

BCS Berkshire Branch Newsletter – August 2026



The Chartered Institute for IT
Enabling the information society

Welcome

Welcome to the BCS Berkshire branch newsletter for August 2026. We hope to bring you more exciting events in the coming months. Keep an eye on [our website](#) for details and other news.

Reading STEAM Summer Social – Tuesday 11th August 2026; 7 pm – till late



Every second Tuesday of the month, Reading Geek Night has talks on various topics about science, tech, design & geekery. The usual format is to gather from 7:00 pm and commence the talks at 7:30 pm, + Q&A with a break of 20 mins for networking and beer. We meet upstairs at [Zero Degrees](#) (9 Bridge St, Reading RG1 2LR).

We are pleased to announce the Reading STEAM Summer Social. A brilliant excuse to meet with Reading's Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics professionals, practitioners and enthusiasts. For details, visit their [website](#) and [Social](#)

[Tech meetup](#).

Call for Volunteers - BCS Berkshire Branch Committee

BCS Berkshire is calling on members to consider joining the Branch committee. We would like to get new and younger people involved. If you are interested, please contact: chair.berkshire@bcs.org.uk.

Research Participants - AI skills census

We are collaborating with the Thames Valley AI Hub on an AI skills census. While this seems similar to the previous BCS survey from Dan Howl, we have been asked to broaden this survey for TVAI to include everyone. Their survey does not require personal information but you can provide it if you wish to continue participating. So please help them out by asking friends and family to respond, the idea is understanding the general public's use and skills with AI not only IT professionals. The survey can be accessed here <https://forms.gle/PMYD4bXoAHs2AAD36> or the QR code here:



Results will be published at <https://policy.tvaihub.org> and will support the Thames Valley AI Hub's AI Skills Taskforce in understanding the current AI skills gap. If you are interested in volunteering on the taskforce please email p.leroy@reading.ac.uk or p.lunn@reading.ac.uk

Appeal to Employers - Work experience

The Department for Work and Pensions is looking for employers across Berkshire who are open to offering work experience to individuals returning to work or starting out in their careers. These placements are a low-risk way to support local people while also benefiting your business.

For full details and to express interest, please contact Dixon Tania - tania.dixon@dwp.gov.uk



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