



JESMOND RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION



e-Bulletin – Spring 2020

Introduction – Nils Clemmetsen

Welcome to the JRA Spring e-Bulletin. We were planning a paper Newsletter to try and reach parts of the community that our 'Linkmail' and Facebook followers do not reach. However due to the Covid-19 Coronavirus we have decided to send the information out as an e-Bulletin instead. As the copy was assembled before the latest directions on social distancing etc it does include some events that may not happen or are currently on hold.

Aged 16 or over & living in Jesmond? Then you're already a member of the Jesmond Residents Association. The JRA exists to represent, protect and further the interests of the residents of Jesmond. The Association has links with other community groups and promotes their activities, is involved with the Acorn Road Christmas celebrations, the Food market and the Community festival. We also have close links with councillors and council officers as well as the local police. Furthermore, licensing and planning applications are scrutinised, and objections submitted if appropriate.

If you are a student with concerns do, please get in touch as we are keeping an eye on the problems faced in relation to rented housing. We welcome the contribution that students make to Jesmond and are keen to help with the integration of students into the community.

The JRA keeps residents informed by means of our recently refreshed website (jesmondresidents.org), Facebook page and Linkmail (email) and more traditionally through Newsletters (such as this). 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. All communications are sent out BCC so that others on the email list are not aware of your presence.

All this comes at a cost! We therefore suggest that each household donates £10 annually, cheques and cash donations are accepted but it is easier for us and you to donate via our Facebook page or set up a standing order.

We would like to thank the South Jesmond Ward Committee for providing Grant Aid to support the publication and distribution of our newsletter – we hope that we will be able to send out a Newsletter later in the year. The North Jesmond Ward Committee has also provided support for JRA activities by providing funding for the Acorn Road Christmas tree this year.

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



Covid-19 Coronavirus

For residents who feel able to help other residents at this time we suggest you join the COVID-19 Mutual Aid (Jesmond) Facebook Group.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/823117514823281/>

Reducing Anti-Social Behaviour - ASB – George Gibson

Since the start of the 2018/19 academic year Operation Oak has funded Police patrols on Fridays, Saturdays & Wednesdays during term time, with additional patrols at busy times, such as Freshers' weeks & Christmas. Despite the additional patrols there doesn't appear to be an improvement in residents experience of anti-social behaviour (ASB).

In addition to reports from permanent residents, ASB has also been reported by university staff & students who are unable to sleep or study because of noise from partying neighbours.

There is no reason for Jesmond residents to suffer from unacceptable ASB, the police are very responsive, but they can only respond to what is reported. The landlords of Houses in Multiple Occupation HMO's are obliged to prevent ASB, again they can only respond to incidents that are reported.

As JRA we are writing to landlords with repeated incidents of ASB, this appears to be having a positive effect, as landlords do not wish to lose their HMO licence.

If you're experiencing ASB please text Operation Oak on 07504 898148, or ring 101 when Operation Oak is not operating, or if a very serious incident ring 999.

If you need any advice or assistance reporting ASB please email JesmondASB@gmail.com.

Acorn Road Christmas Tree

We have arranged the installation of a Christmas Tree on Acorn Road for three years from 2016. Primarily due to the closure of the Coral betting shop from where the electricity supply for the lights was provided, we were not able to arrange a Christmas Tree last year, however we are planning for a tree this year. The North Jesmond Ward Committee has provided funding to help us do this. In previous years the tree lighting ceremony has been a great success with all parts of the community taking part.

If you would like to help with the Christmas Tree arrangements, please get in touch. It is never too soon.



Keep Jesmond Clean

It's been business as usual for Keep Jesmond Clean. In October 2019, volunteers targeted 15 streets with a high number of HMO's, going door to door to welcome new residents to Jesmond and distributing bin calendars and information about recycling. Surveys in June and December saw volunteers take a walk down the back lanes, reporting incidents of fly-tipping to Envirocall for clearance.

There have been 5 litter picks since Sept 2019 with dates for 3 more to come, alongside the fantastic efforts of Newcastle University Student Union RAG society -- bringing over 80 students out to clear the area from the Great North Road down to Cradlewell on 31st Jan. It's a pleasure to



see that students continue to join in all our litter picks. In 2019/2020 KJC will have supported picks in Sandyford and Brandling Village as well as East and West Jesmond and Jesmond Vale.

Our friends at NUSU/RAG, Go Volunteer, Tesco's, Acorn Hardware, Holy Trinity Church, Star and Shadow Cinema, the British Legion Club and Red Square Design have all helped us build the litter picks into successful community events AND we are now able to equip our youngest volunteers thanks to Jesmond Community Pool and Gym. They have sponsored 30 children's hi-viz vests, which has helped the smaller adults amongst us too!

Broken Glass Hurts Pets and People

The campaign to reduce the amount of broken glass in Jesmond began just before the end of the



academic year (May 2019) with posters and messages in areas of high student population and on message boards in Newcastle University Student Union buildings. You might have seen one of the dog or cat images on banners displayed along

transit routes in and out of Jesmond at Tesco (Acorn Rd), Sainsburys (West Jesmond Metro), Jesmond Community Pool and Gym (St Georges Terrace) and Jesmond Nursery (Osborne Road). KJC has had great support from managers there and from Newcastle University who contributed towards the costs of the banners.

Our aim now is to roll out the campaign at key times of the year when Jesmond is at its busiest so please contact keepjesmondclean@gmail.com if you could help distribute posters or suggest locations for banners in your area.

Plastic free Jesmond and Sandyford – Tony Waterston

Our group is part of Keep Jesmond Clean and was founded in 2019 with the aim of reducing the plastic waste which litters our streets and front gardens, as well as doing untold damage to wild life in the oceans and elsewhere.

We cover Jesmond and Sandyford, using the name that is preferred to South Jesmond by local residents!

Our target initially is cafes and takeaways, and supermarkets. In the former we are seeking the end of single use plastics such as water bottles, coffee cups, straws and cutlery; in supermarkets we would like to see the end of plastic in the fruit and veg department, and targets for replacing plastic packaging with sustainable materials.

Initially, we offered the following 'leaf stars' to businesses with the appropriate level of 'plastic removal' and were impressed by how many aspired to be plastic free –

Cafés and bars

We will re-fill your water bottle.



We offer a discount for customers using re-usable cups.

We don't use plastic straws, cutlery or packaging.

Supermarkets

We use compostable bags in our fruit and vegetable department



We use compostable carrier bags for your shopping.

We use compostable alternatives to plastic packaging.

Contact us at <https://www.facebook.com/PlasticFreeJesmond/> or @KeepJesClean

Overall, 2/3 of cafes in North and South Jesmond participated and showed interest in the awards.

For 2019, the winners for North Jesmond were Cake Stories first, Café 1901 second; for South Jesmond, Little Green first and Harissa Kitchen second. The awards were presented at a special meeting during the Jesmond Festival.

We also held a Plastic Free day at the Start and Shadow cinema in February 2019 organised by Clare Andrews when there was a series of talks and stalls from plastic free businesses, this was well attended and successful.

We have made slower progress with supermarkets owing to the limited action which can be taken by local managers. In Tesco, the manager agreed to our request to replace plastic bags at the fruit and veg department with paper bags (since discontinued, as compostable bags are to be introduced). Waitrose have been very helpful and have shown high aspirations, they were the first local supermarket to remove plastic bags from their tills and they are piloting refill sections in 3 English stores. They were also the first to introduce compostable bags in their fruit and veg department and plan drastic reductions in other plastic packaging over the next year.

Sainsburys have not told us about any changes in prospect though we gather that there is a plastic bottle deposit scheme at the Northumberland street store.

PFJS was awarded a grant of £918 by the Community Foundation as a result of an applications from KJC (Thanks to Anna Pepperall). This has been used on window stickers, engraved vases as

prizes for the awards, reusable coffee cups branded with PFJS, and printing of award flyers. We are very grateful to the Community Foundation for the award.

Currently we are taking applications for the 2020 award which will be for the business which has made the most progress in cutting down on single use plastic in the past year. There is considerable interest mainly from cafes and restaurants and we are pleased to see that there is a new refill shop in Cradlewell (Something New) which is worth a visit!

The awards will be presented at Little Green during the Jesmond Festival on May 12th at 6.30 when there will also be a chance to hear about new plastic free initiatives across Jesmond.

New members are always welcome, just send an email to pfjscampaigns@gmail.com and visit us at

www.facebook.com/PlasticFreeJesmond.



Awards 2020

Has your business cut down on single use plastics in the past year?

You are invited to apply for the Plastic Free Jesmond and Sandyford award 2020

PFJS is a part of Keep Jesmond Clean

Applications to pfjscampaigns@gmail.com by 28th February 2020.

Award to be presented during the Jesmond Community Festival.

Printed on Recycled stock, please recycle after use

**keepJesmond
clean**
local people local action

Glorious Gardens Competition 2020



Do you have a little piece of paradise in front of your house, like these winners from last year?

Is your garden neat and tidy and a credit to the street?

Enter our Glorious Gardens Competition!!

This year we have four categories:

- Pocket gardens (approx. 2.5 x 4 m)
- Larger gardens
- Wildlife-friendly gardens
- Community gardens

Closing date for entries: TBA, Presentation: TBA

Ring Cllr Wendy Young on: 07946 298 983 or

E-mail your name, address and phone number to

Greeningjesmond@hotmail.com

Glorious Garden competition grows greener

Jesmond's annual Glorious Gardens Competition now includes a special wildlife-friendly category. The competition, which is open to all residents, celebrates gardens which help to make our streets greener and more colourful. Categories for entry include pocket and larger gardens as well as community gardens. And in recognition of the efforts made by many residents to care for our natural environment, this year there is a brand new wildlife-friendly category.

Even though the Jesmond Festival has had to be cancelled, a Glorious Gardens competition is still planned. Details are yet to be confirmed but the closing and judging dates will be delayed until later in the summer.

So, if you have a front garden of any size visible from the street, please consider entering the competition! See the poster on the preceding page for contact details.

Gardening and tending to plants has been proven to improve physical and mental health, and we hope that over the next few difficult months people will find some pleasure and hope in their plots, however small. Enforced isolation might be the perfect time to get some fresh air and carry out those jobs in your garden that you have been putting off!

As Audrey Hepburn once said, "To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow"!

Send your name, phone number and address to: greeningjesmond@hotmail.com

The competition is organised by the Glorious Gardens Group, which is part of Keep Jesmond Clean.



Plastic Free – A business perspective - Hannah Evans

I have a lot of sympathy for Peter Pan, in that I don't really want to grow up! I think I would like to live to be at least 500 years old, but I guess I have to be realistic about these things and accept that I'm very unlikely to be around in the year 2520. As co-owner of Cake Stories, I hope people in the year 2520 are still enjoying visiting lovely places to catch up with friends over a cuppa and a cake, of course, and perhaps it will even be in a Cake Stories shop of the future? A girl can dream, can't she? What I really don't like to see in my mind's eye when I imagine the future we're contributing to, though, is all the single-use plastic which is such a common part of our everyday lives and which, horrifyingly, will still be here in 500 years' time! That is not a legacy I expect to be proud of!

I think we've probably all seen recent documentaries and images showing the impact on our relentless production, consumption and careless disposal of plastic on our planet, its ecosystems and wildlife. We did, and so we had to take responsibility for our little corner of the planet and try and make what difference we can. In our coffee shop, we use fully compostable cups, non-plastic straws, paper carrier bags, bamboo take away cutlery and recyclable cardboard packaging for our takeaway and birthday cakes.

OK, ok, I know - Is reducing Cake Stories' plastic consumption going to make a big difference to saving the planet in the grand scheme of things? Alright, possibly not. But how about if everyone reduced their plastic consumption by as much as they could? I'm going to say 'absolutely!! Yes!!! Do it!!!'

Whilst, of course, significant change needs to happen at government and industry level to achieve the speed of change required, we can also each do our part. That's why we try to remain aware of our impact on the planet as our business grows, ensuring our wholesale products are packaged in 100% recyclable materials and are delivered via ZMove - a local zero emissions courier service.

So, whilst in some ways it would be great if the Cake Stories name and experience lasted through the centuries, it really is about so much more than that, so I'd be happy just knowing that we've done something to ensure that future generations will be inhabiting a happy and healthy planet while they enjoy their cakey treat - wherever they get it from.

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Food Market – Currently cancelled but hopefully back soon

Jesmond has many great shops and restaurants for those who like good quality food, but for those new to the area we would really point your attention to the monthly Jesmond Food Market. It's held on Armstrong Bridge over the Dene on the first and third Saturday of the month. To keep up with the latest developments see:

www.facebook.com/jesmondfoodmarket/ or twitter.com/jesfoodmkt?lang=en

The market has around 30 stalls each month, with producers of bread, fruit and vegetables, meats, sweet treats, drinks and cheese. There are some of the region's finest producers offering produce and you will struggle to get better in Newcastle! In addition, there are street food stalls where you can sample the produce from some excellent local restaurants and well as food from



other smaller producers to tempt your taste buds.

The market is a great place to stock up the fridge and freezer for the next few weeks with superb food. Then you can stop for a bite to eat; be it a burger, a wrap, noodles, dumplings, salads, pies, sausages.

So, make sure you note the dates and come along to the next market; I guarantee it'll be a treat!

Streets for People update – Nils Clemmetsen



The Streets for People project aims to help neighbourhoods identify opportunities for making walking, cycling and other sustainable forms of travel easier, safer and more attractive.

Jesmond was one of the areas of the city selected and has been allocated £1million. Following public consultation and the development of plans by an urban designer a number of schemes were selected by local Ward Councillors to progress to formal consultation and delivery.

There was a progress report presented to the North Jesmond Ward Committee Annual Meeting on 24th February 2020 by Graham Grant the Head of Transport Investment. The project has been delayed by other matters such as the requirement to develop proposals for a Clean Air Zone. The schemes are to be delivered from June with the introduction of traffic lights at the junction of North Jesmond Avenue and Osborne Road being one of the first.

For further details: www.streetsforpeople.org.uk/jesmond



Image capture: May 2018 © 2019 Google

Planning and Development and HMO Licensing

Nils Clemmetsen

The JRA continues to take a keen interest in planning matters affecting Jesmond. In particular we maintain our interest in restricting the number of family dwellings being converted into Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) and generally register an objection where a change of use or increase in size is proposed. The council generally refuses new conversions to HMOs and these decisions have been upheld when appeals have been lodged.

From the 6th April 2020 all HMO's in Newcastle will require a licence. Therefore, any property which is occupied by 3 or more people in two or more households with shared basic amenities will require a licence. This means that the licencing of HMO's will be aligned with HMO's in planning terms. The new scheme will see 30 new staff employed across the city to help administer and manage the licences.



Jesmond Library: Update Spring 2020

CURRENTLY SUSPENDED BUT HOPEFULLY BACK SOON

Jesmond Library is a community library, being one of over 500 such libraries in the country. It is housed in a unique grade 2 listed building and is home to a wide range of books which is regularly updated.

We are a voluntary organisation run by Trustees and other volunteers and provide a focal point for the local community. We hold a number of events every week, details of which are on our website. We also offer newspapers and magazines, free Wi-Fi, the People's Network Computers, coffee/tea and a very well-resourced local information area.

Please do call in to see what we have to offer.
You can be sure of a warm welcome.

Regular Events and sessions continue to thrive;

Play Reading, Italian, German, Spanish, English Conversation Classes, Well-being for the over 50's, Poetry appreciation, Art appreciation, IT Drop in sessions, Languages for children, Music and Singing for children, Story and song for Children, Philosophy, Current Affairs Discussion Groups, Yoga, Drama and much, much more.

Thursday talks: 6.00pm – 7.00pm

Information in the library or on the library website.



Please donate to the Library fund

It costs £45,000 each year to keep the library open as a vibrant community venue. We need your help to stay alive - throw us a lifeline!

Please Donate Today!

Volunteer

We are always looking for volunteers to help, whether you can spare a couple of hours a week or a month, everything helps to keep this much valued service open and running.

Call into the library to fill out a form.

Jesmond Library Opening Times:

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

Address St George's Terrace, Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE2 2DL

Telephone 0191 281 2385

Website www.jesmondlibrary.org.uk

Facebook www.facebook.com/JesmondLibrary

Email:

General enquiries: enquiries@jesmondlibrary.org

Room hire and events enquiries: events@jesmondlibrary.org

Donations and subscriptions: finance@jesmondlibrary.org

Volunteer enquiries: volunteers@jesmondlibrary.org

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!

**CURRENTLY SUSPENDED
BUT HOPEFULLY BACK SOON**

Banqueting Hall Update – Eileen Strouzer

James Cross, CEO of Urban Green Newcastle, is heading a steering group consisting of representatives from all the main areas of interest concerning the future restoration and use of the Banqueting Hall. The aim of the group is to share information and develop a plan for the project to go forward. It is a complex project which will take much time to complete. It is, however, important that the building does not decline further and that continued progress is made.

Draft Statement of Significance for the Banqueting Hall

This is to be drawn up with the support of the National Trust, and will capture the evidential, historical, aesthetic and communal significance of the Banqueting Hall. Urban Green will commission appropriate surveys of the building's structure and condition by accredited professionals.

The Spirit of the Place and Experience Design

The future use of the building needs to reflect the ethos of Lord Armstrong's vision and legacy, as well as fitting into the wider essence of Jesmond Dene and surrounding Ouseburn Parks. The National Trust will provide support in drawing together key stakeholders for workshops to explore the Spirit of the Place and the Experience Design. The next meeting of the group is scheduled for the end of March but with the current Covid-19s outbreak this may have to be rescheduled



JRA Committee 2019/20

Chair: Kathleen Cunningham (Licensing) chair@jesmondresidents.org

Vice-Chair: Vacant

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

Treasurer: David Etchells treasurer@jesmondresidents.org

Jeannie Davison

Hannah Evans

George Gibson (ASB)

Alan Grant (Noticeboard)

Sarah Kettle

David Houpt (Linkmail)

You can contact the JRA via: secretary@jesmondresidents.org