



# Baker Street Area Neighbourhood Association

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## BSANA gets boost from People’s Health Trust

BSANA has recently announced 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.

We are planning lots of new events. Please let us know what you are interested in — keep fit, cooking, learning a new skill, helping your neighbours, or just meeting up for a chat.

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.

**BSANA BBQ**  
Mon 21st  
September  
Carey Street

## Council Budget Cuts

Reading Borough Council needs to save £39 million over the next 3 years to 2019. However you can have a say about what is cut.

There is a consultation document on the Council’s web site and we can give feedback about any of it. So have a look and let them know your thoughts by 16th October.

For more information and to take part, go to <http://beta.reading.gov.uk/budget>

## Games & Meet-up

There’s a general meet-up every Friday evening in the Oasis on Baker Street. There are always BSANA committee members for a game or a chat.

You can stop by, give your ideas, help plan an event, or just come for a chat and play a board game or two. All welcome!

## Keep Fit: Zumba and Keep Fit

We’ve had a great response and it is finally here! BSANA has arranged **Zumba** (dance fitness for the fitter amongst you) and **Pure Stretch** (for those who prefer a less strenuous fitness class) classes for local residents from the people at ShakeYour-Zumba. The normal costs are £8 to £10 every session. However for people in the BSANA area, BSANA will pay the vast majority of this. Just turn up with water & workout gear (for Zumba) or water & a workout mat (for Pure Stretch) and pay on arrival. Mention the code “**BSANA FIT**” to get your discount. There are only 10 spaces for Zumba, so sign up (at your first session) quickly. Contact us at [keepfit@bsana.org](mailto:keepfit@bsana.org) for details or any questions.

### Every Monday

6:30pm — 7:30pm  
14 Sep — 14 Dec

### Zumba

£8 per month or £24 for all 14 sessions  
Salvation Army, Anstey Road

### Every Wednesday

7pm — 8pm  
16 Sep — 16 Dec

### Pure Stretch

£5 per month or £15 for all 14 sessions  
Blind Association, Carey Street

Autumn 2015

## Conservation Streets



An introductory meeting of the Council's working group on improved care for Conservation Areas was held at the Civic Offices on 17 June and BSANA representatives attended on behalf of this Area. The group will be meeting again after the August holidays. In the meantime BSANA has taken the lead in getting the activists attending from other Conservation Areas to work together on a joint approach for the next working group meeting with the Council officers.

In the last issue of this Newsletter we reported on the threat to the character of our neighbourhood with the continuing buy-to-let trend. With the support of our Ward Councillors we are continuing to press the Council as local planning authority to make what is called an "Article 4 Direction" to protect Jesse Terrace which is particularly at risk.

The effect of the Direction, when made, will be to require a planning application for any further HMO conversions in Jesse Terrace. The Direction cannot guarantee against HMO's being allowed but it would enable the Council to judge a proposal on its planning merits and either refuse consent or grant consent subject to strict conditions.

Once we are successful in getting the Article 4 Direction made for Jesse Terrace, we will be looking to the possibilities to extend the protection into other parts of this Neighbourhood. Please let us know your thoughts.

## Safe Streets

It is summer time and we all just want to have fun! Of late, there has seemed to many that we have spoken to a relaxation of normal propriety as loud music blares out of open windows after 10 pm, motorbikes rev motors to race down streets and we hear people shouting in the streets at all hours. Fun for some – not fun for others. Having fun and excessive noise at expense of your neighbour's right to a reasonably quiet quality of life is another thing.

Severely interrupting someone else's life in this fashion is called a Statutory Nuisance which is a criminal offence. If you are encountering problems, keep a diary of when events are occurring. This is crucial. Two or three weeks of recorded disturbances is all that is needed. Call 101. Report it. Get a URN reference number and keep that in your files, too. You can also report nuisances to Reading Borough Council's Environmental Health Section on 0118 937 3736. And, in cases like this, you can contact BSANA to advocate for you in resolving the situation



### Oxford Road NAG

The next meeting of the Oxford Road NAG will be held on 8th September at 7 p.m. at Cranbury College at the corner of Gloucester Road and Cranbury Road. You are encouraged to engage about our community to work on the actions you want to see. Go to <http://bit.ly/1KLU72W> to register your attendance. Be part of the change for a safer neighbourhood!

## Council Complaints / Concerns



It has recently come to BSANA's attention that when one makes an anonymous complaint or raises a concern to Reading Borough Council (RBC), it is placed on a lower priority and in some cases cannot be advanced at all as there is no one to get back to.

In re-raising a concern to RBC on behalf of a resident recently that was originally filed in October of 2013, anonymously, BSANA was told that "now that they had a name to the complaint" they could (finally!) advance the investigation. In short, "anonymous" though you may wish to be, it may or may not get you the action you want, depending on the department and/or situation.

Therefore this is a reminder to all our residents that BSANA lobbies on many campaigns and issues in this neighbourhood that are justified and operate within the aims of our organisation. We have been very successful lobbying for all sorts of issues in this neighbourhood. If you have a legitimate issue or concern, please feel free to contact us at the details on the back of this newsletter and let us know. Talk to us. You will remain known only to us and anonymous in any report, but in turn, we may be able to "put a name" to your complaint or concern and drive the answer you need.

## Fun Streets

### BSANA Barbecue



We are holding our second annual BSANA Barbecue on Monday 21st September. **Everyone in the area is welcome!** There will be (Halal) chicken, sausages, vegetarian food, and soft drinks. Last year was a great turnout and we are looking to see you all again this year. It should be a lively evening and a chance to chat about what BSANA is up to. Please come any time from 6:30pm and bring your family to Carey Street (next to the Oasis).

## Green Streets

### IDR Planters

Planter Update: Many have asked about what has happened to the ornamental bushes in the IDR Bridge planters. A few were pilfered by meaningless drunks, a few didn't root and a few of them have been lovingly removed back to neighbour's gardens here in hopes of bringing them back later in the year. Meanwhile, stay tuned. Have an opinion about what to put in next? Want to help with maintenance? Contact us on the back for more details!

### Front Garden Makeover

BSANA was back out in force recently to paint and repair a garden that needed a bit of love! We have plenty more to do. If you would like to help with our next front garden makeover, 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.

## Clean Streets Summer Spruce Up

BSANA just held its 3rd annual Summer Spruce Up on our area's streets and cleaned out two full 20 meter skips worth of rubbish that people no longer wanted. People were thrilled with the opportunity to get rid of things- and a number of people came by the very next day to support our first ever Boot Sale opposite the Oasis – and picked up that perfect something for their house that they didn't exactly know that they needed! Another rousing success at working to eliminate fly-tipping in our area.



## Rats

Residents of Anstey Road and Howard Street have reported increased sightings of rats in recent months, particularly near the junction with Baker Street. It is known that urban rats infest the public drains and sewers from which they escape through poorly maintained pipework into homes, gardens and streets. In Anstey Road, it is not immediately obvious where the rats are coming from.

Although the Council no longer offers to deal with rat infestations as a service free of charge, BSANA was able to get a Senior Environmental Health Officer to meet with us and concerned residents on 16 July. From an initial inspection of the area it was clear that the rats have been active in parts of Howard Street as well. We are keen to discover the extent this issue in our neighbourhood; if anyone has rat problems, please let us know.

We are circulating a petition to be submitted to RBC's planning committee on 22nd September for the residents of **Howard Street, Anstey Road** and the eastern end of **Baker Street**. The more names we get (Residents and landlords), the more force our petition has. If you haven't already signed this, please get in touch.



# Upcoming BSANA Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sep 13	Sep 14 <b>Zumba</b>	Sep 15	Sep 16 <b>Pure Stretch</b>	Sep 17	Sep 18 <b>Meet&amp;Games</b>	Sep 19
Sep 20	Sep 21 <b>Zumba Barbecue</b>	Sep 22	Sep 23 <b>Pure Stretch</b>	Sep 24	Sep 25 <b>Meet&amp;Games</b>	Sep 26
Sep 27	Sep 28 <b>Zumba</b>	Sep 29	Sep 30 <b>Pure Stretch</b>	Oct 1	Oct 2 <b>Meet&amp;Games</b>	Oct 3
Oct 4	Oct 5 <b>Zumba</b>	Oct 6	Oct 7 <b>Pure Stretch</b>	Oct 8	Oct 9 <b>Meet&amp;Games</b>	Oct 10 <b>Rescue</b>
Oct 11	Oct 12 <b>Zumba</b>	Oct 13 <b>NAG</b>	Oct 14 <b>Pure Stretch</b>	Oct 15	Oct 16 <b>Meet&amp;Games</b>	Oct 17
Oct 18	Oct 19 <b>Zumba</b>	Oct 20	Oct 21 <b>Pure Stretch</b>	Oct 22	Oct 23 <b>Meet&amp;Games</b>	Oct 24
Oct 25	Oct 26 <b>Zumba</b>	Oct 27	Oct 28 <b>Pure Stretch</b>	Oct 29	Oct 30 <b>Meet&amp;Games</b>	Oct 31
Nov 1	Nov 2 <b>Zumba</b>	Nov 3	Nov 4 <b>Pure Stretch</b>	Nov 5	Nov 6 <b>Meet&amp;Games</b>	Nov 7
Nov 8	Nov 9 <b>Zumba</b>	Nov 10	Nov 11 <b>Pure Stretch</b>	Nov 12	Nov 13 <b>Meet&amp;Games</b>	Nov 14
Nov 15	Nov 16 <b>Zumba</b>	Nov 17 <b>NAG</b>	Nov 18 <b>Pure Stretch</b>	Nov 19	Nov 20 <b>Meet&amp;Games</b>	Nov 21
Nov 22	Nov 23 <b>Zumba</b>	Nov 24	Nov 25 <b>Pure Stretch</b>	Nov 26	Nov 27 <b>Meet&amp;Games</b>	Nov 28
Nov 29	Nov 30 <b>Zumba</b>	Dec 1	Dec 2 <b>Pure Stretch</b>	Dec 3	Dec 4 <b>Meet&amp;Games</b>	Dec 5
Dec 6	Dec 7 <b>Zumba</b>	Dec 8	Dec 9 <b>Pure Stretch</b>	Dec 10	Dec 11 <b>Meet&amp;Games</b>	Dec 12
Dec 13	Dec 14 <b>Zumba</b>	Dec 15 <b>Festive Party</b>	Dec 16 <b>Pure Stretch</b>	Dec 17	Dec 18 <b>Meet&amp;Games</b>	Dec 19

**Barbecue**..... The annual BSANA barbecue for all residents. See page 3

**Meet & Games** .... Social meet up, have a chat and play games. See page 1

**NAG** ..... Meeting for the Oxford Road Neighbourhood Action Group. 7pm – 9pm at Cranbury College, Cranbury Road

**Party** ..... Annual BSANA Festive Party from 7pm at Oasis, Baker Street

**Pure Stretch** ..... Less strenuous keeping fit. See page 1

**Rescue** ..... Reading Rescue. Join us at 10am at the BSANA noticeboard on Baker Street to help clean up our area

**Zumba**..... Fitness dance sessions. See page 1



## Email

contact@bsana.org

## Web site

www.bsana.org

## Post

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## Phone / Text

Sam on 0755 795 7462

## Facebook

BSANA the Baker Street  
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