



**e-Bulletin – Autumn 2015**

**Introduction**

Each year the JRA produces two e-bulletins (Autumn and Spring) and one hard copy Newsletter in the Summer. The e-bulletins go out only to those on the JRA email list, whereas the newsletter goes out to every household in Jesmond, Why do we not produce more hard copy Newsletters? – because the cost of printing and distributing a Newsletter is £800 compared with a few pence for the e-bulletins. At the moment we are only able to meet about half of the cost of the Newsletter from our own resources – the rest comes from the ward committees.

The e-bulletins and Newsletter summarise important events in Jesmond over the last few months. Information on these events has, in most cases already, been sent out as soon as we have it to those on the JRA email list (currently 468 persons).

If you or one of your friends would like to be added to the JRA email list, just send your email address to me at [r.d.armstrong@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:r.d.armstrong@blueyonder.co.uk) All communications are sent out BCC so that others on the email list are not aware of your presence.

Ron Armstrong, JRA Secretary and editor of this e-bulletin.

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**Cycle City Ambition Fund 2 (CCAF2) – Tony Waterston**

New funding is to come to Jesmond next year to benefit all residents by making streets more friendly to children, walkers, the elderly and those on bikes. The intention is to focus on three areas: Jesmond, Ouseburn into Heaton and Arthur’s Hill into Fenham. This includes whole wards and parts of wards numbering 11 in total.

Working with local communities, they will create ‘people-friendly areas’ which will encourage active travel and make neighbourhoods more pleasant places to live in. A total of £2.6 million will be split between the three areas.

A map-based website will be used to gather information about which streets have problems and the JRA will assist to ensure that community members including the elderly and disabled and young parents are actively involved.

This project is at an early stage and more information will come out in the new year. It is exciting that Jesmond is one of the areas chosen to receive this funding and the JRA will do its best to ensure that there are plenty of opportunities for people to influence the way it is taken forward.



## **Jesmond Library - update**

**Sarah Breakey**



**A very BIG Thank you to all our friends.**

**Jesmond Library can only survive with the financial support from the community.**

We are extremely grateful to our existing supporters for their generosity. If you are not yet a subscriber please donate and become a friend of the Library. Just **£2** a month will help Jesmond library to remain open well into the foreseeable future.

### **Jesmond Library Needs You!**

Volunteering at the library is a wonderful experience. As well as meeting people and having a very enjoyable time, you will develop a range of new skills and discover hidden talents!

Why not join our committed team and be a volunteer? Whether you can spare just a couple of hours a week or a month, there are plenty of options to fit into your schedule.

Pop into the library a pick up a form or visit our website. We look forward to you joining the team.

### **Look out for our Festive Events**

Children's Christmas Activities Saturday 12 December 10.30 – 12noon

Carols at the Library Tuesday 15 December 7.30 – 9.00pm

Victorian Christmas Monday 21 December 12noon – 3.00pm

### **Regular Events at the Library**

We have loads of new activities and events taking place at Jesmond Library. Camera Club, Play Reading and Well Being continue to be very popular, but we now have a host of language conversation classes for adults and children, Mindfulness, Current Affairs Discussion Groups to mention just a few. Look at the web site for more details and information.

### **Thursday Talks 6.00pm – 7.00pm**

Our successful Thursday Talks continue to cover a wide range of topics. Look at the website for the talks coming up.

If you have a particular interest or some knowledge you would like to share through a 'Thursday Talk', please get in touch with our Events Co-ordinator, Sarah Mercer, at the library. She would love to hear from you.

## West Jesmond Primary School

During the last academic year children from West Jesmond School have been visiting the library with their class teachers. The children have been learning about how a library is organised and operates as well as being able to choose a book to borrow.

It has been wonderful to develop these links with the local school and it means that over 600 children at the school are now members of the library and have used the library to enjoy the books. Many children had book suggestions to put forward to the book group. We are happy to report that these have been added to our stock. Please keep the suggestions coming.

The visits have commenced again during the Autumn term and will continue through into 2016.

### Do you need a space for your group or activity?

The library has a very versatile space available which can lend itself to a variety of uses.

Hire the Catherine Cookson room, with kitchen facilities for £10 per hour.

Hire the Main Library room for £20 per hour.

Resources include – seating for up to 50, 4 new meeting tables, display boards, flip chart and paper, projector and screen, coffee/tea machine, and heating and lighting included

#### Opening Times:

Tuesday 9.30am – 4.30pm  
Thursday 9.30am – 7.30pm  
Saturday 9.30am – 4.30pm

**Address** St George's Terrace, Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE2 2DL  
**Telephone** 0191 281 2385

**Website** [www.jesmondlibrary.co.uk](http://www.jesmondlibrary.co.uk)  
**Facebook** [www.facebook.com/JesmondLibrary](http://www.facebook.com/JesmondLibrary)

**Email** [enquiries@jesmondlibrary.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@jesmondlibrary.co.uk) – for general enquiries and volunteering  
**Email** [events@jesmondlibrary.co.uk](mailto:events@jesmondlibrary.co.uk) – for courses/events/room bookings  
**Email** [finance@jesmondlibrary.co.uk](mailto:finance@jesmondlibrary.co.uk) – finance enquiries/donations/gift aid

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### Late Night Noise – Ron Armstrong

*It has been necessary to rewrite this advice because of the more limited resources which are now available to the Police and to Newcastle City Council.*

If a resident is disturbed by late night noise, he/she may decide to phone the Police on 101 (the Police non-emergency number). The resident making the call should make it clear to the Police if those making the noise are confined to a property or are spilling out from a property onto the street. Note that transient noise which is not associated with a property is very difficult for the Police to deal with.

Every incident reported to the Police via 101 will be assessed by a call handler at the Police control room. They will carry out a risk assessment based on the information given by the caller. The risk assessment will take into account the level of threat, harm, vulnerability of those involved and a number of other factors. Once completed a decision will be made whether it is appropriate to deploy a Police resource to deal with the incident.

If the incident involves noise from within the boundary of a dwelling, including gardens, back yards etc it is unlikely that a Police resource will be deployed unless there are aggravating factors which raise the level of risk. In those circumstances the call will be logged and the caller will be advised to contact the local authority during the morning of the next working day.

The exception to this response will be on the nights where Operation Oak Police staff are on duty. (Operation Oak is funded by the North Jesmond, South Jesmond and Ouseburn wards as well as the two universities.) These are usually Friday and Saturday nights and some additional nights throughout the year which have been identified as having an elevated risk eg when large scale student events have been organised. On the nights where Operation Oak staff are on duty the officers will contact the control room staff at the beginning of their duty to let them know that they are available to be deployed. On these nights the normal risk assessment policy will be set aside and the officers will attend any noise related incident. However, there may still be delays as they will only be able to deal with one incident at a time.

The City Council Noise Team currently operates between 08.30 and 16.30 Monday to Friday. To report a disturbance due to late night noise contact the City Council on 0191 2787878 and the details will be passed on to the appropriate team member. Calls received outside office hours will be dealt with by a 24-hour call centre staffed by YHN\*. The details will be sent to the Noise Team for investigation on the next working day.

If you think the noise is coming from students you may, in addition, contact Newcastle University Student Progress Service on 0191 2085293 OR e-mail: [casework@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:casework@ncl.ac.uk)

Most students in Jesmond are from Newcastle University - a minority are from Northumbria University where the appropriate number is 0191 2273999.

Finally, it is sometimes worth contacting the Letting Agent (if the contact number is available).

Councillors' contact details are:

North Jesmond

[peter.breakey@newcastle.gov.uk](mailto:peter.breakey@newcastle.gov.uk)  
[catherine.pagan@newcastle.gov.uk](mailto:catherine.pagan@newcastle.gov.uk)  
[dan.perry@newcastle.gov.uk](mailto:dan.perry@newcastle.gov.uk)

South Jesmond

[kerry.allibhai@newcastle.gov.uk](mailto:kerry.allibhai@newcastle.gov.uk)  
[felicity.mendelson@newcastle.gov.uk](mailto:felicity.mendelson@newcastle.gov.uk)  
[arlene.ainsley@newcastle.gov.uk](mailto:arlene.ainsley@newcastle.gov.uk)

\*YHN (= YourHomesNewcastle) is the managing agent for the social housing owned by Newcastle City Council.

## Planning Issues update - Nils Clemmetsen

The three significant developments featured in the Spring e-bulletin are now all under construction:

- Helen McArdle Care Home and Nursery, Burdon Terrace
- Newcastle High School for Girls, Tankerville Terrace
- Warwick House, Grantham Road - Change of use of offices (Class B1a) to residential apartments (Class C3)

### Wylam Brewery in Exhibition Park

Change of use from museum to mixed use brewery, assembly and leisure use (including music and events space) and bar - Former Military Vehicles Museum, Exhibition Park. This was granted planning permission with extensive conditions at the Planning Committee meeting held on 18 September 2015. The site is not in Jesmond – it is in Wingrove Ward – however any impact is likely to be more significant for Jesmond residents – in particular those living in the Brandling Park area. The application for a premises licence will be heard on Tuesday 8 December 2015 at 09:30, Committee Room, Civic Centre. The applicant has withdrawn the request for adult entertainment but would like to be able to serve alcohol until midnight every day. The JRA has objected on the basis that it should close at 11.00pm in common with the licensed premises on Osborne Road. The JRA is working closely with the Brandling Village Residents' Association which is pressing (with the support of the police) for a dispersal policy for large events at the Brewery to ensure that crowds exiting at night use Claremont Rd rather than Brandling Park.

### 269 Jesmond Road / Corner with Shortridge Terrace

Change of use of ground floor from retail (Class A1) to restaurant/cafe/hot food takeaway (Class A3/A5), alterations to elevations to include new air intake louvre, extract terminal, new door at ground floor, re-location of fire escape stairs from first floor with raised platform

Following advice from the City Planners that they would recommend against change of use as A5, a hot food takeaway, the applicant has confirmed that they will revise the application to apply for A1 (retail) and A3 (cafe/restaurant).

### 1 Thornleigh Road Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 3ET

Change of use of ground floor only from part of existing Use Class C4 House in Multiple Occupation to a mixed use of restaurant/café/ hot food take-away (sui generis) with front extension and retention of first and second floor maisonette in Use Class C4 House in Multiple Occupation. This application was refused by the City Council and the applicant has lodged an appeal. The planning inspectors' site visit took place on 24 November 2015 and we are awaiting the outcome.

### Conversion of Dwelling Houses into HMOs

There continue to be a steady stream of applications to convert Dwelling Houses (Planning Class C3) into HMOs (C4 or sui generis – depending on number of occupants, C4 is 3-6 occupants, sui generis is 6 or more ). Unless there are special circumstances planning permission will not be granted. This is in accordance with the policy CS9 points 4 and 5 in "The Core Strategy and Urban Core Plan for Gateshead and Newcastle, 2010-2030", adopted in March 2015.

### *Policy CS9 Existing Communities*

*Existing communities will be sustainable places of quality and choice. This will be achieved by:*

1. *Maintaining a range of housing types and sizes throughout the plan area,*
2. *Maintaining and improving facilities, services and the local environment,*
3. *Bringing empty properties back into use, demolition of housing which is no longer viable or in demand, supporting programmes of improvement and renewal and the replacement of housing,*
4. *Preventing the loss of family homes, through sub-division, change of use or redevelopment, and*
5. *Preventing an over concentration of shared accommodation.*

Two recent applications that have been refused permission are:

- 13 Sunbury Avenue Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 3HD
  - 116 Grosvenor Road Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 2RQ (appeal has been lodged)
- HMOs operating before November 2011 may continue to operate even though they may not have planning permission. Owners can confirm the status as an HMO by applying for a Lawful Development Certificate. It is not possible for the public to object to these if the applicant can prove use of the property as an HMO before November 2011 through receipts, tenancy agreements etc.
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## **Monthly Food Market – Roger Loxley**

The monthly Jesmond Food Market on Armstrong Bridge continues to be a significant success for the local community. Run by a management group consisting of the JRA, Anna Hedworth from The Cookhouse (recently voted one of the top 25 coolest restaurants by The Times), Food Newcastle and Councillor Felicity Mendleson, the market has recently completed its first six months.

The October market was the busiest yet, with large crowds attracted by the excellent range and quality of food on offer. With hot food to take away in addition to the locally produced fresh produce on offer the market is becoming a destination in its own right.

The Christmas market is on 19th December from 10am until 3pm and the fare on offer will reflect the season and festivities. Come along and stock up on the best local and seasonal food you can get your hands on! Oh, and stop and have a bite to eat or a warm drink to keep you going.

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## **Acorn Road etc update - Ron Armstrong**

Acorn Rd. The new pavements are nearly all in place. The City Council hopes to have the new road surface completed before Xmas. Only when the work is complete will two-way cycling be allowed. However the one-way scheme for cars will be a permanent feature of the new Acorn Rd.

Jesmond Dene Rd. The experimental 6 month closure of Jesmond Dene Rd to vehicles between the Banqueting Hall and Jesmond Dene House hotel will start soon. At the moment a traffic census is underway. This will be repeated once the closure is in place in order to see how the traffic flow is changed by the closure.

Brandling Village Area. As part of a combined Cycle City Ambition Fund and Safer Routes to School scheme, Newcastle City Council is considering traffic management improvements in the Brandling village area of Jesmond. The proposals include:

- Raised tables and road humps to regulate vehicle speeds and provide improved pedestrian crossing facilities.
- One way traffic (cycles exempt) in Eslington Terrace and Eskdale Terrace.
- No entry except cycles from Eskdale Terrace into Lambton Road.
- Widened footways to make the area safer for pedestrians.
- Change of priority at the Brandling Park/Clayton Road junction to give priority to the signed cycle route and slow traffic entering the area from Great North Road.
- Bus Parking facilities adjacent to the schools.
- Removal of pay and display parking from the west side of Brandling Park to accommodate the new cycle path.
- New zebra crossing on Clayton Road.

## Tidy gardens – Tony Waterston

Why did the JRA start up the Tidy Garden scheme? Because of residents' recurring complaints about the state of the gardens in many Jesmond terraces, notably the ones with many HMOs, such as this one -



It became apparent that the City Council is very limited in what it can do about these revolting gardens particularly at a time of cuts and it is up to residents to take a lead.

Local 'tidy-up' sessions help,, and are an important way of developing community engagement: but require much organisation and can only tackle litter rather than overflowing weeds and shrubs.

We approached SkillMill <http://theskillmill.org> who are an innovative social enterprise working with rehabilitated young offenders in environmental projects and they jumped at the idea of offering contracts to landlords to tidy their garden on a regular basis.

Landlords pay £100 a year for a makeover and two tidy up sessions, with flexibility over how the garden will look (no concreting over, and some greenery if possible). We are still advertising the scheme to landlords with the pilot area being the terraces west of St George's Terrace and west of Brentwood – however landlords anywhere in Jesmond are welcome to apply. So far 20 gardens are being worked on in the scheme and we're considering a competition on tidiest street for the Community Festival in May.



I've just visited a garden in Sandyford which is in the process of improvement – and talked to Sean (not his real name) who is doing the work under John's supervision. He told me that he was convicted of a violent offence and this is his last day of work with skill mill. He is planning to go to college in the New Year to study A-levels and wants to be a designer or architect. He has enjoyed his time with Skill Mill and feels that it has given him life skills, social skills and has helped him to work in a team. He seems like a young lad who can make a success of his life.

### Keep Jesmond Clean.

JRA will also work closely with this group set up by North Jesmond councillors, which has very similar aims but is specifically targeted at the back lanes which are full of household waste, junk and unwanted items and where bins are not correctly used. The group (chaired by Councillor Dan Perry) is exploring a number of solutions including door knocking, voluntary clean up campaigns, council enforcement and paid tidy-ups at specific times of year.

## Financing the JRA

The JRA is entirely run by volunteers who give their services for free. However there are a number of unavoidable costs such as

1. Room hire,
2. Maintenance of the JRA web site,
3. Printing and distributing the hard copies of the Summer newsletter.

To meet these costs the JRA relies on donations. If you appreciate the work done by the JRA you may like to give a donation. For a one off donation you should send a cheque, payable to the *Jesmond Residents Association* to Ron Armstrong, 73 Grosvenor Avenue, Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE2 2NQ.

If you are prepared to set up a standing order please contact me ([r.d.armstrong@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:r.d.armstrong@blueyonder.co.uk)) and I will send you the appropriate standing order form. For standing orders we recommend a donation of £10 per year.

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### JRA Committee Autumn 2015

Chair: Tony Waterston,

Vice-Chair: Ian Nelson,

Secretary: Ron Armstrong,

Treasurer: David Etchells,

Helen Barbour,

Sarah Breakey (Library matters),

Nils Clemmetsen (Planning issues),

Prem Khanna,

Roger Loxley ( Local Resident Groups),

Claire Penn,

Crispin Welby,

Carolyn Wood.

**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.