



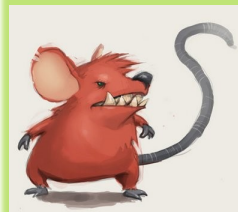
Baker Street Area Neighbourhood Association

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Oh, Rats!

Are there rats roaming around your home?
Do you see them on the streets?



An update on the rat problem from last issue. And how you can help. See page 3.

BSANA Events

See our event packed winter insert!

Reading Rescue



Saturday morning Reading Rescue events are always fun and rewarding for those that love to see our area improve. This autumn event BSANA tackled one of the last remaining patches of “rubbish” in the area, in a vacant lot near the old Baker Street Clinic. The area had been an accumulation of discarded mattresses, microwaves and general hubris. Despite the over-powering stench of rotting debris, the crew managed to get it all cleared. A brighter and cleaner area for all of us!
The next Reading Rescue will be in the Spring of 2016.

Keep Fit: Zumba and Pure Stretch

Keep fit and Zumba are running successfully every week—and there are even a few places available! There’s **Zumba** (dance fitness) and **Pure Stretch** (less strenuous) . The normal costs are £8-10 every session. However for people in the BSANA area, BSANA will pay most of this. Just turn up with appropriate clothing and water (& a workout mat for Pure Stretch) and pay on arrival. Contact us at keepfit@bsana.org for details or any questions.

Every Monday

6:30pm — 7:30pm
Runs til 14 Dec

Zumba

£2 per session for BSANA residents
Salvation Army, Anstey Road

Every Wednesday

7:30pm — 8:15pm
Runs til 16 Dec

Pure Stretch

£1 per session for BSANA residents
Blind Association, Carey Street

Super Clean for the Holidays!

We will be getting extra attention from Reading Borough Council on **Monday, 7th December, from 8am to 2pm**. Crews from our friends at Reading Borough Council are coming out to “deep clean” Howard Street, Zinzan Street, Waylen Street and Russell Street. This was done this past year with Prospect Street, much to the residents delight. This time around, residents are asked to get involved, on the day to help make the difference.



Timing on the day is yet to be announced- but watch the Community Board and for additional information coming around before hand.

Meanwhile, you can help even if you can't be there on the day:

- Move your car to other streets for the day. (BSANA is looking into providing local parking options for that day, to be advised...)
- Getting rid of any excess in your front gardens before the day. (Reading Borough Council could start proceedings against long-term negligent problems.)
- If your red bin is contaminated- take the time to clean and sort it before the day. (Once again, Reading Borough Council may serve notices on extreme situations.)

Think how nice it will be to have really clean streets for the holidays this year. Contact BSANA at info@bsana.org to let us know if you have time that Monday to get out and help - and watch for more info!

What's the story with our trees?



The Baker Street Neighbourhood Area is almost entirely in the Russell Street/Castle Hill Conservation Area (CA).

All trees within any CA are automatically protected by law. It is a criminal offence to carry out any works to trees in a CA that have a trunk diameter of more than 75mm (3 inches) when measured at 1.5m (5ft) from ground level without giving the local Council six weeks notice of intention to start the work.

Failure to comply can result in fines of up to £2,500!

Therefore, contact the Council and go through proper procedure before you cut. Go to <http://beta.reading.gov.uk/article/2427/How-do-you-protect-our-natural-environment-and-historical-sites> to find out more.

The six week notice period allows the Council time to review the proposals and where appropriate, consult near neighbours as to their feelings. If it is decided to retain the tree, the tree is given a Tree Protection Order (a “TPO”) exempting the tree from future challenges.

In addition to the CA ruling about trees, our Neighbourhood lies within what the Council has designated as a “tree deprivation area”. This means that unjustified loss of tree cover will normally be resisted and an increase of trees and greenery is desired.

BSANA robustly supports these policies for the greater good of the area in the long term, but remains sensitive to the wishes of our current residents, too. As such occasionally, we have to take a position that may not be popular with absolutely everyone, but we work hard to make the greatest number of our residents happy by reaching compromises where possible.

So, check before you cut - or face a possible fine. Feel free to get in contact with BSANA or the Council with questions. If you become aware of suspicious tree works anywhere in our CA, don't hesitate to contact the Council's tree protection staff direct on (0118) 937 2440. We all rely on the public being vigilant and our Conservation Area will be the better for it!



Our rats go national!

In last issue, we reported that residents of Anstey Road and Howard Street have an infestation of rats. Well, not our work to get rid of them has gone national (see article from Daily Star on the left). And Reading Borough Council (RBC) and Thames Water have also been working to address the issue. Thames Water is already carrying out a baiting programme of the affected area, using CCTV when necessary. RBC has identified properties where work is required (e.g. to seal up sewer exits used by rats) and will be talking to owners / landlords.

Meanwhile we can all help. For example plugging up holes to stop rats entering our grounds or houses, reduce their food supply (e.g. not leaving out rubbish that is accessible to them), and even putting out traps or baiting our own property. Also, if you are working with any pest control company, it is essential that you let the council know who, so that baiting strategies can be coordinated. Email environmental.protection@reading.gov.uk or ring 0118 937 3787.

The council can also help with advice and information, encouraging home-owners to block exits (with enforcement if needed), cleaning the streets to remove any potential food sources on the street, deal with issues on their land and liaise with Thames Water.

The council can't access every house (they need your permission to enter your property), and can't carry out any work (called "proofing") or baiting on private property — though they can give you advice on how to do it yourself, or you can pay for a company to do it for you. RBC does offer a service to survey and proof your property, though there is a charge for this.

We will keep chasing this, and if you have any news please let us know (email rats@bsana.org).

Anstey Road Trial Bin programme

Bins - we all hate them. They're smelly, block our pavements and they're ugly, making home a less nice place to come home to. Anstey Road had a bin problem worse than most. With no front gardens to speak of, there were over 80 grey and red bins cluttering the pavement! Wanting to improve things for our residents, BSANA and Reading Borough Council developed the first collective street bin trial in town for the residents there. It's had its ups and downs, but the overall reaction to the idea at least has been positive. Our hope has been to have a successful enough programme so that other streets plagued with "bin blight" can benefit too.

Finally it is the time to have your say! Wednesday, 2nd December from 6:30-8:00 p.m. at the Salvation Army on Anstey Road, Reading Borough Council will be having an official Consultation on the programme to collect feed-back on what has worked and what hasn't. The Lead Councillor for Neighbourhoods, Councillor Liz Terry along with our Abbey Ward Councillors, the Street Care Team and BSANA will all be there to hear your thoughts. We'll also be discussing the "rat issue" at that time as it relates to this programme especially and update the street on what is happening.



Anstey Road residents are especially encouraged to come out for this, but if you want to learn more - or hear the update on the rat situation in the area, too, please do join. Reading Borough Council and BSANA are really interested in your feedback!

Alternatively, you can send your feedback to bins@bsana.org, or contact us as per page 4.

Upcoming BSANA Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Nov 15	Nov 16 Zumba	Nov 17 NAG	Nov 18 Pure Stretch	Nov 19	Nov 20 Meet&Games	Nov 21
Nov 22	Nov 23 Zumba	Nov 24	Nov 25 Pure Stretch	Nov 26	Nov 27 Meet&Games	Nov 28
Nov 29	Nov 30 Wine&Cheese Zumba	Dec 1	Dec 2 Pure Stretch Bin Meeting	Dec 3	Dec 4 Meet&Games	Dec 5
Dec 6	Dec 7 Zumba Deep Clean	Dec 8	Dec 9 Pure Stretch	Dec 10	Dec 11 Meet&Games	Dec 12 Pastry class
Dec 13	Dec 14 Zumba	Dec 15 Festive Party	Dec 16 Pure Stretch	Dec 17	Dec 18 Xmas Carols	Dec 19

Bin Meeting..... Meet to discuss the future of the Anstey Road bin project. See page 3.

Deep Clean Residents invited to participate. Watch for more information.

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

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

NAG..... Oxford Road Neighbourhood Action Group. 7pm – 9pm at Cranbury College, Cranbury Road

Pastry class..... A cookery chance to see and participate in making pastries. See insert

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

Wine & Cheese A tasting chance with a range of wines and a wine expert.

Xmas Carols..... The Oasis carol singing and Christmas Party. All welcome.

Zumba Fitness dance sessions. See page 1

Oxford Road NAG

The Oxford Road Neighbourhood Action Group is a meeting between local councillors, Reading Borough Council, the Police and other groups (such as BSANA) together with local residents. The objective is to identify the major issues in the area and get all parties working together to address these issues. All are welcome and tea & coffee are provided (no cost).

The meetings take place every six weeks. Watch for the 2016 schedule coming soon on bsana.org



Email

contact@bsana.org

Web site

www.bsana.org

Post

Richard Rowlands
BSANA Secretary
28 Anstey Road
RG1 7JR

Phone / Text

Sam
0755 795 7462

Facebook

BSANA