

## e-Bulletin - October 2013

### Introduction – Tony Waterston

This is the first e-bulletin since the AGM of the JRA on Sept 11<sup>th</sup> so as the new Chair I would like to introduce myself and my fellow committee members.

**Tony Waterston (Chair):** I am a retired paediatrician and long time Jesmond resident and have been on the committee for the last year. I am dedicated to environmental improvement and believe that there is a connection between this topic and all the current issues for Jesmond: transport, planning issues, antisocial behaviour, parks and gardens and the nature of our shopping streets. I want the JRA to reach out to new members and to represent all residents' interests in their community.

**Ron Armstrong (Secretary):** Has now taken on the role of secretary, and as such will edit the e-bulletin and send out linkmail. Will work with Sarah Breakey on anti-social behaviour issues.

**Ian Nelson (Vice-Chair):** In charge of the website and is on the committee of the Friends of Jesmond Library.

**Bernie Whiting (Treasurer):** Continues in this role.

**Sarah Breakey\*:** Will look after the JRA notice board outside Tesco (on St Georges Terrace) and, together with Ron Armstrong, will deal with antisocial behaviour issues (particularly late night noise).

**Nils Clemmetsen:** Takes the lead on Planning issues for the JRA.

**David Etchells:** Responsible for the JRA minutes.

**Roger Loxley\*:** Chair of the Jesmond Vale Residents' Association and will build links with all the local residents' associations in Jesmond.

**Calum Mackenzie\*:** President of Newcastle University Students' Union.

**Katie MacLeod:** The main link with the Friends of Jesmond Library.

**Armelle Tardiveau\*:** Lecturer in architecture at Newcastle University. Will take on links with students and also neglected gardens as well as flooding issues. She intends to promote the positive assets of the area amongst the residents of Jesmond and improve the environment for all of those who either live, work, shop or simply enjoy a visit to the neighbourhood. .

\* These are new members of the JRA committee.

**Contact with the JRA** should be via the Chair - [tony.waterston@newcastle.ac.uk](mailto:tony.waterston@newcastle.ac.uk) , 0191 2816752 or via the secretary [r.d.armstrong@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:r.d.armstrong@blueyonder.co.uk) , 0191 2812923.

**Please check out the new JRA website,** <http://jesmondresidents.org/>

which has information on all Jesmond activities and is your must-go-to source of information on what's on locally. Suggestions on links gratefully received, as well as information about events.

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### Planning Issues – Nils Clemmetsen

There has been a small number of significant issues relating to Planning over the summer months.

#### **Barnardos Office site**

The developers have appealed against the City Council Planning Committee decision to reject the plans submitted for the proposed redevelopment of the Barnardos Office site. The appeal will be

considered by the Planning Inspectorate (a national body). The hearing will be heard at the Mansion House (Fernwood Rd, Jesmond) on 26 November 2013 at 10am. Representations (objections) by members of the public who commented on the original proposals will automatically be considered by the Planning Inspectorate; however it is also worthwhile making a direct representation to the Planning Inspectorate. If you would like to do so there should just be time when you receive this e-Bulletin. The JRA has submitted a direct representation (objection) to the Planning Inspectorate, which has been circulated via Linkmail.

### **La Sagesse site**

There were articles in The Journal at the end of July reporting that the grounds and buildings of the former La Sagesse School had been sold by Shepherd Offshore. Jeff Winn (founder of Byker-based Winn Solicitors) has bought the listed Jesmond Towers to use as a family home whilst David Wilson Homes has bought the North Jesmond House part of the site in order to build the proposed housing.

### **Business premises**

There have been two recent decisions relating to business properties that affect Jesmond. Planning permission has been granted for the former Ernest Newson school uniform shop at 89 - 91 Saint Georges Terrace (north end) for "change of use" to allow it to be used as an Estate Agent. This follows closely on the granting of permission for the former Daniel shoe shop on Acorn Road also to be used as an Estate Agent. Reading the officer's report, it appears that they would not be inclined to grant permission for further Estate Agents on Acorn Road. However the north end of St Georges Terrace does not constitute part of the Acorn Road shopping area. The application to change the premises formerly used by Achilles Physiotherapy at 8 Holly Avenue West to a Chinese Takeaway was refused. The principal reason for refusal was the loss of residential amenity.

### **10 and 12 Granville Gardens**

Planning permission to use these properties as HMOs was refused by the Planning Committee of the City Council on the 8th March, 2013. The owner of these properties appealed the decision and the hearing of the appeal was set for June. This was postponed at the last minute to September and it has now been postponed yet again. In the meanwhile these properties are being used as HMOs. Roger Loxley of the Jesmond Vale Residents' Association (now a member of the JRA committee) has protested to the Planning Inspectorate about these postponements.

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### **Jesmond library – Katie MacLeod**

Jesmond Library saw a successful opening launch on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September with actor and presenter John Grundy cutting the cake and some great support from many of the local cafes and restaurants through donations of drinks and nibbles. The library couldn't squeeze many more people through its doors, the turnout and support was fantastic.

The library is now open three days a week; Tuesdays and Saturdays 9.30am -4.30pm, and Thursdays 9.30am -7.30pm for book, music and DVD lending, computers and printing, and a coffee machine has just been installed too!

There is varied events programme including Thursday evening talks, weekly courses and one off events as well as children's story telling on Tuesdays at 2.30pm. Stay up to date with all the events at [www.jesmondlibrary.co.uk](http://www.jesmondlibrary.co.uk) and join us on Facebook.

## City cycle challenge fund – Tony Waterston

At the beginning of September the news came out that Newcastle had been awarded £5.7 million from the Government to improve cycling in the city. With matched funding from other sources this means that £10 million will be available over the next two years. This funding will benefit everyone as it will make our city more cycle friendly. This will be good for health and for the environment, will reduce carbon emissions and pollution, and should be good for the economy too. The aim is to make it safe for many more people of all ages to take to their bikes as a form of transport.

Jesmond will receive particular benefits in the fund, which is largely being directed towards establishing 6 strategic routes from residential areas to the city centre. Both Jesmond wards will become more cycle friendly through the development of 'DIY streets' - see

<http://www.sustrans.org.uk/our-services/what-we-do/improving-streets>

This is a Sustrans scheme whereby local residents work together with a facilitator to design their street to make it easier and more pleasant for people to cycle and walk along. The streets for this scheme will be selected after a process of consultation by Sustrans with residents.

A further benefit to Jesmond will come through funding of a similar approach to a retail street, in our case Acorn Rd – specifically at the junction with Osborne Rd.

Kieran McSherry has been appointed as the Sustrans facilitator of these schemes and will be meeting residents with an interest in improving their streets over the next few weeks.

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## Jesmond Vale Residents' Association – Roger Loxley

Almost exactly a year ago we formed JESVARE, the Jesmond Vale Residents' Association, to foster community cohesion in the area locally known as The Vale. Those with long associations with the area might well quibble about the name; historically the Vale is actually the village at the bottom of the bank, next to the Ouseburn, around the Blue Bell pub. The area we now know as the Vale was originally Jesmond Park Estate, named after the park and house that existed here (now long gone). It has also been called the Minorities. But we now know it as The Vale.

It is a mixed area of families, young professionals, students and older residents. Perhaps it hasn't suffered in the same way as many streets in other parts of Jesmond in that few of our roads are as dominated by rented properties. But it doesn't mean we don't suffer from the same issues as the rest of Jesmond, because we do. We do have one significant asset that the rest of Jesmond doesn't have and that is our proximity to the outdoor space known as Jesmond Vale (an extension of Jesmond Dene). This is far less busy than the Dene, equally beautiful and mostly very peaceful.

JESVARE exists to bring residents together, both in terms of events that we can all join in but also around issues that affect us. We have an annual festival of potato growing; we will have a Hallowe'en story-telling on the Green; we will, once again, come together to decorate the Christmas tree and Wassail it; we have collectively sought to resist the extension of damaging HMOs; and have created a petition to try and get a pedestrian crossing over Jesmond Road outside the shops. And that's just in our first year. There will be much more to come!

Everyone who lives in the Vale is automatically a member of JESVARE so come and join us on Hallowe'en and again on 15<sup>th</sup> December to join in our Wassailing. We look forward to seeing you. Email us at [jesvare@ymail.com](mailto:jesvare@ymail.com)

## The Student View – Calum Mackenzie

As President of Newcastle University Students' Union it is a key aspect of my role to work with the local community. Particularly important is ensuring that the relationship between students and long-term residents is a healthy one. As a Students' Union we have a Community Strategy which details a number of ways which we want to develop the role of student's in their community over the coming years. Due to the high numbers of Newcastle University students living in the Jesmond area, it seemed logical for the JRA to have direct student representation on their committee and I look forward to working with the other members of the JRA committee in the coming year.

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## Late night noise and similar problems – Sarah Breakey

Many residents continue to suffer from night-time noise, which is often caused by drunken people as they leave the bars on Osborne Road or when they return from the City centre in the early hours of the morning. Sometimes the problem comes from a party in a particular house. The JRA is continuing to work with local councillors to try to combat this problem, which can be a very significant problem for those who are regularly affected by it.

### What should you do if you are affected by night-time noise?

**If the noise is coming from a particular property** e.g. a noisy party, you should contact the City Council's Night Watch team (if it is operating) as soon as the problem becomes evident.

Its current hours are

Monday, Friday, Saturday & Sunday nights: 19.00hrs to 04.00hrs

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday nights: 19.00hrs to 01.30hrs

The number to call to speak to the team directly is **0781 297 5246**.

The team can also be contacted via Envirocall on **278 7878**

**It is generally advisable to call the police as well - on the police non-emergency number 101. This is particularly the case if the noise is coming from people in the street or if the Night Watch team is not in operation.** (In an emergency always phone 999).

When you call 101 you will be asked for some personal details and details of what is happening/has happened. When you call a log is created and you can ask for the log number as a record. The police may want to contact you again to report back on what has happened but if you don't want to be contacted again, you can just say so when you call. Quite often people are disturbed by incidents but do not wish to make a report in the middle of the night because of the further disturbance involved. **If this applies, you should try to report the incident to the police the following day and ask for it to be logged.** If an incident is not logged it does not feature in the police records and as a result the police are less likely to regard night noise as a serious problem in Jesmond.

### Contact the Universities

If the night time noise has been caused by students it is well worth contacting the universities. This is particularly effective if the noise is coming from a particular property because, if the University has a record of its students living at that address, it will contact them and begin a disciplinary process. Most students in Jesmond are Newcastle University students but some are from Northumbria. It is normally advisable to email both universities in the first instance and to copy the email to one of your councillors.

Contact details are

Newcastle University: (email) [casework@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:casework@ncl.ac.uk) or (phone) 0191 222 5293.

Northumbria University: (email) [rc.accomodation@northumbria.ac.uk](mailto:rc.accomodation@northumbria.ac.uk) (phone) 0191 227 4209.

**Councillors' contact details are:**

North Jesmond

[peter.andras@newcastle.gov.uk](mailto:peter.andras@newcastle.gov.uk)

[peter.breakey@newcastle.gov.uk](mailto:peter.breakey@newcastle.gov.uk)

[catherine.pagan@newcastle.gov.uk](mailto:catherine.pagan@newcastle.gov.uk)

South Jesmond

[david.hardman@newcastle.gov.uk](mailto:david.hardman@newcastle.gov.uk)

[felicity.mendelson@newcastle.gov.uk](mailto:felicity.mendelson@newcastle.gov.uk)

[tom.woodwark@newcastle.gov.uk](mailto:tom.woodwark@newcastle.gov.uk)

**Managing Agents**

Finally, if you know the managing agent for the premises which is the source of the noise, it is also often worth contacting them and explaining the problem.

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