



The Chartered Institute for IT
Enabling the information society

BCS Berkshire Branch Newsletter

March 2019

Welcome

Welcome to the BCS Berkshire branch newsletter for March 2019. The following are events happening over the next few months. See [our website](#) for details and booking links.

Forthcoming events

Reading Geek Night, Tuesday 12th March 2019, 19:00 - late

The Walkabout, Wiston Terrace (off Friar Street), Reading, RG1 1DG.



Tech Talks on 2nd Tuesday of every month. Free of charge, no booking required. Talks commence at 8.00pm and last 20-25 mins with breaks of 15 mins for networking and beer.

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)

The Great Debate, Wednesday 13th March 2019, 19:00 – 21:00

University of Reading, Henley Business School, Room G11, Whiteknights campus, Reading

THE GREAT
DEBATE



BCS co-sponsors this event with the Institute of Electrical Engineers, University of Reading and other institutions. This is part of the annual British Science Week. The topic for this year is “Can new technologies transform healthcare? For details and booking links, see our [website](#) or visit: <http://www.reading.ac.uk/news-and-events/about-event-reg-greatdebate.aspx>.

Technology for Business Agility Post-Brexit? Wednesday 3rd April 2019, 19:00 – 21:15

Oracle Customer Visit Centre, Oracle Parkway, Thames Valley Park, RG6 1RA, Reading



How can Technology keep Businesses Agile Post-Brexit? For this, our biannual BCS ELITE / IoD unconference, we are thrilled to have as speakers Jeremy Acklam, founder of thetrainline.com and pioneer of smart technology for transport in Britain and abroad, and Rod Willis, co-founder of Assentire Ltd which specialises in ‘Accelerating Collaboration’ and ‘Advancing Agile Mindsets’. For more details and booking, visit <https://www.bcs.org/content/ConWebDoc/60555>.

Open Source AI workshop, Friday 5th April 2019, 09:00 – 20:00

Computer Science Department, University of Reading, Whiteknights campus, Reading

Open Source AI workshop at Reading University, Thursday 5th April, 9.30 am - 8 pm. Share your knowledge and network with users, scientists and vendors. Free including meals. Registration link: <https://ossq.bcs.org/blog/event/open-source-ai-april-2019/>. If you would like to contribute a short presentation on any aspect of AI, please contact events.berkshire@bcs.org.uk by the end of March.

Reading Geek Night, Tuesday 9th April 2019, 19:00 - late
The Walkabout, Wiston Terrace (off Friar Street), Reading, RG1 1DG.



Tech Talks on 2nd Tuesday of every month. Free of charge, no booking required. Talks commence at 8.00pm and last 20-25 mins with breaks of 15 mins for networking and beer.

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)

Diversity Update, Thursday 9th May 2019, 18:00 – 21:30
Reading University, Whiteknights Campus, Reading, RG6 6AH.



This event will be an interactive opportunity for all attendees to develop their knowledge about what diversity and equality mean in the 21st century. BCS Berkshire covers many areas of diversity within its membership and recognises the benefits this brings.

For booking, visit: <https://www.bcs.org/content/ConWebDoc/60572>

The State of JavaScript & future of App development?, Tuesday 21st May 2019, 18:30 - 21:00
Central Working Reading, Aldwych House, 2 Blagrove Street, Reading, RG1 1AZ

This talk will explore the past and current state of JavaScript, what can it be used for and some useful tools to help you get your applications up and running faster. For booking, visit: <https://www.bcs.org/content/ConWebDoc/60574>

Bidding for a Thames Valley Tech Hub

Reading currently has no dedicated space for the digital tech sector - a recognised hub for people to train, meet or attend an event. Other UK digital clusters have access to dedicated space where communities can get together to run both accredited and grassroots training. They “create a sense of place” to attract cutting edge start-ups and new talent. [ConnectTVT](https://www.connectvtv.co.uk) is at final stages in a Govt bid to open such a hub in the centre of Reading, and BCS Berkshire is delighted to support the bid.

How can Berkshire BCS members help? For the greatest chance of winning the bid ConnectTVT need companies to get involved. They need offers of kit to fit out the training rooms and event space, and letters of support from companies that might want to use the space for innovation sharing their projects with us. If your company can support this initiative and be a part of changing the Reading digital & tech talent scene then please contact Louize Clarke, louize@connectvtv.co.uk or call on 07854 189407.

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. We were at TeenTech Surrey at Surrey Sports Park in Guildford on 22nd January and will be at Teen Tech Hampshire in Basingstoke on 13th June.

YPG Update

BCS Berkshire was one of the six sponsors of a Hackathon at the University of Reading on Saturday/Sunday 16/17 Feb 2019. The event was held in the Henley Business School at the University of Reading and was attended by 21 teams from UK and European universities. The BCS Challenge was to produce an application that reflected the BCS Strategic Objective of “**Making IT Good for Society**”. The BCS Challenge was won by two young ladies from the University of Reading who are in their first year of a computer science course. The team was presented with a BCS glass plaque with logo and text “**BCS Winners Hackathon 2019**”.



Volunteering

Promoting a Volunteering Culture

BCS Berkshire would like to encourage members to help make IT good for society by taking up volunteering opportunities available in the region. Have a look at the following opportunities:

Experienced print and web designer needed

IT / Programming volunteer needed for Shift Youth and Community (SYC) in RG2

We are looking for an Ad Creator.

For this role you will create attractive flyers and social media banners for each of our planned events.

They will be versatile, reusable, and the designs will be in line with our branding requirements.

We are looking for someone who has experience designing for print and web, and knows how to create something inviting and attractive to readers and viewers

<http://rva.org.uk/volop/experienced-print-and-web-designer-needed/>

Interactive app developer needed

IT / Programming volunteer needed for Shift Youth and Community (SYC)

Could you create an interactive app?

Are you creative?

Do you have experience of making apps?

We are looking for an app creator who will create an interactive app that will serve our charities members and networks. This volunteering position lasts as long as it takes the person to develop the app and can be flexible around the person's time commitments.

<http://rva.org.uk/volop/could-you-create-an-interactive-app/>

If you decide to sign up to any of these volunteering opportunities, please direct your responses to RVA, referencing notification from BCS Berks, with separate email

to volunteering.berkshire@bcs.org.uk to keep us informed. Visit: <https://www.bcs.org/category/14685>

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>.

Later in 2019

See our website for more events in June and July, picture gallery and much else besides.



[Website](#)



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