



Baker Street Area Neighbourhood Association

**Lots of ideas
for meeting
neighbours**

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We need people that can:

- haul big things
- hoe weeds
- pick up litter
- sweep

Or people that just generally want to enjoy spending a few hours with neighbours to make the neighbourhood look better.

BSANA Winter Spruce 2019

Saturday 19th January from 10am-2pm

Volunteers meet in front of The Oasis, 21 Baker Street

We have had a succession of very successful Summer Spruces, where we have cleaned up litter and helped BSANA residents get rid of old mattresses and other rubbish from their properties. So this year we are trying a Winter Spruce. See page 8 for details of how to notify us and what can and can't be collected.

An Update: Hosier Street Area Development

Approval was given in December for the Hosier Street Area Development Framework. Although BSANA welcome the many improvements that were made to the document to address concerns expressed by Historic England amongst others, we still have a number of significant concerns that we will continue to lobby for. BSANA's concerns relate to the lack of provision of accessible social infrastructure (education, healthcare, leisure facilities and a public park) and our belief that the impact of tall buildings and a "bridging over" to our conservation area have not been given sufficient consideration.

During the course of its adoption, it was agreed the area was to be renamed the Minster Quarter which will include the Broad Street Mall, the old Civic Centre site, the Police Station and the Magistrate's Court building. Minster Quarter is just one of many very large developments taking place in central Reading in the upcoming years.

Dwellings will typically come with no car-parking provision so the accessibility of social infrastructure will need be given very careful consideration if these developments are to be classed as sustainable: i.e. to meet the needs of all members of society, including young families, the elderly and those who suffer from mobility problems. BSANA will continue to press for the sufficient provision of easily accessible social infrastructure when planning applications are submitted for the Minster Quarter. The huge amount of additional demand created by this and other nearby developments could have a significant knock-on effect on our neighbourhood if provision is inadequate.



Decking over the IDR is still regarded as an "aspirational objective" within the approved document, however, BSANA was most encouraged to hear Councillor Page provide very vocal support for this objective, not only acknowledging the benefits of

Burns Night

Burns Night is an institution of Scottish life: a night to celebrate the life and works of the national Bard. He wrote lots from Auld Lang Syne to stories "of the best laid schemes of mice and men" It is also an institution at The Oasis on Baker Street!

This year Robert Burns will again be celebrated on Friday 25th January from 7pm at The Oasis. All welcome. No charge.



providing park and open space within an area deprived of these facilities, but also from containing the significant amount of pollution that emanates from the IDR. Cllr Page intimated that there may be financially viable options available given that this does not need to be a load bearing structure. BSANA will continue to encourage the Council to explore all possible options, BSANA believe that this objective should not be considered "aspirational" at all, but a requirement for such a large development.

Much of the BSANA area lies within the "at risk" Russell Street/Castle Hill Conservation Area. BSANA believe that our conservation area contains many of Reading's finest heritage assets and is worthy of being treated with great care and respect for present and future generations. BSANA will continue to push for sensitive designs that work in harmony with our conservation area and neighbourhood.

Rosedale at the Castle Tap



Bringing you Classic Rock, Blues, Indie and New Wave

Come along to the Castle Tap (on Castle Hill)
on 8th February (Friday night) from 8pm



This past month, we have welcomed a new street to our neighbourhood and into the Conservation Area: Aldworth Rise. It is a small street containing three new-build mews style houses off of the top end of Russell Street (near the Tilehurst Road intersection).

The developer, a former neighbourhood resident, completed the development with great attention to detail using heritage bricks, lime mortar, slate roof and timber window; materials rarely seen in modern developments. The neighbour's back gardens were re-laid by the developer as a gesture of goodwill and Aldworth Rise itself is a beautifully stone-paved street where a run down alley was before.



Aldworth Rise was the name of a villa that once stood in the immediate area built by the famous architect, James Brooks (1825-1901) who was once Vice President of RIBA (Royal Institute of British Architects) and was awarded the RIBA Gold Star.

If the villa was still in existence today, it would surely be listed and a credit to the neighbourhood. It's fitting that the site is honoured in this way with a development that has paid so much attention to quality build and has already received hearty approval from many of its neighbours.

Artisan Food Fair — every month

Join us for free tea, coffee and waffles. Fresh produce from Bench Rest UK 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



at the corner of Baker Street and Carey Street



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



The next Artisan Food Fairs will be at the Oasis from 9am to noon on

Saturday 26th January 2019

Saturday 23rd February 2019

Saturday 30th March 2019

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.

Tuesday 29 January 7pm-9pm

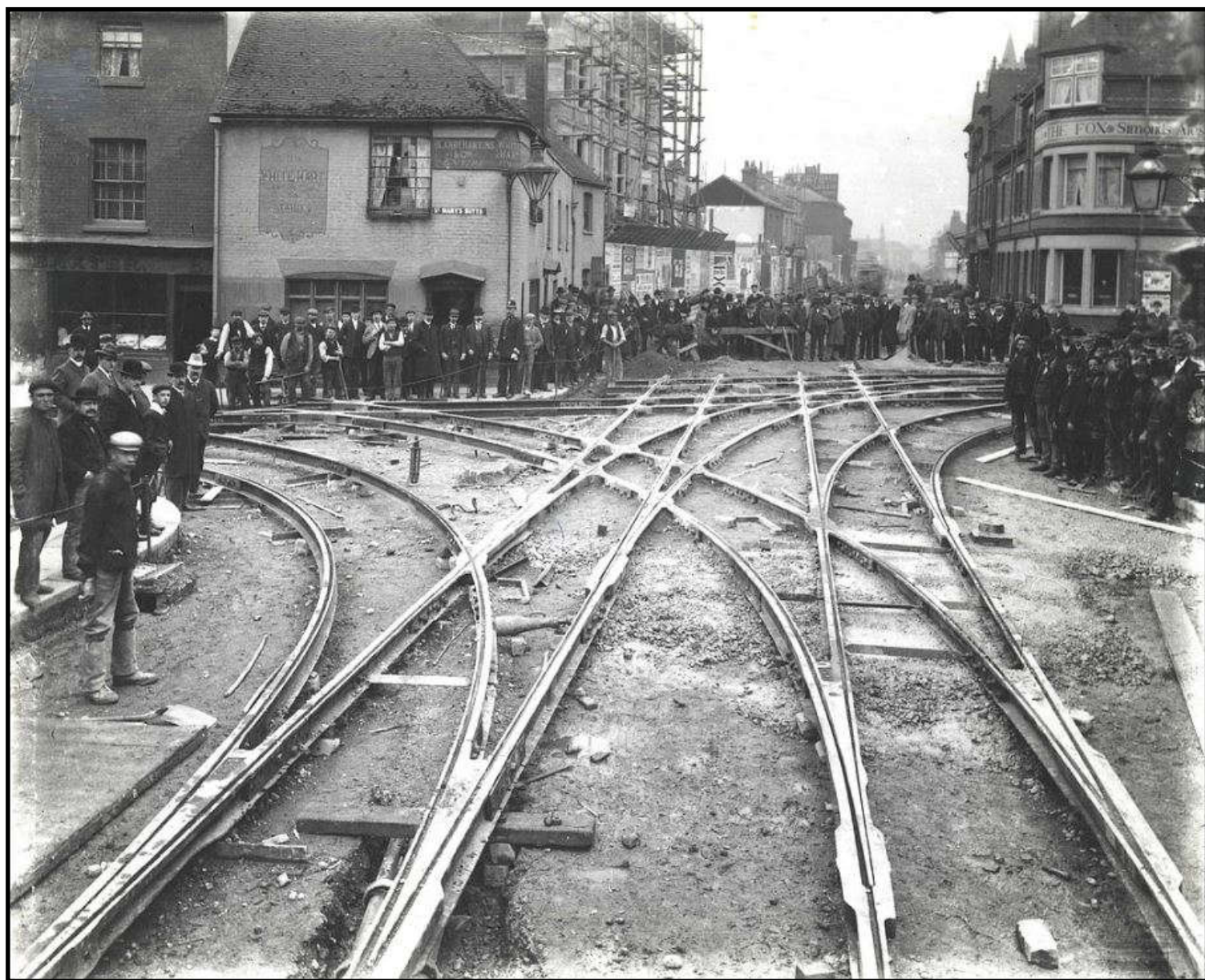
The Oasis, Baker Street

Wednesday 20 March 7pm-9pm

The Salvation Army Centre, 522 Oxford Road



Reading Corporation Tramways under construction

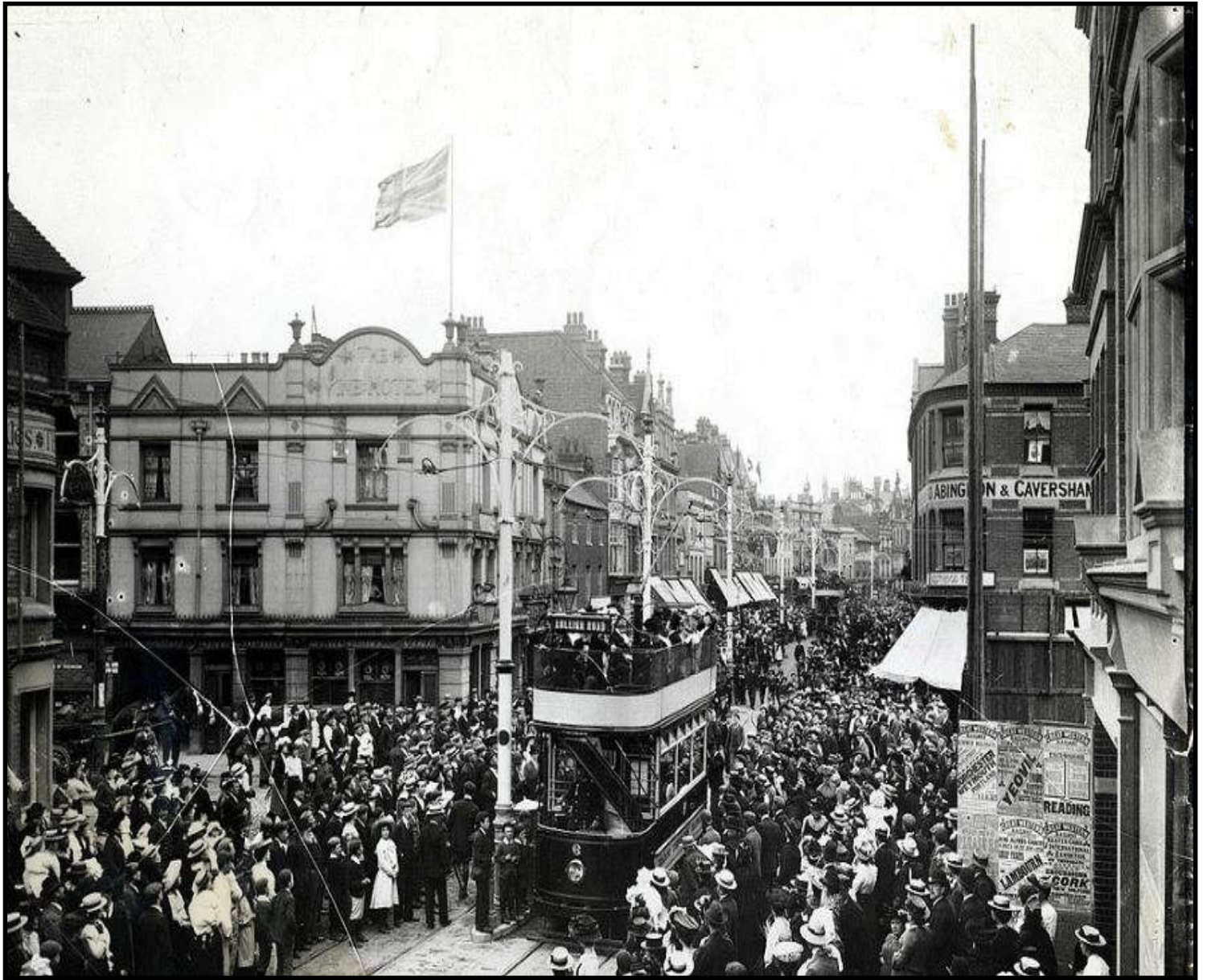


This historic photo shows the cross-over at the junction of Broad Street, St. Mary's Butts, Oxford Road and West Street, looking westwards, from Broad Street, into the Oxford Road early in 1903.

The tram rails are newly laid in place, but not yet filled in with cobble-stones. On the left hand corner of Oxford Road is the White Hart Inn with its fine old street lantern. The Fox pub can be seen on the right.

A crowd of spectators, mostly men, is standing still and everyone paying attention to the camera, or maybe to a speaker.

... and the first day of operation



First day of operation, 22 July 1903, looking from Oxford Road eastwards into Broad Street.

Watched by assembled crowds, Tram No. 6 with distinguished passengers, some in top hats, has just crossed the junction, heading westwards along Oxford Road.

Photos: Reading Library collection.

What else do you notice about the photographs? Let us know.

We have spotted that the Union Flag, in the photo above, was being flown upside down. We wonder what the person who raised it on the flagpole would have thought if told that the mistake had been photographed and would be illustrated and commented on in this Newsletter in the year 2019!

Give blood locally

Giving blood saves lives. The blood you give is a lifeline in an emergency and for people who need long-term treatments.

Many people would not be alive today if donors had not generously given their blood.



We need over 6,000 blood donations every day to treat patients in need across England. Which is why there's always a need for people to give blood.

Find out who can give blood, and then book an appointment to give blood.

The give blood troop regularly visit our area, coming to the Salvation Army in Anstey Road on the following dates:

- Thursday 24th January 2019
- Monday 4th March 2019
- Monday 18th March 2019

To book your appointment, or for more information go to www.blood.co.uk

Your Local Book Group

Try something new for 2019. It is cold and wet, 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?



image from "I'd Rather be"

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.

Each month, we have a different book. 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.

The upcoming meetings are at **7pm on Mondays:**

14th January 2019 ● 11th February 2019 ● 11th March 2019

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

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

Winter Spruce

Have you got junk to get rid of?

... continued from page 1. Great news— we can now also take monitors and TVs!

To have your stuff collected on the day you **MUST** notify us in advance by :

- Phone Paul at **07380 297250**, or
- Email us at **winterspruce@bsana.org**

Contact us by Noon on Friday 18th January 2019

What we can take includes:

- Artificial Christmas trees
- Bed
- Bicycles
- Bookcase
- Cookers
- Cot
- Desks
- Dishwashers
- Garden chairs
- Ironing board
- Mattresses
- Lamps
- Microwave
- Mirror
- Monitor
- Printer
- Pushchair
- Sofa
- Suitcase
- Table
- TVs
- Vacuum cleaner
- General broken and useless items

What we can't take includes:

- Refrigerators
- Freezers
- Large green waste
- Household Waste



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West



26 Jan & 9 Feb

FOODIE Saturdays!

26 Jan at The Oasis 9am-Noon. 9 Feb Walford Hall 10am



BSANA and Bench Rest have set to make 2019 the most delicious year yet with a series of foodie events where all levels are welcome! Free admittance BUT we do need for you to book as capacity is limited.

To book, phone **07380 297250** or email **foodie@bsana.org**



Baker Street Area
Neighbourhood Association



Weekly Prospect **parkrun**



Prospect **parkrun** volunteers with The Mayor of Reading

What?

A free, weekly, timed event in West Reading, organised by local volunteers.

When?

9am every Saturday morning

Where?

Your local parkrun is at Prospect Park. We meet alongside the footpath between the main car park and Bath Road.

Who?

Everyone! You can run or walk. Don't worry about coming last, you will never be last, we have an official 'tail-walker' at every event.

More information

The parkrun is completely free. Just visit the website www.parkrun.com to register and print out your barcode. Arrive at least 10 minutes before 9 for your first event so you can hear the race briefing. (You can participate without a barcode, but your time won't be recorded.)

Still unsure?

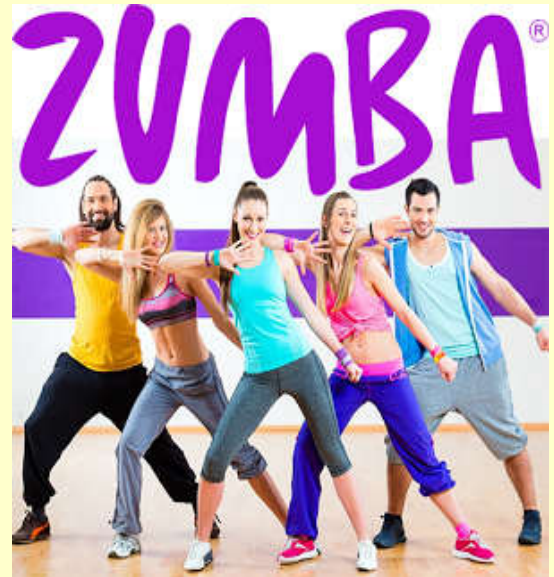
Come and meet us any Saturday. Talk to the friendly volunteers (in yellow Hi Vis parkrun tops). We also welcome volunteers to help with events.

We look forward to seeing you at Prospect Park on a Saturday soon.

Zumba ... starting now!

Now's the time to work off all those extra calories from the festive season and get fit again.

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.

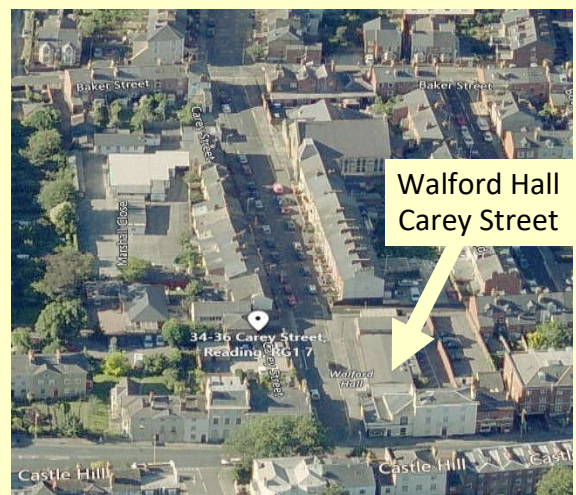


And now it's available at BSANA. We have a trial period covering January and February. If you come along, we can happily extend it.

We are running this every **Wednesday evening** for an hour, **from 6pm**, with the Zumba starting at 6:15pm. You don't need anything, and **it's free** for BSANA residents. The venue is **Walford Hall (Blind Association)** near the top of Carey Street.

Just come along on:

- Wednesday 9th January 2019
- Wednesday 16th January 2019
- Wednesday 23rd January 2019
- Wednesday 30th January 2019
- Wednesday 6th February 2019
- Wednesday 13th February 2019
- Wednesday 20th February 2019



Baker Street Area Neighbourhood Association Open Management Meeting

Tuesday the 15th of January 2019, starting at 7pm

Salvation Army, Anstey Road

This is the your chance to get involved with what BSANA is doing and plans for the future. Management meetings are open to everyone and even include free tea & coffee! Do come along.

BSANA's weekly and (bi)monthly events

Café at the Oasis

Tuesdays

1pm-4pm The Oasis, Baker Street

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, Castle Street

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

BSANA Meetup

Fridays

Noon-2pm, The Oasis, Baker Street

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

BSANA Music Night

A Friday or Saturday every month

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

Enjoy listening to local music talent. Complimentary drink to BSANA residents

BSANA Games & Chat Nights

Fridays

7pm-10pm, The Oasis, Baker Street

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

Artisan Food Fair

Last Saturday of every month

9am-Noon, The Oasis, Baker Street

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

BSANA Management Meeting

2nd Tuesday every other month

7pm-9pm, Salvation Army, Anstey Road

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

Café at the Oasis

Sundays

Noon-12:45pm, The Oasis, Baker Street

A new chance to meet your neighbours in a nice safe environment



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Post: 44b Baker Street, Reading RG1 7XY

Phone/Text: 07380 297250

Website: www.bsana.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/BSANARdguk