



The Chartered Institute for IT
Enabling the information society

BCS Berkshire Branch Newsletter

January 2018

Welcome

Welcome to the BCS Berkshire branch newsletter for January 2018. We would like to take this opportunity to wish all members a prosperous new year and look forward to seeing you at our exciting events in year. The following are events happening over the next few months...

Forthcoming events

Weather Forecasting Centre Tour, Thursday 11th January, 2018, 15:00 - 17:00 ECMWF, Shinfield Park, Reading, RG2 9AX



Come and join us for a guided tour of the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts and see one of the world's largest supercomputers. This event is free to both BCS and Non-BCS members.

For further details and booking: <http://www.bcs.org/content/ConWebDoc/58727>.

Reading Geek Night, Tuesday 13th February 2018, 19:30 - 21:30 The Walkabout: Wiston Terrace (off Friar Street), Reading, RG1 1DG.

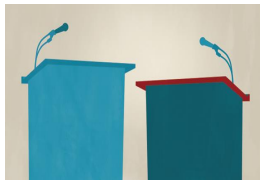


A friendly and welcoming community for enthusiasts. We meet 2nd Tuesday of the month. Come and listen to talks and meet new people over beer. There is also an opportunity for any short announcements etc.

Check out the Reading Geek Night website for details of the program for the day - <https://rdggeeknight.wordpress.com/> or tweet: [@RDGGeekNight](https://twitter.com/RDGGeekNight)

Public event, Thursday 15th March 2018, 19:00 -21:00

Great Debate at Palmer Building, Room 106, University of Reading, Whiteknights Campus, Reading RG6 6UA



Come and join BCS Berkshire's annual collaboration with Reading University and the IET during British Science Week. This year's topic: "Engineering better food systems". Visit our stand before the talk.

Click [here](#) for venue details and to book.

Public event, Wednesday 23rd May 2018, 19:00 -21:00

Oracle, Thames Valley Park, Reading, RG6 1RA.

Join us for a talk on "Business Cases for Cloud Computing". A booking link will appear on our web site soon.

Young People Group (YPG)

The Berkshire and Surrey BCS Branches would like to introduce our new Social Media Manager, Oludare Oduale and Communications and Young Professionals lead, Daniel Cope to our committee for 2018. We are always looking to engage with young new talent to develop our committee strategy and make IT Good for Society and here is your chance to contribute and be a part of this exciting future.

If you have suggestions for events, or are a young IT professional looking to engage and communicate with events/talks and businesses around the area, Dan would love to hear from you. To learn how we can promote the excellence of our young IT professionals, email YPGLead.Berkshire@bcs.org.

Schools Work

BCS Berkshire has been working with schools in and around Berkshire. We have been sponsoring Teen Tech (<http://www.teentech.com>) and the Bucks Skills Show (<https://oppsinbucks.org/event/bucks-skills-show-adams-park-high-wycombe/>). We are supporting a Hackathon (3-4 Feb) @ Reading University, and schools' events from March to May at Queen Anne's Caversham, Leighton Park School Reading; with a prize for the winner. We are also supporting a talk on "AI in Recruitment" @ Henley Business School in April.

Volunteering

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP RUN CODE CLUB SESSIONS

"Code Clubs for children aged 7 to 11 are now running in Bracknell and Great Hollands libraries to give children experience in computer coding. Children first learn to programme computer games and animations using Scratch then have the opportunity to create websites using HTML, CSS and Python. We currently need more volunteers to help run our computer coding sessions, either supporting Bracknell Library (meets term time Saturdays 10 am-11 am) or helping us expand in more libraries and at different times. For more information on volunteering at the library visit [Bracknell Forest Libraries](#) or find out how to get involved all across the UK on the [Code Club web site](#)."

Volunteers Needed – Ability Net

Our volunteers provide free technology support to older people and disabled people of all ages. We're looking for people to join our nationwide team of volunteers who offer free technology help and support over the phone and in people's homes.

As one of our volunteers you can...

- use your IT skills to help change the lives of older people and disabled people of all ages
- have the opportunity to become a Digital Champion and gain industry recognised training
- benefit from regular training and technology updates
- network with a nationwide team of other IT volunteers
- plan your volunteering time around your home life and other commitments.

Find out how you can get involved today: <https://www.abilitynet.org.uk/support-us/join-our-volunteers>.

Computing Ideas for a Better Society

As part of BCS's 60th anniversary, members are invited to submit their good ideas to improve computing. For further details, see Computing ideas for a better society:

<http://www.bcs.org/category/19062>. You can send your ideas - small or large - via any means you like: email, our Facebook page, Twitter or [through this form](#).

Other IT Events around Berkshire

ConnectTVT - Connecting Thames Valley Tech is a Reading-based platform bringing together the Thames Valley's fast-growing entrepreneurial ecosystem, tech and digital economy, in Reading. Check out some interesting upcoming events on their website - <https://www.connectvt.co.uk/events>

For science, engineering and technology events, see the Institution for Engineers & Technology events diary at <https://communities.theiet.org/communities/events/258>.

Coming Summer Talks

Watch out for our June event on 'Our future with Blockchain and Bitcoin' and our July Summer School, 'Manager's Masterclass: Collaboration and Team working'. More details to come with dates and details.

We are also planning some events such as 3D printing, hackathon, cybernetics, project management, "Trailblazer" apprenticeships and professional development in the coming months, in conjunction with the BCS Learning and Development Specialist Group and other associations. Watch this space!



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