



The Chartered Institute for IT  
Enabling the information society

BCS Berkshire Branch Newsletter

March 2018

## Welcome

Welcome to the BCS Berkshire branch newsletter for March 2018. The following are events happening over the next few months...

## Forthcoming events

**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 Thames Valley engineering institutions 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.**



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)

**Reading Geek Night, Tuesday 10th April 2018, 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)

**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. The event is free to attend but booking required, visit: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/bot-channels>.

**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”. This is a no risk, no sales evening to discuss cloud technology and how it can benefit business. Speaker: David Martin, Cloud Customer Success Manager, Oracle UK.

For venue details and to book, visit: <https://eliteiod23may.eventbrite.co.uk>.

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**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 [YPGLoad.Berkshire@bcs.org](mailto:YPGLoad.Berkshire@bcs.org).

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**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.

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**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.

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**Volunteering**

**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. Further details at: <http://www.bcs.org/category/14685>.

## Volunteer opportunity – AbilityNet ITCanHelp County Co-ordinator - Surrey

As a County Co-ordinator for our ITCanHelp 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](mailto:volunteers@abilitynet.org.uk).

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## Extra Bytes

### Benefits of BCS Membership

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

- Free monthly news e-bulletins available on a variety of topics.
- Quarterly editions of ITNOW magazine – The magazine from BCS for the IT professional.
- Reduced subscriptions to industry publications such as PC Pro.
- Discounts on a range of peer reviewed journals and publications, published by BCS.

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

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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>

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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