Black Country I encountered while studying at the University of Birmingham – not necessarily the fault of their claimants, but echoes of the denigration which the region has been afforded since its rise to industrial prominence. While studying literature, it was this fledgling desire to learn more about the Black Country that I discovered Francis Brett Young. Having really enjoyed reading and analysing his regional novels in order to complete my Masters dissertation, my main ambition in life at the moment is to study a PhD on how Brett Young's worldview can be uncovered and better understood by assessing his representation of the Black Country. When I'm not reading or at work, I love nothing more than watching a film with my dad, or listening to the music that has become a central part of my life thanks to the influence of both him and my mother, Michelle – particular favourites are the Midland legends, Electric Light Orchestra and Slade, along with the phenomenal Roy Orbison and Elton John. I am currently learning to play the keyboard; admittedly, it is equal admiration and adoration of the Rocket Man that influenced me in taking up this hobby!