

Future Events in the Area

Social Evening, The Oasis, Baker Street

Monday 10th December 2012

Our first event!

A chance to meet your neighbours in a social and relaxed atmosphere. Also the BSANA committee, council and other officials will be present so you can ask any questions. There will be a chance to say what you want out of your neighbourhood association – and a chance for you to volunteer to help.

Carol Singing

Thursday 20th December 2012

Organised by the Carey Baptist Church, this is a chance to go round and sing carols. For more information, contact the Carey Baptist Church, at The Oasis in Baker Street (or email bsana@symbolic.net)

Local area street clean

One day in April/May 2013

This is the neighbourhood association; we plan to get local people to help clean up the area. Details (as well as date) are to be confirmed. This means that there's still time for you to put your input. What specially needs cleaning near you? Rubbish? Weeds? And can you help us to make the area one to be proud of?

Your chance to participate

Either come along to any of our open meetings, or just contact us. The best way to get in touch is by email.

Email

- bsana@symbolic.net

Via post, to the secretary

- Richard Rowlands, 28 Anstey Road, Reading, RG1 7JR



Baker Street Area Neighbourhood Association

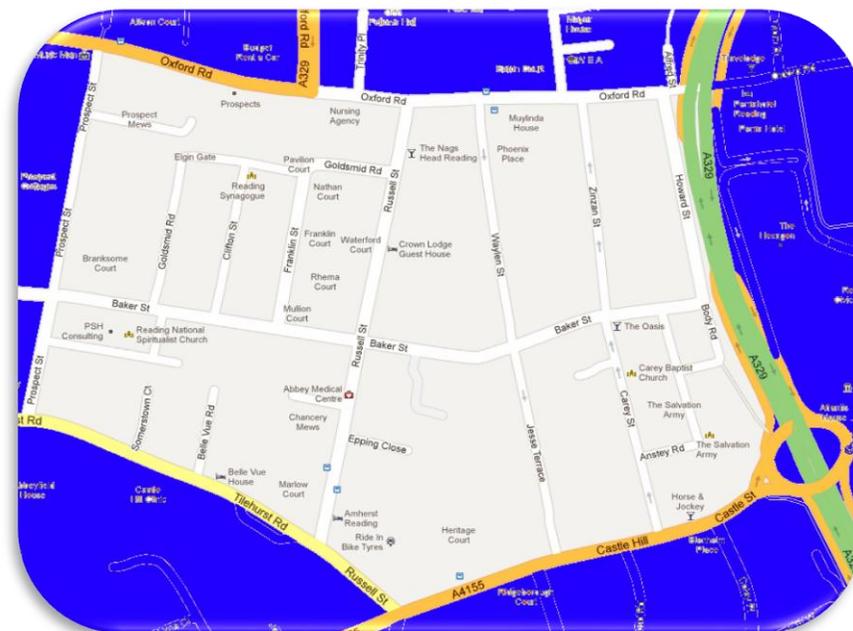
Welcome, one and all

The buzz of excitement after our first meeting in November is palpable and we already have a very active group, cooking up plans and ideas for next year. We've already been able to secure a generous start-up grant from *Get Involved Reading!* and we are hopeful of securing more going forward for an exciting project in the New Year. So come, join in the fun and planning – and get to know your neighbours.

Karen Rowland, Chair

Aim

The aims of the association are to improve the quality of life for present and future residents of the Area by promoting a sense of community and by action to conserve, protect and improve the character of the Area.



Best points

Atmosphere and architecture

- Conservation area
- Cosmopolitan
- Good styles of houses and gardens
- Long history
- Quiet
- Variety of buildings
- Vibrant

Shopping

- 24 hour shopping
- Local Friendly Traders
- Terrific Pharmacy
- Variety of shops (on Oxford Road) selling wide range of foods

Nearby

- Bus routes passing through / alongside
- Close to station
- Close to town
- Easily accessible
- Police Station close by

People

- Diverse age / gender / housing types
- Diverse faith / cultures
- Diverse people
- In Franklin street, children can play in the street
- Non-aggressive drunks
- Very friendly neighbours

Other facilities

- Doctors
- Other general use halls
- Places of worship
- Primary health care
- The Oasis

Opportunities

What can be improved

Facilities

- Bins are on the pavements
- No children's play area
- Parking spaces for visitors / used by town shoppers
- Recycling information is confusing for new people

Anti-Social Behaviour

- Broken windows
- Cars parking on yellow lines
- Crime & disorder
- Dogs fouling
- Drivers speeding, especially down Russell Street
- Fly tipping
- Front gardens looking untidy, including overgrown hedges
- Lack of a sense of community
- Litter (especially gum)
- Noise, especially late on Friday / Saturday nights
- People are not very friendly to each other
- Street drinking
- Threatening behaviour
- Urinating
- Vandalism by those walking through and locals

Other items

- Derelict houses (some long standing)
- For let signs
- High turnover of people
- Lack of interaction between neighbourhood & police
- Lack of streetcare
- Overcrowding of properties

Working together

Companies and Organisations who may help us achieve our aim

Public services

- Churches and other places of worship
- Councillors
- Cranstoun Community Drug Agency
- Faith groups
- Nearby sources e.g. the Battle Library
- RAHAB (support for sex exploited people)
- Reading Borough Council
- Reading Neighbourhood Network(RNN)
- Reading Voluntary Action (RVA)
- Salvation Army
- Schools
- Thames Valley Police
- Various funds / sources of money

Private organisations

- Landlords
- Local businesses

Internet sources

- Facebook
- Reading forum
- Reading LETS (Local Exchange Trading Scheme)
- Twitter

Volunteers

- Local social Events creating a sense of community, e.g. Friday nights at the Oasis
- Other local resident groups

... and, most importantly ...

- ourselves.
- We have time, skills, resources and friends which can all contribute to making the Baker Street area the best in Reading!

... and more

These lists are just from our first meeting. We are keen to hear any suggestions you have to add to the list.

For example, any planning proposals that come up in our area we can gather together what local residents think and present it to the council to help sway their decision.

Just passing through?

The Baker Street Area has lots of people who are just staying in the area for a short time, maybe just a few months. If you know anyone visiting the area, let them know about us.

They don't have to come for long to benefit from the association, and they are welcome at all our social events.