



Welcome

Welcome to the BCS Berkshire branch newsletter for July 2016. Our July event, the CV Clinic will be the last event we will be organising over the summer. We wish that everyone has a restful summer break and we'll be back in September with some new and exciting events - stay tuned!

Forthcoming events

External event, Tuesday 12th July 2016 2016 – 19:30 -21:00

Reading Geek Night at The Walkabout, Reading



The Reading Geek Night! 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.

Public event, Tuesday 26th July 2016 - 19:30 -21:00

CV Clinic at the Outlook, Reading



Do you want to land that dream IT job? Come to the CV clinic to learn new tips on what companies looking to recruit for IT jobs are looking. Come along and meet fellow IT professionals, have your CV checked and gain some insights on how to prepare a winning CV for top IT jobs. Who knows, this event might just help you in your quest to land that giant IT job you have been dreaming of for years. The event is free to attend; no booking is required; just drop in.

BCS Berkshire Branch - Events Survey 2016

Member Survey



The BCS Berkshire branch is conducting a survey on potential events for members. The survey is very short (only 6 questions) and should not take more than 2 minutes to complete. We value your opinion and would appreciate your participation at <https://www.snapsurveys.com/wh/s.asp?k=146798524371>. The survey is open from now till 12pm on Monday August 1.

Public event, Tuesday 2nd August - 19:30 -21:30

Committee Meeting - Cancelled

Public event, Wednesday 7th September - 19:30 -21:30
Committee Meeting at The Griffin, Reading



The BCS Berkshire Committee Meeting is held the first Tuesday or Wednesday of every month at one of the listed locations. In September the committee meeting is at The Griffin, 10-12 Church Rd, Reading, Berkshire RG4 7AD.

Attendance is by invitation only. If you want to attend a meeting, then please contact the [chair](#).

Volunteering

Volunteering with organisations and individuals

The BCS Berkshire Branch acts as a go-between to put volunteers in touch with organisations and individuals who need help. If you want to help then fill out a [skills sheet \(xls\)](#), change its file name to your name, and email it to: volunteering.berkshire@bcs.org.uk. Please also register with [IT Can Help \(ITCH\)](#)... If you represent an organisation that needs help, or have any other suggestions at all, please email: volunteering.berkshire@bcs.org.uk.

IT/Programming volunteers needed in Reading area

Voluntary organisations in the Reading area are often looking for help with their IT systems. if you think that you may be able to help please check out the requirements at <http://rva.org.uk/search-volunteering-opportunities/>. Just click on "what kind of task" and click on IT/programming.

The requirements are changing all the time, so please revisit that site from time to time. If you do follow up on any of these please let the relevant organisation know that you saw the opportunity on BCS Berks website and let us know too.

Shaw Trust Digital Support Volunteer Report

Here is the Liz Cooper's first report of her voluntary work for the Shaw Trust* – an opportunity that she found via the volunteering section of our website and Newsletter
[Shaw Trust, <http://www.shaw-trust.org.uk/>, is a national charity that helps people facing disadvantage into work, gain skills and take control of their futures.]*

I did my first Digital Support Volunteering session with the Egham Shaw Trust Shop in early June. The shop is run by two women who have been running it for over 20 years, and have experienced many changes. One has some basic IT skills; the other had no IT experience before the shop was provided with a laptop and printer a few months ago, so needs tips on basics such as how to minimise, maximise and resize windows. Their working environment is "interesting", see below.

Because my Digital Support Volunteer role is new, the normal Shaw Trust IT usage rules, that you only use Shaw Trust computers in Shaw Trust premise's presented a problem. I wanted to be able to do some work from home producing guidelines and using Shaw Trust reference material, so special arrangements had to be made for this, which took time.

Charity volunteers are much more carefully checked and controlled these days, particularly for a charity such as the Shaw Trust where many volunteers are working with vulnerable adults and sensitive information. So I also had to go through a phone interview with the National Volunteering Development Specialist (who is running this trial of using Digital Support Volunteers), a face to face meeting in the shop, reference checks, DBS certificate verification, and signing several documents.

Eventually, at my first session at the shop we spent a good couple of hours working though some basic skills that the shop staff needed help with:

- Tips for using the computer - e.g. copy & paste, and how to use it to attach files to an email
- Using the address book and contacts and search in Outlook
- An introduction to using Excel

I am now producing some reference sheets to send them as reminders for them of what was covered; and also looking into details of an archiving register spreadsheet that they have to complete, in preparation for our next session. I've also given them my contact details in case they get stuck on anything in between.

Longer term, there are plans that my support role will be extended to cover other shops and greater use of social media and online e-commerce sites, and other digital technologies such as smartphones, tablets and digital cameras.

Here's what I mean by an "interesting" working environment. The laptop and printer are used in the workroom at the back of the shop which is only about 3 by 4 metres and also houses all the bags of goods awaiting sorting (about 40 per day) plus equipment for preparing them for sale (e.g. a steamer and an ironing board); and all the shop's paperwork (sign in logs, volunteer rotas, gift aid records, etc.). There is a workbench at standing height (the staff are used to standing all day, although there is a wooden stool that can be used if needed), on and around which they clear space when they want to use the laptop for periodic tasks such as emails, eBay sales and accessing the Shaw Trust intranet.

Web Developer Volunteer

The BCS Berkshire committee thanks Michael Gbadebo for providing support to refresh the branch website by developing WordPress templates.

Committee Members Needed

We currently have an opening in our committee for the following roles:

- Communications Manager
- Web Content Manager (Deputy Webmaster)

If you would like to help out then please do get in touch by contacting our Chair, Anthony Parker on antgparker@bcs.org.uk

Other IT Events in 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>

BCS Berkshire Forthcoming Events for 2016

Watch out for our forthcoming events on entrepreneurship, learning and development, modern trends in software testing, change management, think shop, data privacy and many others.

Any changes to the programme will be published on the website and included in the monthly email newsletter. Please check your inbox and the website regularly to be sure you do not miss out.

See Website for further event information
