

## **e-Bulletin – Summer 2018**

### **Introduction – Nils Clemmetsen**

Welcome to the JRA Summer e-Bulletin. This time we have the following for you:

- A message from the Chair – Kathleen Cunningham**
- Kindness is always fashionable – Kathleen Cunningham**
- Play Streets – Sarah Kettle-Klenka**
- Reducing Anti-Social Behaviour - ASB – George Gibson**
- Blue House Roundabout update – Tony Waterston**
- Streets for People update – Tony Waterston**
- Jesmond Community Festival**
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- Planning Issues update – Nils Clemmetsen**
- JRA Committee 2017/18**
- Financing the JRA**

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. The email list has currently got 333 recipients following the GDPR cull.

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

Nils Clemmetsen, JRA Secretary and editor of this e-bulletin



## **A message from the Chair – Kathleen Cunningham**

Welcome to the JRA newsletter. I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to our AGM meeting that will be taking place in early October (date to be confirmed) at the Royal British Legion at 7.15 p.m. Come along from 7 p.m. onwards and meet the committee members and find out how you can get involved and support us. All our committee members are volunteers who willingly give up their time to enrich the local community. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them all personally for their dedication and hard work:

- From organising Playstreets
- Liaising with local businesses, landlords, students, universities and other community groups
- Taking an active part in the Jesmond Community Festival
- Fundraising and setting up the Acorn Road Christmas tree and seasonal festivities
- Running the Armstrong Bridge Monthly Food Market
- Representing you and submitting your views and comments on licensing and planning
- Tackling anti-social behaviour
- Setting up better communication channels through social media

We are a committed and positive group of people who believe together we can make a difference. We have a positive vision and we believe in an action based responses. I would also like to thank all the local residents who have supported us with their kind donations and positive comments. We look forward to welcoming you at our AGM.

## **Kindness is always fashionable – Kathleen Cunningham**

It is vital we support the local community shops so we have a wide and diverse array of retail outlets adding to the charm of living in Jesmond. Help spread kindness further by shopping local. Remember, as the old saying goes, " If you don't use it, you'll lose it".

If you like high quality pre-loved designer labels, plus top high street brands, you can support your local, friendly St Oswald's Hospice Shop at 5 Hazlewood Avenue.

Why not pop in and browse and bag yourself a bargain? You would also be spreading a little kindness and supporting the local hospice.

Put a smile on someone's face and support the local community.

As well as Acorn Road, you could also take a meander down Brentwood Avenue and discover pavement cafes and shops selling a range of gifts and accessories for your home.

Independent, local shops are a vital part of the community. Let's face it shopping in town adds on additional travel costs and the hassle of parking, whilst walking and retail therapy can be good for your health. The shopkeepers are looking forward to welcoming new and old customers alike and will soon be stocking up on Xmas goodies and speciality products.

## **Play Streets – Sarah Kettle-Klenka**

Following the successful Playstreets event in Sanderson Road, we are keen to continue with this good work. Sarah is arranging a seminar in the library in the afternoon on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> September for interested parents to come and talk to the councillors, those involved in processing applications and those who have successfully set up play street ventures in their own areas. This event will be sponsored by the council. Watch out for updates on this event.

## Reducing Anti-Social Behaviour - ASB – George Gibson

Since our Bulletin in the Spring, at our suggestion Newcastle's two universities have extended Operation Oak, which attempts to tackle student ASB.

Operation Oak will now run 7 nights a week through Freshers Week period (actually 4 weeks) & over post exam periods and the party period up to Christmas.

Operation Oak will also run every Wednesday evening through term time, an evening popular for sports club celebrations.

We have also participated in Newcastle University's "Best Neighbour on Campus". This programme awards students with a £1000 prize for good neighbourly behaviour. The awards will run in the next academic year and if you have good student neighbours we encourage you to nominate them, we hope that all students will be influenced by the behaviour of good students.

At the end of the academic year many lanes in Jesmond have been covered in rubbish tipped from bins by scavengers, this is despite Newcastle University providing skips for 2 weeks over the end of the year for students to dispose of unwanted items. Jointly with Keep Jesmond Clean we have requested a meeting with the Chief Operational Officer at Newcastle Council's Environment and Waste department, we have ideas to tackle this problem, but we need co-operation from The Council to make progress.

We encourage Jesmond residents to report all behaviour considered unacceptable to: Newcastle Council, both local universities and if serious to the Police. The Universities can only attempt to reduce bad behaviour if they are aware of it.

If you need further guidance on reporting ASB or assistance with an ongoing problem please email [JesmondASB@gmail.com](mailto:JesmondASB@gmail.com).



## Blue House Roundabout update – Tony Waterston

All has gone quiet on the BH. At the last discussion, the smaller of the two possible roundabout designs was chosen by the group and was sent to the council with a request that measures be taken to reduce traffic over the next few years. Group members were advised that consultation is ongoing with funders, the Freemen and officers. When news comes out it will be passed on!



All the historical information is available on the website <http://bluehousegroup.org>.

## Streets for People update – Tony Waterston

The designs are being reviewed and some have been prioritised. Members of the reference group have been advised that following consultation with residents and other stakeholders, the updated designs will be exhibited on the Streets for People website and there will be engagement with those directly affected.!

Information is available on the council website although not recently updated:

[www.newcastle.gov.uk/parking-roads-and-transport/cycling/streets-people-1](http://www.newcastle.gov.uk/parking-roads-and-transport/cycling/streets-people-1)





## **Jesmond Community Festival – Chris Clarke**

The Jesmond Festival this year was one of the busiest yet. Chris Clarke reports:

‘Since 2016, when the Council’s Ward Committees began to experience significant cuts in the resources available to them to support local activities, the festival organisers have had to make economies in the overall cost of organising the festival. Notably, the popular Festival Parade could not be repeated in 2017 or 2018, and the opening Festival Fair has had to be scaled back, with fewer professional entertainers.

This meant that we would be relying to an even greater extent than before on the efforts of local community groups and businesses, and in this respect the 2017 and 2018 festivals exceeded expectations, with more donations from local businesses and community organisations, and greater amounts raised in collections at festival events.’

‘The 2018 Jesmond Community Festival comprised 86 events spread over 23 days. This was deliberately a slight reduction in the number of events since 2017, as comments had been made in that year that the programme was becoming overcrowded with repeat events and too many things that would have happened anyway.

Nevertheless, over 9,000 people attended or took part in festival events in 2018. (This total will include some double counting, i.e., the same people attending several events). This success is largely a result of the huge amount of voluntary time and effort which goes into the events, by performers, organisers and host organisations.’

The **JRA** organised the following events, some of which are now regulars.

**Tour de Jesmond** – a slightly longer route this year through the university and onto the new cycle ways on John Dobson St and Brandling Park. A fine day and the ice creams at the Café in the Park at the end were well deserved.

### **Mines and Mansions**

A tour of old Jesmond

Led by George Gibson, this walk toured old houses, streets and mansions of Jesmond and was a sell-out – we’ll have to charge the next time! A max of 12 was requested but over 30 came and George was too generous to turn anyone away. A great success and hopefully will be repeated.

**Newcastle University Jazz Orchestra** in the library – very popular and well attended

**Theolonious Funk  
(Northumbria University)**  
in the library  
– another great hit  
– that’s them in the photo.



**Pop up Park**  
at West Jesmond Metro – part of the gardens competition and also a trailer for future parks on Jesmond streets? By West Jesmond metro station, the parklet was a great success and we are asking Nexus to make it permanent.



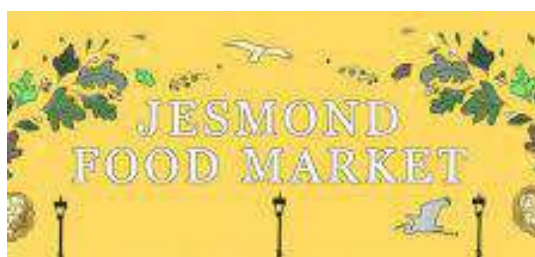
**JRA Reporting  
Tony Waterston**

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## **Jesmond Food Market**

Jesmond Food Market reached its third birthday in April. It is on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month. The market is proving very popular with locals and those who are prepared to travel some distance. It’s becoming a bit of a destination for shoppers keen to access high quality local food produce.

News updates at: <https://twitter.com/jesfoodmkt?lang=en>



## JRA Gardens Competition – Dawn Dunn

Perhaps it was the fabulous weather that meant the JRA Gardens Competition showed even more continued steady growth from the promising green shoots already laid down in previous years.

The strong cross section of entries showed what wide appeal there is for this initiative, and demonstrated true enthusiasm to make our outside spaces more attractive to wildlife and passers-by alike.

There was a special prize awarded to the residents of Myrtle Grove who showed a fantastic display of togetherness by adopting an unclaimed and unloved area of land and transforming it into a colourful cornerstone of community spirit.

And the winner of the student category Louis Bonnett showed a particularly innovative approach by creating an area in front of his bay window that was not only easy on the eye but also economical, edible (in parts) and sustainable, utterly brilliant. A special mention must also be made to fellow student Bella Walter who worked tirelessly to promote the competition within Northumbria University - perhaps student landlords and letting agents will even take up the (carrot?) baton next year.

But it was the residents of the Minories and South Jesmond area that submitted the largest cohort of entries, where picking a winner was particularly difficult for judges Fiona Clarke and Duncan Gilchrist. They certainly had their work cut out choosing between some repeat entrants from last year and a number of green fingered newbies.

All in all the 2018 competition was a great success, and Jesmond Library played host to the Awards ceremony on the 22nd May where a good number of contestants turned out to congratulate their fellow gardeners.

Hopefully next year will be even better, and date for 2019 entries will be announced in the JRA newsletter, watch this space! If you are a local business who would like to get involved, then please, please get in touch and add your name to the likes of Ouseburn Coffee, Oliver Bonas and Wylam Brewery who have generously supported the competition previously.

In the meantime, let's hope for a little rainmaking to water our green spaces - but just not too much!





## Jesmond Library: Summer 2018

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, free WiFi and the People's Network Computers.

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!

### Coming up at Jesmond Library....



### New Website and new email addresses

The new website address is [www.jesmondlibrary.org](http://www.jesmondlibrary.org)

The new email addresses [events@jesmondlibrary.org](mailto:events@jesmondlibrary.org)

[enquiries@jesmondlibrary.org](mailto:enquiries@jesmondlibrary.org)

[finance@jesmondlibrary.org](mailto:finance@jesmondlibrary.org)

Many of the Library's activities stop over the summer but both German and Spanish groups are continuing at their regular times Thursday 11.30 and 6.30 respectively.

The 4<sup>th</sup> Jesmond Library creative writing competition is now open with entries to be submitted by October 30<sup>th</sup> at 12noon. Forms available from the Library.





# Programme of Events

July / August 2018

**HERITAGE  
WEEKEND  
OPENING!**

We are opening for the first time and have a  
**Tour & Talk**  
15 Sept – 5.00pm

Regular events  
run by our volunteers:

**Tuesdays**

**Story & Song Session  
for under 5s**  
10.00 - 10.15am

Donation

**Italian Conversation**  
6.00 - 7.00pm

£3

**Wednesdays**

**Wellbeing for Life**  
Aug 1  
10.30am - 12.00noon

**Thursdays**

**German Conversation**  
11.30am - 12.30pm

£2

**Spanish Conversation**  
6.00 - 7.30pm

£3

**Saturdays**

**IT Support drop in sessions**  
12.30 - 2.30pm

Donation

Other events

run by our volunteers:

2 & 21 August 10.30am - 12.00pm  
**Kids Summer Crafts**

Donation

**Now open for entries**

**4th Creative Writing Competition** £3  
Entry forms are available at the Library.  
Closing date for entries – 12.00noon  
Tuesday 30 October

Tel: 0191 281 2385

Thursday evening talks

6.00pm

£3

**July 26**

**Nigel Todd**

Dr Ethel Williams, Suffragist

Other regular events

**Wednesdays**

4, 11, 25 July, 1, 8 August

**Italian Conversation** 5.45 - 7.15pm  
contact: antonellarea.kleist@gmail.com

**Meditation** 7.00 - 9.00pm

contact:

stever@northeastserenereflection.org.uk

**Sundays**

**Mindfulness** 4.30 - 5.30pm

contact: info@mindfultherapies.org.uk  
or 07583 553 949

Other events

18 July

6.00 - 8.00pm

**Jesmond Orchard AGM**

24 July, 14 August

7.00 - 9.00pm

**Soroptomists**

contact: christinelmumsdon@gmail.com

**NEW ONLINE ADDRESSES**

[events@jesmondlibrary.org](mailto:events@jesmondlibrary.org)

[www.jesmondlibrary.org](http://www.jesmondlibrary.org)

Jesmond Library is a community library run entirely by volunteers and all funds have to be raised locally. We are grateful to Red Square Design and Cambridge Scholars Publishing for their generous contributions in kind. If your business could help please get in touch.

## Planning Issues update – Nils Clemmetsen

### Extension to the rear of Whites Hotel, 38-42 Osborne Road Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 2AL

Planning approval has been granted for the construction of a 3 storey extension to the rear to provide 6 additional hotel rooms. There was a previous similar application that was refused. The approved plans are more in keeping with the area.

### 7 Fern Avenue Jesmond Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 2QT

This application was for the conversion of the existing 3 storey dwelling into 2 apartments. It is currently a small family dwelling that has a south facing front garden. The proposal was to convert to a ground floor 2 bedroom apartment and a first/second floor 3 bedroom apartment. The 3 bedroom apartment would need further planning permission if it was to be used as an HMO. We were pleased that this application was refused. If the development had gone ahead it would have resulted in the loss of a dwelling suitable for family occupancy in a street that remains popular with families.

### Blue Bell Hotel Jesmond Vale Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 1PH

The applicants have applied for change of use for the wooden shed extension to the Blue Bell Hotel that was built last year. They would like to use it as a hairdressers and personal training room as well. Local residents remain concerned about the ongoing development of a activities at the Blue Bell Hotel and the effect on parking. This application has not yet been determined.

### Acorn Road

The government continues to make adjustments to permitted development rights that can have unfavourable consequences in some situations. Permitted development rights allow certain types of development without further permission being required. Of particular interest is that there are now permitted development rights that permit change of use from Class A1 – shops and retail outlets to Class A2 – professional services without requiring planning permission. There has been a recent change of use at 7 Acorn Road that has taken advantage of this. Previously it had been agreed that there should be no more estate agents on Acorn Road, however there is now no limit.

The council could introduce an Article 4 direction to require planning permission and I have asked them to consider this. I received the following response:

There are no current plans for the issue of an Article 4 direction to restrict permitted development rights within the Acorn Road shopping area.

As part of the Development Allocation Plan the council are reviewing retail policies and undertaking health checks in respect of local retail centres. Article 4 directions can be considered if there is a major issue across the city but would need to be backed up with evidence to justify moving away from government policy. Article 4 directions are only issued as a last resort and take several years to bring into effect.

I will raise your concern with the planning policy team.



There is a possibility that Acorn Road becomes overrun with Estate Agents, but it would appear that there is nothing we can do.

### La Sagesse

This development is almost finished now, however it appears that the developer is trying to avoid the legal obligation to provide a new cycling/pedestrian link through the development from Friday Fields Lane, near Matthew Bank, to North Jesmond Avenue. They have done all the construction in accordance with the approved plans but have then put a lock on the gate!

## JRA Committee 2017/18

Chair: Kathleen Cunningham (Licensing) [chairman@jesmondresidents.org](mailto:chairman@jesmondresidents.org)

Vice-Chair: David Houpt (Linkmail)

Secretary: Nils Clemmetsen (Planning) [secretary@jesmondresidents.org](mailto:secretary@jesmondresidents.org)

Treasurer (Acting): David Etchells [treasurer@jesmondresidents.org](mailto:treasurer@jesmondresidents.org)

Dorothy Fellows (Assistant Secretary and Jesmond Vale)

Paul Easton (Publicity)

George Gibson (ASB)

Sarah Kettle (Child friendly Jesmond)

Prem Khanna

Roger Loxley (Food Market & Local Resident Groups)

Tony Waterston (Streets for People and Blue House Roundabout)

University of Newcastle student rep – Andrew Stark

University of Northumbria student rep – Tally Kerr

### You can contact the JRA via

[chairman@jesmondresidents.org](mailto:chairman@jesmondresidents.org)



## 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:

Nils Clemmetsen, 3 Bemersyde Drive, Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE2 2HL.

Alternatively if you would like to donate using internet banking, please email David Etchells at [treasurer@jesmondresidents.org](mailto:treasurer@jesmondresidents.org) and he will send you details. You can also email David if you would like us to set up a standing order for you. He will send you the appropriate standing order form. For standing orders we recommend a donation of £10 per year.

