



# Baker Street Area Neighbourhood Association

## Contents

Welcome.....	1
Free Senior Trip .....	1
Election results .....	1
BSANA gets £25,000 for our area .....	1
Conservation Streets .....	2
Safe Streets.....	2
Fun Streets.....	3
Green Streets.....	3
Clean Streets.....	3
Upcoming BSANA Events.....	4
Other events.....	4
Our Area .....	4

## Free Senior Trip

This is our first senior trip for BSANA. We will have a minibus and are planning a trip to nearby Basildon House. It is absolutely no cost to you. Transport, Entrance, Picnic and a talk are all included. We'll take off in the morning and be back by mid afternoon. So, if you are over 60 and interested in going out for the day, just text / ring Sam on 0755 7957 462 or email [seniortrip@bsana.org](mailto:seniortrip@bsana.org)

**Big Lunch**  
Sun 7<sup>th</sup> June  
Baker Street  
Bring Food!

## Conservative re-elected

Rob Wilson has been re-elected as our MP. He has lived in Reading since 1984, and has been our MP since 2005.

## Labour re-elected

Mohammed Ayub has been re-elected as our local councillor. He lives right here in the BSANA area and has worked hard for all Abbey Ward residents since 2007.

## BSANA gets £25,000 for our area

BSANA is thrilled to announce that we have just received a total of £25,000 for the next two years to go back into this neighbourhood from the Peoples Health Trust. Considering that, for the first two years of our existence, we have been operating on roughly £3,000 year; this signifies a tremendous leap in what we will be able to offer to our Community – especially in terms of opportunities to come together to meet each other.

We are looking to hear from you about events / things that you are interested in seeing us undertake for the future: a cooking class on how to cook all of those fabulous vegetables sold on the Oxford Road? A private tour of the Abbey? A yoga or zumba class right in our neighbourhood- just for us? A wine and cheese tasting night? A walking group to improve your health? Trips for teens?

Email us at [funstreets@bsana.org](mailto:funstreets@bsana.org) with your great idea!  
We're thrilled with this great news - and hope you are too.

# Conservation Streets

Although almost all of our streets lie protected within the Russell Street/Castle Hill Conservation Area, the automatic planning protection that gives is very limited – e.g. demolition of walls and trees automatically requires Council consent.

But many interior alterations such as conversion of small family homes into houses in multiple occupation (HMOs) do not require planning consent unless a particular local regulation (called an Article 4 Direction) is made by the Council. Such a direction has already been created in the University area where the blighting effect on that neighbourhood of excessive HMO development by buy-to-rent landlords has needed to be curbed.



Residents of Jesse Terrace have been alarmed by a rapid spread of HMO development in their street of largely single-family houses. Jesse Terrace is already protected by an Article 4 Direction created in 2005 but it only protects the exterior features of the Terrace. BSANA agreed that a strengthened Article 4 Direction is needed for Jesse Terrace and so we organised a petition and submitted it to the Council, signed by nearly 90% the Jesse Terrace owner/occupiers. We are also looking to achieve appropriate Article 4 protection more widely in our neighbourhood, not just in Jesse Terrace, and would welcome your views.

The Council's response to BSANA's lobbying for greater awareness and protection for our Conservation Area has been to order the setting up of a working group of appropriate officers to liaise with neighbourhood groups such as BSANA to help prioritise and improve the actions to be taken in selected Conservation Areas within existing budgets. We are delighted to have had that influence and we expect to play a persuasive part for the better conservation of this neighbourhood.

# Safe Streets



Currently we are working with the Police in identifying places for fresh and new signage in our area to alert criminals and anti-social behaviour (ASB) regulars from plying their trades or other unwelcome behaviours on our streets. We are hoping that fresh signage in the area will help to back up our desires to create a positive change in our area and will give weary residents and the Police additional back-up to reduce crime and ASB in our area. Do you have a crime hot-spot near you that you think a sign might be worth displaying? Call or text us at the contact details on the back of this newsletter.

## The positive effects of ringing 101

Perhaps you have noticed a welcome change in the reduction of anti-social behaviour along our Baker Street spine road. We are continuing to interface with police to mitigate the problems with ASB along this route.

Concerned residents on Jesse Terrace recently provided enough information to the Police that led to an arrest of drug dealers that had set up shop there. Continued work with the police will help keep this in check.

Without concerned residents calling in to 101 these issues would NOT have been dealt with. The power is within us. **Take the time to call 101.** It really does work.

### Who to call

You should call 101 to report crime and other concerns that do not require an emergency response, such as ASB, damage to property, suspect drug dealing or a stolen car.

If you prefer to make your call anonymous, you can ring Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

If it's an emergency, call 999 as usual.

# Fun Streets

## Big Lunch Party

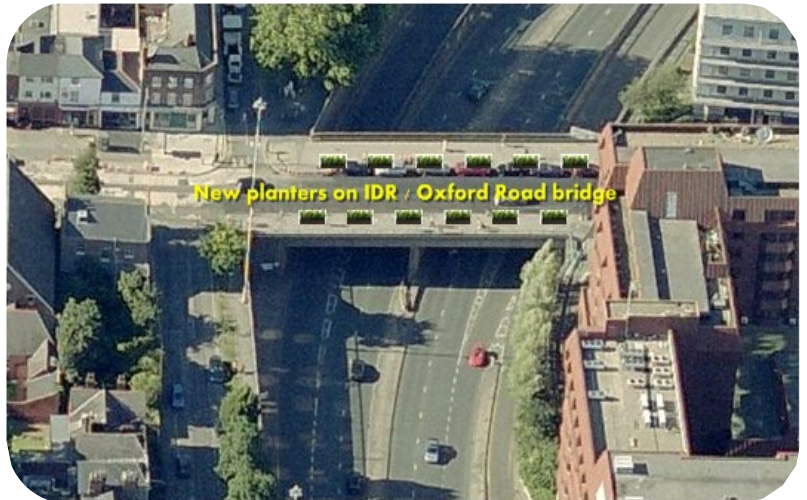


Coming up is our third annual Big Lunch Party on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2015 from noon to 5pm. Lots of fun for the whole family, even with a crazy golf course set up along Baker Street this year. Please come along and if you can, bring some food for us all to share. See your invitation insert for details. **Volunteers also needed to help on the day.** Contact details on back page.

# Green Streets

## IDR Planters

Planters that will go along the IDR Bridge are nearing completion. BSANA has worked in conjunction with our local Reading Association for the Blind on twelve planters to line the bridge. Installation is being done in coordination with Reading Borough Council.



**We need a crew of volunteers.** If you've got a bit of a Green Thumb - we need your help getting the soil and plants in as soon as they are put up on the bridge, scheduled to take place on 30<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> May. Please email [greenstreets@bsana.org](mailto:greenstreets@bsana.org) or text / ring Sam on 0755 7957 462 and let us know if you can donate an hour or two of your gardening skills. We look forward to changing the face of the gateway into our neighbourhood.

## Front Garden Makeover

**Saturday to Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> June 2015**

Does your front garden make you sad when you walk into it? Do you have a landlord that just seems not to care how your home looks on the outside? You deserve to live in a reasonable home even if you rent just one tiny room! If you think front gate could use a lick of paint, weeding, a plant or two, call or text Sam at 07557 957 462. We can negotiate with your landlord and provide free services so you don't have to live in a house with a tatty front garden.

**Volunteers needed.** Please email [greenstreets@bsana.org](mailto:greenstreets@bsana.org) or text / ring Sam at 0755 7957 462 and let us know if you can donate an hour or two of your gardening skills.

## In Ground Trees

We are grateful to Council for working with us in getting three trees at the corner of Russell Street and Baker Street and one in at Jesse Terrace and Baker Street this year!

We are lobbying for more trees this year, although underground cabling proves to be a bit of a challenge.

With persistence, we'll continue to see more green in the area.

# Clean Streets

## Summer Spruce Up

Our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Summer Spruce Up is shaping up for Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2015. If you have items to get rid of, we take them away for free (sorry, no TVs, fridges or computer screens). **If you have some time available to help, please let us know—we are all volunteers.** Please email [cleanstreets@bsana.org](mailto:cleanstreets@bsana.org) or text / ring Sam on 0755 7957 462.

# Upcoming BSANA Events

## IDR Planting

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2015

See Green Streets on page 3.

## BSANA Big Lunch

Noon-5pm, Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2015

This is the big one. We close off Baker Street, from Carey Street/Zinzan Street along to Howard Street/Body Road and have a party. **Please bring along some food for us all to share.** We will provide soft drinks, cutlery and crockery. There will be chairs and tables so you can eat your food, chat to your neighbours and enjoy the sunshine. There will also be activities such as live music, Zumba, bouncy castles, swingball, the regular BSANA quiz and, all new this year, a crazy golf course! Opens at Noon, but you are welcome to come any time from 10am and help us set everything up.

## BSANA Seniors Trip

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2015

See page 1 for details.

## Front Garden Makeover

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2015

See page 3 for details.

## Summer Spruce Up

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2015

See page 3 for details.

## Other Local Events

### Oxford Road NAG Meeting

7:30pm, Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2015

Open meeting for the Oxford Road Neighbourhood Action Group. Meet the local police, council, local activists and other residents. Everyone is welcome to come.

Location: Oxford Road Community School, 146 Oxford Road, Reading, RG1 7PJ

### Have Your Say

2pm, Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2015

Meet your local neighbourhood police officers and have your say on policing priorities and concerns in your local area. Meet at Tesco Express on Tilehurst Road.

## Our Area & Contact details

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.



### Email

[contact@bsana.org](mailto:contact@bsana.org)

### Web site

[www.bsana.org](http://www.bsana.org)

### Post

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

### Phone / Text

Sam on 0755 795 7462

### Facebook

BSANA the Baker Street  
Area Neighbourhood  
Association