



**60**  
CELEBRATING  
SIXTY YEARS  
1957 - 2017

## BCS Berkshire Branch Newsletter

November 2017

### Welcome

Welcome to the BCS Berkshire branch newsletter for November 2017. The following are events happening over the next few months...

### Forthcoming events

**Reading Geek Night, Tuesday 14th November 2017, 19:30 - 21:30**  
**The Walkabout: Wiston Terrace (off Friar Street), Reading, RG1 1DG.**



A friendly and welcoming community for enthusiasts. We meet 2<sup>nd</sup> 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)

**Xmas event: Brexit for the IT Industry, Tuesday 19th December 2017, 18:30 - 21:30**  
**The Griffin, Caversham, Reading, RG4 7AD**



Come and join us for an informal social; with buffet and a talk on "Brexit for the IT Industry". All are welcome. Free entry and refreshments provided. Just turn up.

Venue: The Griffin, 10-12 Church Road, Caversham, Reading, Berkshire, RG4 7AD. For further details and booking - <http://www.bcs.org/content/ConWebDoc/58596>

**Reading Geek Night, Tuesday 12th December 2017, 19:30 - 21:30**  
**The Walkabout: Wiston Terrace (off Friar Street), Reading, RG1 1DG.**



A friendly and welcoming community for enthusiasts. We meet 2<sup>nd</sup> 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).

**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.

Further details will be made available on our website and next newsletter.

## Schools Work

BCS Berkshire has been working with schools in and around Berkshire. We have been sponsoring Teen Tech (<http://www.teentech.com>) and we will have a stand at TT Surrey on 15th November, 2017; and we are planning a Spring coding school.

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## 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: [www.abilitynet.org.uk/support-us/join-our-volunteers](http://www.abilitynet.org.uk/support-us/join-our-volunteers).

### Volunteers Needed at Shaw Trust for SharePoint Project

Shaw Trust (<https://www.shaw-trust.org.uk/page/5/>) is seeking a volunteer skilled in SharePoint to help with an internal project to migrate its server drives to SharePoint.

Ideally, you would have design and implementation experience of SharePoint, including training people from a non-technical background

The requirement is for someone to start as soon as possible and to help for once a week for 3 months, then twice a month for 6-8 months. You would help support charity staff via video conferencing or face-to-face in London, Bristol or Basingstoke (travelling expenses would be reimbursed).

If you think that you may be able to help, or would like more information on the role please contact Gemma McGrath, Shaw Trust Volunteering Development Specialist - [gemma.mcgrath@shaw-trust.org.uk](mailto:gemma.mcgrath@shaw-trust.org.uk).

For more information on Shaw Trust please visit <https://www.shaw-trust.org.uk/page/5/>

### Committee Members Needed

We currently have openings in our committee for the following roles:

- 1) Communications Manager
- 2) Social Media Manager
- 3) Young Professionals Group Lead

If you would like to help out or join the Committee every first Tuesday of the month, then please do get in touch by contacting our Chair, Anthony Parker on [chair.berkshire@bcs.org.uk](mailto:chair.berkshire@bcs.org.uk)

### **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](#).

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### **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>

### **Looking ahead to 2018**

We are also planning some events such as 3D printing, hackathon, cybernetics, smart cities, "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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