



Baker Street Area Neighbourhood Association

Lots of ideas
for meeting
neighbours

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The Baker Street Area Neighbourhood Association

invites you to come along and

KICK UP YOUR HEELS !!

with an exciting jazz band
for our on-going music nights



first drink free to BSANA
residents



Friday night
16th Nov 2018
8pm – 10pm

The Castle Tap
120 Castle Street

funded
through



London
West



November 2018

bench-rest.com



AUTUMN *Breakfast*

Saturday, 17th Nov. 10-12PM

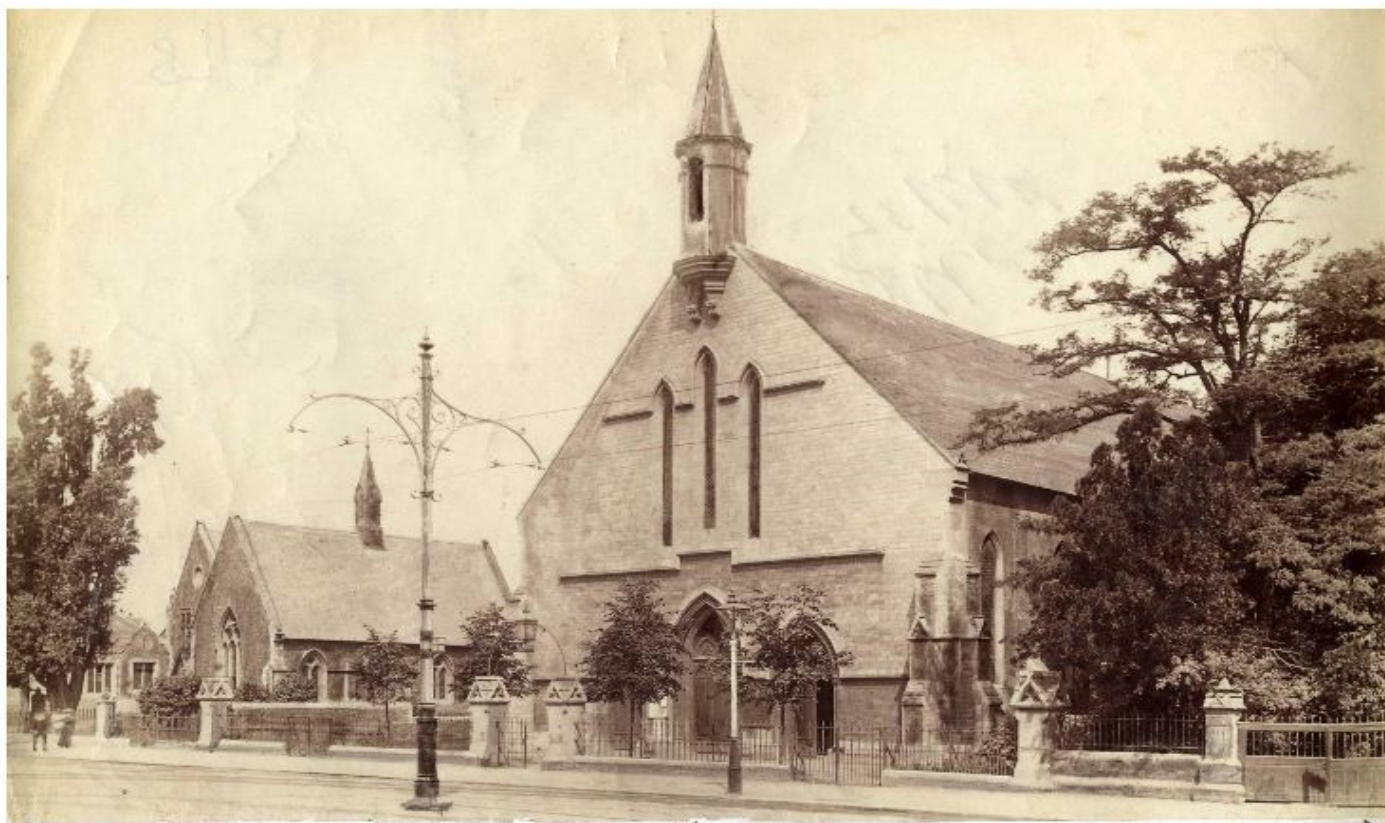
Walford Hall on Carey St.

BSANA & Bench Rest invite you to join us to the first of a series of foodie sessions covering nutritious, lip-smacking and yet very accessible dishes. Using seasonal ingredients we'll go through different breakfast alternatives to make the first meal of the day something really to look forward. You will spend an afternoon sampling food, socialising with your neighbours and giving your own twists to the proposed recipes. All levels and dietary requirements welcome!

Free admittance, but booking necessary to secure your place!

Follow us    **BenchRestUK**

The parish church of Holy Trinity in 1904 with its former school beyond.



Can those four saplings in the church forecourt really be the same four trees still growing there today?

Major stonework repairs to the church façade and bell turret were carried out about 20 years ago. After work started, the area of loose or decaying stonework proved to be more extensive than expected and sadly the money ran out before the spire on the bell turret could be rebuilt.

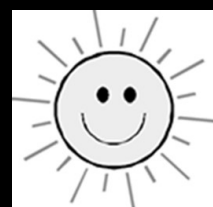
In the centre of the Oxford Road is one of the impressive double-branched standards carrying the overhead cables for the electric trams which were introduced in 1903 and ran until 1939.

[photo: Reading Library collection]

CLEAN STREETS

Help our area shine with the **WAYS** scheme

The **Reading Adopt Your Street** scheme is a partnership between local residents volunteering to help keep our streets tidy. Reading Council will still do all the street cleaning it already does. In addition the Council now provides BSANA with gloves, litter pickers and bags as long as volunteers agree to clean a street (or two) at least once a month.



If you would like to help and become part of the scheme, please email cleanstreets@bsana.org and let us know which streets you would like to do. If you can give us a choice, in case someone else has agreed to do your first choice, that would be appreciated. Remember, if streets are generally clean, that discourages others from dropping litter, so they tend to remain cleaner.

Pick up gloves, litter pickers at any Artisan Food Fair.

Heritage Crime: Paint ruins listed building

Overnight on Monday 29th – Tuesday 30th October, this house on Russell Street was vandalised with paint severely affecting both a listed building and the people who live there. It is a devastating blow to our community.

Being Bath stone, the removal and treatment is very challenging and costly so as not to further ruin the historic fabric of the building.

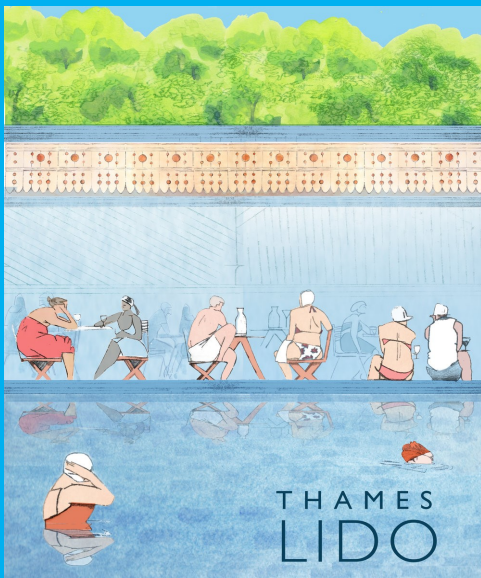
Russell Street is a main thoroughfare and bus route. It's quite possible that anyone may have seen someone on the street, or on Oxford Road or Tilehurst Road on that night carrying pots of paint, or otherwise acting suspiciously.

We know we're all keen to stop this kind of behaviour in our neighbourhood and we'd urge you to report anything you saw that evening.

If you have any information, please call the police on 101 and quote the reference number 151 301018. If you want to report anything anonymously, you can ring Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 (free).



Meet your neighbours at the Thames Lido



Fancy a swim at Reading's lido?

The swimming pool is on the site of the former riverside Edwardian women's bath. We thought that living in a Conservation Area many BSANA residents might have an interest in seeing the inside of one of Reading's many historic sites.

We are offering free tickets to BSANA residents over the age of 18 who want to go swimming as part of a group of four residents. No need to find someone to go with as we will facilitate that and arrange payment.

Please email (swim@bsana.org) or phone BSANA's Community Liaison Officer Paul on 07380 297250. Phone us if you want to be contacted about available slots during one of the Lido's non-member swimming sessions.

Artisan Food Fair — every month

Join us for free tea, coffee and waffles. Fresh bread from the Nomad Bakery and other products will be for sale. We are also looking for volunteers to welcome people at the door or make and serve waffles (slots: 8:30-10:30 or 10:30-12:30).

EAT LOCAL LOVE LOCAL
Celebrate great food from local producers

The Baker Street Area Neighbourhood Association hosts
The Artisan Community Food Fair at

The Oasis
at the corner of Baker Street and Carey Street

Baker Street Area Neighbourhood Association

Last Saturday of every month
From 9 until noon
Free coffee, tea and waffles

NOMAD Bakery

The next Artisan Food Fair will be on Saturday 24th November 2018, which will also feature festive food. So this is an early chance to stock up for the festive season.

Oxford Road Safer Neighbourhood Forum

The forum is a group that discusses the issues affecting residents who live along or near the Oxford Road. The focus of the meetings is on crime issues, such as drugs and anti-social behaviour. Anyone who lives or works in or near Oxford Road in Reading is welcome to come along to any meeting. The remaining meeting in 2018 is:

Wednesday 21st November 2018, 7-9pm, The Salvation Army Centre, 522 Oxford Road (opposite Brock Barracks).

If you would like to be kept informed as to what's happening with the Forum, please fill in the form at <https://consult.reading.gov.uk/dens/d55e5741/>



Our Conservation Area is recognised to be “At Risk” – it’s official!

After years of diplomatic lobbying by BSANA, and with the invaluable help and support of Cllrs Tony Page and Karen Rowland, we have succeeded in getting the Russell Street / Castle Hill Conservation Area listed by Historic England on their Heritage at Risk register.



The listing has followed recognition by Reading Borough Council that this Conservation Area, and the character that makes it special, is under serious threat of ongoing degradation and that there needs to be an affordable action plan aimed at stopping and reversing the decline. There are many reasons for the decline, most of them beyond the power of the local Council to control. The Council is therefore not to blame for the decline and it is to the Council’s credit that they have been willing to work with BSANA and with Historic England to explore how the Conservation Area might be better protected and improved.



Although getting an “at risk” listing might sound like bad news, it is potentially a very positive development in two ways. Firstly, the listing by Historic England is intended by them to act as a wake-up call to all who live or work in the area or who have the care of property there. This is because any successful action plan cannot depend on the Council alone but will need to enlist the goodwill and co-operation of everyone in the area or at least a large section of the community.

Secondly, a degraded Conservation Area that has been officially listed as “at risk”, and for which there is a commendable heritage improvement project, is eligible to apply to Historic England for a match funding grant to help pay for the project.



So the good news is that we have achieved the “at risk” listing and now we need to come up with an affordable action plan, hopefully to include a specific heritage improvement project for at least part of the area. We are delighted to say that the Council are already in dialogue with Historic England about possible funding for our Conservation Area and the outlook appears very encouraging. Watch this space for further announcements in the coming months.

If you are interested in the better care and improvement of our local Conservation Area please write to conservationstreets@bsana.org and let us know any thoughts or ideas you have. We hope that more residents will take an interest and want to get involved.



To find out more, go to

<https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/heritage-at-risk/conservation-areas-at-risk/>

There is also more valuable information about Conservation Areas at Risk at the bigconservationconversation.com where you can download the latest research report by the national Civic Voice organisation.

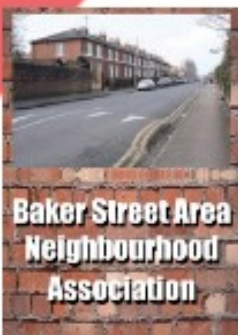
Tuesday 13th November
7pm

WE NEED YOUR HELP

Open BSANA management committee meeting

An open meeting to discuss the current and future plans for BSANA. You are welcome to come along. Tea, coffee & biscuits will be provided.

Salvation Army,
Anstey Road



Anstey Road Communal Bins

As you may know, due to the narrow pavements and limited front gardens, the normal red and grey bins on Anstey Road were replaced by red recycling boxes (kept inside the house) and larger communal grey bins on the street. However the communal bins attract fly-tipping (which is illegal) – see the picture on the right. Reading Borough Council is looking at options, including penalties for anyone caught fly-tipping.

It should be noted that the communal bins are for Anstey Road scheme residents only. It is critical that all residents use the facilities provided for them. If you need more recycling bins, please contact Reading Borough Council. More items can now be recycled, this should give you more room in your grey bins. **Put all cardboard and paper in the recycling containers.** There is also glass and paper recycling at the IDR end of Baker Street.

When you do have large items to be removed, you can speak to your landlord, take them to the Re3 tip (down Rose Kiln Lane), pay the council to remove your bulky waste, or (if still useful to someone) offer them on Freegle or LETS.

- **RBC Bulky Waste:** www.reading.gov.uk/bulky-waste
- **RBC General info:** www.reading.gov.uk/rubbish
- **Freegle:** www.ilovefreegle.org/explore/ReadingFreegleUK
- **LETS:** www.readinglets.btck.co.uk

Please help do your part to allow our Anstey Road neighbours to enjoy their street and where they live.



Your Local Book Group

The nights are drawing in and it is getting colder and wetter, so what better excuse do you need to curl up with a book? How about sitting down and chatting about your book whilst making new friends at the same time?

We are a small group of book lovers who meet on the second Monday of the month at the Castle Tap, sometimes with cake, and talk about the book we have chosen. There is no pressure to turn up every month nor to have finished whichever book we are reading. So far this has included historical novels, poetry and murder mysteries as well as authors from near and far and we are always looking for new requests or suggestions.

For November's meeting we are reading *Burial Rites* by Hannah Kent and after that will be *The Book of Lost Things* by John Connolly. Feel free to drop in and ask to borrow a copy or just turn up to a meeting and see what it is all about.

You can get in touch by email: books.castletap@gmail.com

Monday 12th November 2018 starting at 7pm

The Castle Tap, 120 Castle Street,
Reading, RG1 7RJ



image from "I'd Rather be"

Oxford Road Bridge Planters now ready for winter

As you may know, the twelve planters on the Oxford Road (on the bridge over the IDR) were made by people from Reading Association for the Blind and are maintained by BSANA as part of making our area nicer for everyone.



Following a trip to Dobbies Garden Centre to collect the plants, we spent a cold November morning removing the summer plants from the planters which were either dead or wouldn't last long in this cold. Then we put in new soil and new plants (winter pansies and bulbs ready for the spring).

Thanks to everyone involved and we hope to have a lovely display over the winter which all residents, workers and visitors can enjoy.

Carols and a cuppa



T I S T H E S E A S O N T O B E J O I C Y

A Community Carol Singing
starting at the Oasis (Baker Street)
and ending back at the Oasis for a cuppa.
All welcome. No charge.

Friday 14th December – 7pm

G O O D K I N G W E N C E S C A S

Zumba ... coming soon

Zumba involves dance and aerobic movements performed to energetic music. The choreography incorporates hip-hop, soca, samba, salsa, merengue and mambo. Approximately 15 million people take weekly Zumba classes in over 200,000 locations across 180 countries.

And now it's coming to BSANA. We are still finalising the details, but if you are interested, watch our web site / facebook, or email us on zumba@bsana.org to be kept informed.

Let us know if you would prefer women's only classes.



15 DECEMBER 2018

FESTIVE KARAOKE

Join BSANA for a
fun festive
Karaoke party!



Lots of great music,
songs to sing, and meet
your neighbours. This is
a time for coming
together and this is the
perfect opportunity

Starts at 8pm
Free buffet and first drink
for all BSANA residents
The Castle Tap
120 Castle Hill
Reading

BSANA's weekly and (bi)monthly events

Café at the Oasis

Tuesdays

1-4pm, The Oasis, 21 Baker St

Stop by for a delicious cake and tea & a chat with your neighbours.

The Castle Neighbourhood Book Club

2nd Monday of every month

7:30pm, The Castle Tap, 120 Castle Street

Relaxed evening chatting about the book we chose to read and discuss.

BSANA Meetup

Fridays

Noon-2pm, The Oasis, 21 Baker St

Always something good for a great lunch in a sociable atmosphere.

BSANA Music Night

A Friday or Saturday every month

8-10pm, The Castle Tap, 120 Castle Street

Enjoy listening to local music talent. First drink always free to BSANA residents. Join our mailing list to make sure you receive alerts.

BSANA Games & Chat Nights

Fridays

7-10pm, The Oasis, 21 Baker St

Free tea & coffee provided & there's a chance to chat about what's happening locally.

Artisan Food Fair

Last Saturday of every month

9am-Noon, The Oasis, 21 Baker St

Local products and produce for sale. Free tea, coffee & waffles provided.

BSANA Management Meeting

Second Tuesday of the month every other month

7-9pm, see our website for the venue

Become a member of the Management Committee or attend as an observer.

BSANA Meeting with a Meal

Approximately every other month

7-9pm, see our website for the venue

Enjoy a meal with neighbours and to hear about and discuss local issues.



Email: contact@bsana.org

Post: 44b Baker Street, Reading RG1 7XY

Phone/Text: 07380 297250

Website: www.bsana.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/BSANARdguK