



The Chartered Institute for IT  
Enabling the information society

BCS Berkshire Branch Newsletter

November 2016

## Welcome

Welcome to the BCS Berkshire branch newsletter for November 2016. We would like to thank members for completing the 2016 Events Survey. Here are the news and events happening over the next months...

## Forthcoming events

### External event, Tuesday 8th November 2016 - 19:30 -21:30 Reading Geek Night at The Walkabout Reading



The Reading Geek Night! 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).

### External event, Monday 21st November 2016 - 18:30 -21:00 BCS Roger Needham Lecture 2016 at The Royal Society, London



BCS presents the 2016 Roger Needham Lecture on the topic "Language learning in humans and machines: making connections to make progress"

Speaker: Sharon Goldwater

Further information on the speaker and lecture can be found here:  
<http://academy.bcs.org/content/roger-needham-lecture>. Bookings:  
<https://events.bcs.org/book/2215/>

### Public event, Tuesday 6th December 2016 – 19:30 -21:30

#### Committee Meeting at UTC Reading



The BCS Berkshire Committee Meeting is held the first Tuesday of every month at one of the listed locations. In December, the committee meeting is at UTC Reading, Crescent Road, Reading, RG1 5RQ.

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

**External event, Tuesday 13th December 2016 - 19:30 -21:30**  
**Reading Geek Night at The Walkabout Reading**



The Reading Geek Night! 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, Tuesday 20th December 2016 – 18:30 -21:00**  
**BCS Berkshire Christmas Party at The Griffin, Caversham**



Come and meet the committee and network with fellow members in a relaxed, informal atmosphere.

All are welcome. Free entry.

Venue: The Griffin, 10-12 Church Road, Caversham, Reading, Berkshire, RG4 7AD.

**Public event, Tuesday 17th January 2017 – 19:30 -21:00**  
**Talk – “Operational Intelligence and Intelligent Condition-Based Asset Management” at University of Reading, Whiteknights Campus, Reading**



BCS Berkshire in collaboration with Reading University Computing and Engineering Society presents:

“Operational Intelligence and Intelligent Condition-Based Asset Management”

Speaker: Michael Gribble

Venue: Room 106, Palmer Building, Whiteknights Campus, Reading University, RG6 6UA.

The event is free to attend but booking is essential: <https://events.bcs.org/book/2290/>.

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## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

### Committee Member Needed

We currently have an opening in our committee for the role of:

- 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](mailto:antgparker@bcs.org.uk)

## 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>

ConnectTVT December Winter Social – This is an opportunity to discuss collaboration between groups, professional organisations and socials around the Thames Valley area. Further details at: - <http://www.connectvt.co.uk/event/joining-the-dots-christmas-social/>.

## BCS Berkshire Forthcoming Events for 2017

Watch out for the following events:

1) BCS Project of the Year 2017 - Do you have a wonderful idea or project? BCS Berkshire would soon open nominations for the project of the year 2017 competition. Full details including the criteria, eligibility and date of nominations and award will be announced soon.

2) Codathon - 25 February 2017, 10 am - 2 pm



Code an app in 6 hours! Enter in teams of up to 6 and bring your own devices.

Venue: University Technical College (UTC), Reading, Crescent Road, Reading, RG1 5RQ

Entry fee £10 to cover pizza and drinks.

The BCS will judge each entry and award a prize to the winner.

3) Great Debate - 15 March, 7-9 pm



The BCS is proud to participate with other institutions in this major annual event

Venue: Main Lecture Theatre, Palmer Building G01, Whiteknights Campus, Reading University

Sat Nav RG6 6UR For Main Gate - RG6 7BE For Earley Gate

Free entry

4) BCS ELITE and the Institute of Directors "Unconference", April 2017



A superb opportunity to network with industry leaders

Venue: Building 510, Oracle Parkway, Thames Valley Park, RG6 1RA

Full details including date and theme will be announced nearer the time.

We are also planning some events on "Trailblazer" apprenticeships and professional development in the new year, in conjunction with the BCS Learning and Development Specialist Group. Watch this space!

See our Website for further event information - <http://berkshire.bcs.org/>