



e-Bulletin – Spring 2016

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 almost 500 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 ron73armstrong@gmail.com 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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Streets for People - Tony Waterston

The City Council will “facilitate and support communities and neighbourhoods to identify and evidence investment opportunities, which will make cycling and walking (and other sustainable travel choices) more attractive and popular in their locality.” - Quoted from *Jesmond, Streets for People* at <https://jesmond.commonplace.is/> on the City Council site.

Streets for People comes with funding from the Cycle City Ambition Fund (a national programme) https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/sites/default/files/wwwfileroot/ncc_cca_extension_0_ccaf2_extension_bid_0.pdf which is primarily aimed to benefit those using public transport, foot and bicycle to get around – this will include all of us at some time or other. There are plenty of examples from UK and around the world of cities which have made changes of this kind, and one of the main motivating factors is air quality. You can’t see diesel fumes but they are seriously damaging the health of the population in our city and the UK regularly breaks the EU limits for air quality. This has been shown to be a local problem for example in Gosforth High Street and Acorn Rd as well as the city centre. Air pollution particularly affects children and you just need to be in Tankerville Terrace between 0815 and 0845 to see what pupils at West Jesmond school have to put up with on the way to school, potentially leading to long term lung damage. Surely we can do better than this? <http://www.newcastle.gov.uk/environment-and-waste/pollution/air-pollution/managing-and-improving-air-quality-newcastle> And further, the UK won’t meet its vital climate change targets unless carbon emissions from transport are drastically reduced, which means replacing a lot of car journeys by public transport, walking or cycling. <https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/transport-emissions>

Currently there is an online consultation in progress to find out which roads have the biggest traffic problems in Jesmond. Go to <https://jesmond.commonplace.is> to check this out yourself. On the interactive map you can insert your own comments as well as reading what others have posted and there are lots of good suggestions. 300 people have given their comments so far and this could reach 500 before the consultation closes in mid-April, so please spread the message.

The JRA supports the philosophy of the programme which is to consult with local people to obtain their views on how to improve their streets, and has organised two meetings during the Jesmond Festival <http://jesmondfestival.org.uk> when the findings of the survey will be discussed and ideas presented for change: both are on the 19th May, the first at 6pm and second at 7.30, in the library. In the second session, Christian Muncey from Waltham Forest in London will speak on how the council has redesigned the streets in a similar programme to Streets for People, and what kind of a difference it makes.

It will be essential that all changes contribute to the transport networks of Jesmond and connect together. This will mean agreeing on a roads hierarchy of through roads, distributor roads and residential roads. Do please put your comments about this on the JRA forum (see www.jesmondresidents.org/forum.html) as well as on the above website so that we can get a sense of what people envisage in their local neighbourhoods, thinking first and foremost of the benefits to children and older people.

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Planning Issues - Nils Clemmetsen

Acorn Road Area

There have been a number of planning applications relating to commercial activities in and around Acorn Road in the last few months.

Following the improvement works, Greggs and the next door Navaho Coffee Shop (ex Archers Ice Cream) both applied to use the pavement in front of their premises as pavement cafés. Both applications were withdrawn following a request by the City Council as they would like to let the highway improvement scheme settle down, be completed and then decide whether or not pavement café facilities within the adopted highway would be suitable. It is likely that new applications will be forthcoming later in the year.

Starbucks gained planning permission for the refurbishment works that have recently been completed. This includes continued use of outside space as a café, but this is on private land.

There have also been applications to turn nearby ground floor flats into cafes.

1 Thornleigh Road – behind AC Silver – this application was refused by the City Council. The applicant lodged an appeal however this was dismissed by the planning inspector.

68 Saint Georges Terrace – across the back lane from the back of Tesco's. A similar proposal was submitted previously and refused. This application has still to be decided, but there are a significant number of objections from neighbours.

At the north end of St Georges Terrace there is also an application to turn the old W Salon into a burger restaurant. A liquor licence has already been granted for these premises - but it will only come into effect if the planning application is granted.

Two significant applications that had stalled have recently come back to life:

1. Banqueting Hall Jesmond Dene Road

Refurbishment and change of use of existing banqueting hall to community space including meeting room, exhibition, market, education, music and theatre, sports and leisure and reception space, erection of 3 storey extension to north elevation to provide artist's studios and 4 self

contained apartments (Class C3), provision of 14 car parking spaces, cycle storage, refuse storage and soft landscaping, as amended by plans received 4 February 2016 | Revised plans were submitted in February and Historic England have responded.

2. Installation of all-weather playing field surface. Intake Area 10 of the Town Moor

This is for the playing field west of Princess Mary Court which is leased by Newcastle High School for Girls. A new Drainage Report has been submitted to the City Council. The committee report has been published on the council web site and the planning officers recommended that permission be granted. The Planning Committee subsequently (24 March) granted planning permission with conditions attached.

HMOs

Two appeal decisions that were made towards the end of last year effectively uphold the Article 4 Directive intended to maintain the existing housing mix by not allowing more change of use to HMO (Houses in Multiple Occupation). In both cases the appeals were dismissed.

Change of use of 1st floor and roof space from (Class C3) to HMO (Class C4)

116 Grosvenor Road Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 2RQ

Appeal against Enforcement Notice : Alleged unauthorised material change of use to HMO

115 Goldspink Lane Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 1NR

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Jesmond Library : Update Spring 2016 - Sarah Breakey

We are very pleased to report the continuing success of Jesmond Library.

Jesmond Library which is organised and operated by volunteers continues to be a thriving, welcoming and diverse Community Hub, as well as a Public Library offering books, coffee/tea, newspapers and the People's Network Computers.

Regular Events

Regular sessions continue to thrive – Mindfulness, Camera Club, Story Telling, Play Reading, Community Singing, Screen Writing Skills Course, Language Conversation Classes, Technology Classes, Well-being etc

Thursday Talks – run by volunteers in aid of the Library

The Thursday Talks from 6.00pm – 7.00pm continue to cover a wide range of topics – coming up soon:

- Gosforth Park Nature Reserve from the Ice Age to the Present.
- The Carlisle Experiment – Nationalised Pubs
- All things bright and Beautiful – The Psychology of Colour in Art
- Funny Bones and Wisdom Teeth
- Sir Arthur Munro Sunderland
- Streets for People (6pm and again at 7.30 - 9.30pm both on 19 May)

Jesmond Community Festival

Jesmond Library is hosting a number of events for the Festival.

Singing, Dancing, Flower Arranging, Music, Teddy Bear Tea Parties, Talent Shows, Talks and Discussions, to name but a few.

JRA has organised the following Jesmond Community Festival Events to be held at the Library:

Newcastle University Jazz Orchestra	Saturday 7 th May	7.00pm – 9.00pm
The Tyne Trio – Classical Jazz	Monday 16 th May	7.30pm – 9.30pm
Thursday Talk – Streets for People	Thursday 19 th May	6.00pm – 7.00pm and 7.30 - 9.30pm

New Books

In just over 2 years the friends have added over 500 new titles to the book stock in the library.

Pop into the Library and see the latest arrivals or put your suggestions in the box!

Would you like to be a Volunteer?

We are very proud of our dedicated team of volunteers.

Volunteering at the library develops a range of skills – customer service, time management and organisational skills and many more. Although it requires commitment; volunteers tell us that they enjoy the experience, especially as we have such a varied number of events taking place at the Library. Come into the library or visit the website to become a volunteer.

Children at the Library

Jesmond Library's Children's area is an inviting and a well-resourced section of the library for parents and carers to spend time with their children. We are continually adding to our book collection as well as offering additional activities for you to enjoy with your children.

A regular and very popular event in the holidays is the children's craft activities organised and run by one of the volunteers. At the most recent events over 50 children and their carers enjoyed being creative!

West Jesmond School

Our links with West Jesmond Primary School continue to be successful. Different year groups visit the Library with their teachers fortnightly to experience the Library and all it has to offer as well as choose a book to borrow for a week.

Coming Soon

Look out for the posters advertising Free Wifi at the library.

Arriving soon - the limited edition Jesmond Library Teddy Bears!

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

Facebook www.facebook.com/JesmondLibrary

Email enquiries@jesmondlibrary.co.uk – for general enquiries and volunteering

Email events@jesmondlibrary.co.uk – for courses/events/room bookings

Email finance@jesmondlibrary.co.uk – finance enquiries/donations/gift aid

Visit the Library and get a friendly welcome from the volunteers and appreciate all that this valuable community resource has to offer – right in the heart of Jesmond!



Monthly Food Market – Roger Loxley

The next Jesmond Food Market is on Saturday 16th April, organised by the market committee featuring Anna Hedworth (The Grazer and The Cookhouse), JRA, Food Newcastle and Felicity

Mendelson (Jesmond Councillor). The market has been established for a year now and the April market will be our first anniversary! There will be about 30 stalls including those selling fruit and vegetables, meats, bread, sweet treats and also places where you can buy food to eat straightaway. Our motto is "shop for a week or just buy some lunch" so it very much suits all. Our birthday market will also feature a raffle with excellent prizes from the stallholders and with the proceeds going to charitable local good causes. Stalls will also be dressed for a birthday party so the market will be a real place of celebration of all that is good about locally sourced and produced food. Don't miss it!



Glorious gardens - Claire Penn

In this the 300th anniversary of Capability Brown's birth at Kirkhale in Northumberland, the JRA thought they would like to bring a little of his magic to the streets of Jesmond. So this year, as part of the Jesmond Festival, we have included a 'Glorious Gardens Competition' aimed as an incentive to students and residents alike. We'd love to see everyone taking a pride even in the smallest terraced house front garden. For students without their own tools, they are available to borrow from Newcastle University Students Union (Kay Hattam). There will be a prize for the best garden and runner up. Don't forget to take some before and after shots!

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Acorn Road and Jesmond Dene Road - Ron Armstrong

Jesmond Dene Rd. The experimental 6 month closure of Jesmond Dene Rd to vehicles between the Banqueting Hall and Jesmond Dene House started in the middle of March. At the moment The Grove/Reid Park Rd is open at the eastern end.

Acorn Rd. The refurbished shopping area is now complete - except for the new lamp posts which still need be delivered and sited in the correct positions. The new concrete planters have not met with universal approval!



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) and I will send you the appropriate standing order form. For standing orders we recommend a donation of £10 per year.

JRA Committee Spring 2016

Chair: Tony Waterston,

Vice-Chair: Ian Nelson,

Secretary: Ron Armstrong,

Treasurer: David Etchells,

Sarah Breakey (Library matters),

Nils Clemmetsen (Planning issues),

Prem Khanna,

Roger Loxley (Local Resident Groups),

Claire Penn,

Crispin Welby,

Carolyn Wood.

Student Rep: Georgie Harris

Contact with the JRA should be via

The Chair - tony.waterston@newcastle.ac.uk , 0191 2816752 or via

the Secretary ron73armstrong@gmail.com , 0191 2812923.