



The Chartered Institute for IT
Enabling the information society

BCS Berkshire Branch Newsletter

February 2018

Welcome

Welcome to the BCS Berkshire branch newsletter for February 2018. Our first event of the year, the visit to the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts in Shinfield Park, Reading by both members and non-BCS members was very successful. Thank you to all those who turned up and we look forward to seeing you all at our upcoming events. The following are events happening over the next few months...

Forthcoming events

Reading Geek Night, Tuesday 13th February 2018, 19:30 - 21:30
Zero Degrees, 9 Bridge St, Reading RG1 2LR.



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, Monday 12th 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.

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



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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 26th April 2018, 19:00 -21:00

Edith Morley Building, Room G44, University of Reading, Reading, RG6 6BL.

BCS Berkshire in conjunction with our Student Chapter is organising a talk on "Real-time Asset Interaction using Bot Channels" by Michael Gribble at the University of Reading. A booking link will appear on our web site soon.

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 Professionals Group (YPG)

The Berkshire BCS Branch 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 schools codeathon and other events from March to May at Howard of Effingham (Leatherhead), Surrey; Queen Anne’s Caversham, Leighton Park School Reading; with a prize for the winner.

Students Chapter



BCS has been supporting the students Chapter at Reading University over the years. We awarded prizes to winners of the Reading University Hackathon dubbed RU Hackathon 2018 which was held from 3-4 February: (<http://www.bcs.org/content/ConWebDoc/58700>).



We are also supporting a talk on “AI in Recruitment” @ Henley Business School in April.

Volunteering

Volunteer opportunity – AbilityNet ICanHelp County Co-ordinator - Surrey

As a County Co-ordinator for our ICanHelp service you will manage a small team of volunteers in the Surrey region who support older and/or disabled people with their technology at home. Your role would be to manage and allocate client requests within the team, as well as develop and maintain the service within Surrey through the appropriate local promotion and recruitment. The role is voluntary but travel expenses are paid and is likely to take around 3-4 hours a week. There is the opportunity to network with other IT professionals, benefit from training, and attend events. If interested, email volunteers@abilitynet.org.uk.

Volunteering with CITA



As a volunteer with CITA you will be helping a charity establish a strategic view on IT. This is a great opportunity for you to use your specialist skill set by providing expert advice which will help charities make their resources go further through good use of IT.

For further information on these and other volunteering opportunities around Berkshire, visit our website : <http://www.bcs.org/category/14685>

Extra Bytes

Benefits of BCS Membership

Are you aware that as a member of BCS you get the following exclusive benefits?

- Free Legal Helpline (Chartered, Professional and Fellow grades)
- Free Online Legal service
- Discounts from leading IT publishers including The Computer Journal, VNU, The ACM digital library, Dennis Publishing and many more.

Watch this space for more tit bits on other benefits from your BCS membership in our next editions.

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 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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