

# Upcoming BSANA Events

**Annual Holiday Festive Social** 7pm. Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2014

A chance to relax, meet local people and join in the holiday activities. You are welcome to bring along some food or drink (non-alcoholic) and we can all share in the festivities. Note: this is not linked to any one religion. Whatever your beliefs, you are all welcome. Location: The Oasis.

**BSANA AGM** 7pm, Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2015

A chance to see what we have achieved in the last year—and a chance to give your suggestions and get involved. Social follows with drinks and nibbles.

**Reading Rescue** 10am, Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2015

A weekend to clean-up our “green/open space” areas in our neighbourhood. In cooperation with Reading Borough Council. Meet at 10am at the corner of Howard Street and Baker Street. Everyone is welcome to help make our area a nicer place to live in.

## Other Local Events

**Neighbourhood Carolling** 7pm, Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2014

Meet at Oasis, enjoy some great carol singing with all your favourite carols, and then come back to Oasis for mince pies and Christmas punch.

## Our Area



The Baker Street Area Neighbourhood Association (BSANA) covers the area of west Reading between the IDR and Prospect Street.

In our area, we have shops and businesses, places of worship and social centres, Bed and Breakfast and public facilities.

### Russell Street works

Did you notice the work starting on the building next to the Russell Street Nags Head Pub ? BSANA has it on the best word possible that this time we will achieve completion. Finally!

### Email

contact@bsana.org

### Post

Richard Rowlands,  
BSANA Secretary,  
28 Anstey Road, RG1 7JR

### Web site

www.bsana.org



# Baker Street Area Neighbourhood Association

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## BSANA's Aim

The aims of the Association shall be 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.

**Festive Party**  
**Tue 16<sup>th</sup> Dec**  
**7pm at Oasis,**  
**All welcome**

## Welcome

We held our first barbecue in September and it was surprisingly successful. We had plenty of food and drink for everyone and there was lots going on. Thanks to everyone who came .

## New Format

Starting with this Newsletter we will be dividing our news into the various committees we have. This means you can more easily see what we do and join any activity!

## What do we do?

We have committees within BSANA who all help to make the area better for all of us. They are:

- **Green Streets** (Tree Provisions, Front garden makeovers, planters, BSANA Spots Bird Book)
- **Clean Streets** (Rubbish reporting, Replacement Bin project, Tidying streets, Reading Rescue)
- **Conservation Streets** (Conservation, Preservation, Planning applications)
- **Safe Streets** (Drugs, ASB, Alcohol, NAG, CCTV, Solar powered lighting, Police funding)
- **Fun Streets** (Street party, Barbecue, Festive party, Seniors trip, Play Streets)
- **Communication** (newsletter, web site, community board, email)
- **Liaison** (RNN, RVA, Reading Council, Time Bank, Interfaith, Oxford Road Fun day, Reading Lets)

If you would like to join any of these groups, or help in any way, you are most welcome. Please just ask at any of our events or get in touch with us (details on back page).



BSANA Committee Members, Tom Christie and Karen Rowland receiving Reading Rescue Award from Mayor Tony Jones.

## Clean Streets

Would you agree that our Neighbourhood streets definitely look a bit cleaner and tidier than they used to be? Things are not yet as good as they could be but we think our efforts are at last starting to show a real improvement.

We are working in two main ways. First, we have established close relations with the Council's Streetcare team whereby we send them a weekly photographic report of all fly-tipping in the streets and in front gardens that are unsightly with refuse so that, supplementing their own routine patrols, they can tackle the problem more quickly and effectively.

Secondly, we organise working parties of our own to help clean the streets and also reach communal alleyways and other off-street areas that the Council cannot nowadays afford to reach. A recent example, is the strip of Council-owned woodland at the back of Tesco's car park off Somerstown Court which our team cleared of fly-tipping as illustrated below. Amongst 10 bags of rubbish and one person's DIY project rubbish, two sharps containers full of roughly 100 needles were found. The area is now being monitored against further waste tipping and other anti-social behaviour. Please help if you possibly can, by calling Streetcare at 0118 937 3787 with any sightings of apparent fly tipping, over-flowing, contaminated bins or bins left on pavements for no good reason. Our lives will all be enhanced if we can work together on this.

## Conservation Streets

Our Conservation team is working on the second of BSANA's core aims...*"action to conserve, protect and enhance the character of the area"*. The day-to-day work involves keeping an eye out for detrimental redevelopment, checking all neighbourhood planning applications and submitting well-informed concerns and recommendations.

At the moment, the team is studying the Council's planning policies relating to this area, and in particular the policies relating to the Russell Street/Castle Hill Conservation Area which covers almost all of our Neighbourhood. For more details go to <http://www.reading.gov.uk/businesses/Planning/HistoricEnvironment/conservation-areas/> and scroll down to find links to details of our Conservation Area.

As you have probably noticed, the streets within Russell Street/Castle Hill Conservation Area each have special green nameplates advertising the fact. However, we recently discovered that those same streets, as listed on the Council's planning database, were not recorded as being within a conservation area. This meant that large utilities and their contractors planning works in the area, after checking the Council's streetlist, might fail to carry out their works to the required standard. When we alerted Councillor Tony Page to this, he took action to get the streets correctly listed on the database so as to make sure utility companies and frontline Council staff are left in no doubt in future.

## Free curtains for your flat

The Sewing Ladies Group that meets every other Tuesday at the Oasis is ready and willing to help you with simple FREE tailor-made curtains for your windows! We have a wide variety of lovely fabrics that have been donated, skilled seamstresses - and even have some curtains pre-made! Contact SAM by phone or text at 0755 7957 462 and talk to us about what you need! This is a free offer by talented ladies that want to help you enjoy your home more!

## Safe Streets

We applied for funding from the Police Property Act Fund to improve safety in the area. This included plans for solar powered lighting that only light up when it's dark and someone is passing. We also asked for more CCTV to help reduce crime. Unfortunately we were not approved, but we will have another chance to put in a new bid next year.

We are campaigning hard for better neighbourhood policing in our area. We are working with the Oxford Road NAG, TVP and RBC to help make every road and path in our area as safe as possible.

The police are considering closing the Community Office on the Oxford Road. We are eager for your opinions on this hot topic. How do you feel? Please send us your thoughts.

## Green Streets



### Before and After

This is just one of the houses we cleaned up and repainted in our Front Garden Makeover.



**Front Garden Makeover:** On Sunday 28th September, the Green Streets Team were out and about in the neighbourhood, doing a 'makeover' on a few front gardens where the residents had asked for help. In the space of a few hours, with very energetic volunteers, no fewer than 10 gardens were tackled and transformed. This is all part of BSANA's aim to make the neighbourhood a more attractive place for all of us to live. We'll be doing it again next year, so if you'd like to help, or need some help with your front garden, watch this space!

## Fun Streets

Our next event is our **Festive Party** on Tuesday 16th December 7pm at The Oasis on Baker Street. This is open to everyone, whatever your religion or background. There will be no alcohol, but lots of fun, entertainment and a surprise or two. If you can bring along anything (non alcoholic) for people to share, it will be most welcome but don't worry if you can't— you coming along to help participate is the main thing.

Next year, we are planning a seniors trip in the spring. Would you like to go along? Or help? We are thinking of Brighton or Bournemouth. What do you think?

A date for your diaries is Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2015, which is the traditional BSANA Big Lunch. We start planning this from the beginning of the year, so let us know if you want to come along to the meetings and help plan the event.