
JRA Newsletter – Autumn 2017

Welcome to Students - Andrew Stark

As a Jesmond Community Rep for Newcastle University Student's Union and a representative of Newcastle University on the JRA committee I would like to welcome all the new students to the Jesmond area and hope you have a fantastic year in the wonderful community that is Jesmond. I would also like to encourage all residents to get to know the students living as their neighbours and build positive relationships that can help to make Jesmond a more unified and happier place for all.

There are many great activities and groups for students to get involved in throughout Jesmond such as litter picks organised by Keep Jesmond Clean, weekly talks at Jesmond library or the monthly food market. By taking part in what Jesmond has to offer students can find out what a thriving community Jesmond is and appreciate where they live.

The Leave Newcastle Happy campaign that happened last academic year was a massive success. Students were encouraged to fill bags for the British Heart

Foundation with unwanted items as they moved out of their homes for donation. A total of 5119 bags have been collected so far and although there is not a final monetary figure just yet, this is a brilliant achievement by students to create a positive impact on the community and donate to a great charity. The success of this campaign will be carried on in this academic year with hopefully further success.

If any students want to find out ways they can get involved in their community then please email me for more details at A.Stark1@ncl.ac.uk.

**Introduction**

Every year the Jesmond Residents' Association (JRA) sends this newsletter to every resident in Jesmond in order to make contact, inform you of some JRA activities and invite you to join linkmail so that you can receive all Jesmond news by email. (*See details below*). Your email address will not be disclosed and you will no longer be ignorant of all the amazing things that go on in Jesmond!

In this issue we cover some key planning issues, an update on Jesmond library, news of the wonderful Jesmond Food market, and a forward look on street planning in the exciting *Streets for People* programme offered by the Council. The JRA is also involved with improving the gardens of Jesmond, organised many events at the remarkable Jesmond Festival, and assists residents on matters from pub noise to pavement parking and licensing limits. Check out our website www.jesmondresidents.org.

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.

Nils Clemmetsen - Secretary

**JRA Communications Strategy**

Over the coming weeks JRA committee member Paul Easton will review our communications strategy. This will involve a review of our website, social media and public relations. Our aim is to extend the JRA message into more of the diverse communities that make up Jesmond and to make it easier for residents to offer feedback. Please write in with your views.



Sanderson Road Street Party – see page 2



The consultation period for the final designs for the Streets for People programme started on 16th October and will last for six weeks – please take the chance to examine these carefully and make your comments at

www.streetsforpeople.org.uk/jesmond

The aim of Streets for People is to make our streets easier to get around on foot, by bike and using public transport. We are seeing more and more traffic congestion locally both in residential streets and around our primary and secondary schools. This is bad for health as it causes air pollution, contributes to obesity and can lead to road traffic accidents; it is also bad for the environment. We know that cycling and walking more will benefit everyone and in most urban spaces is no slower than driving, yet the presence of heavy traffic makes these transport modes much less pleasant and discouraging to older people and children.



Seven local areas have been selected in Jesmond (there are others in Heaton, Ouseburn and Fenham and Arthur's Hill).

Based on the experiences, insights and ideas collected in last year's survey about what it's like getting around in Jesmond, your local Streets for People Reference Group have worked with an Urban Designer to come up with a set of proposals to address the issues that were raised last year. We are calling this our Neighbourhood Plan.

Streets for People will reclaim our residential streets as has been done in many other cities in Britain and especially across Europe. This will happen through curbing rat running, closing some roads to through traffic, adding protected cycle lanes and improving junctions to make them easier for cyclists. There will also be more cycle parking and street greening with

flowers and shrubs, as well as pavement improvements to benefit pedestrians.

Be sure to complete the survey especially if you live in one of the areas affected: Forsyth Road, around West Jesmond School, St Georges Terrace, Moorfield and High West Jesmond, Holly Avenue and Haldane Terrace, Springbank Rd and Ouseburn Rd, and Selbourne Gardens to Greystoke Gardens.

Tony Waterston

Sanderson Road Street Party **Kathleen Cunningham & Sarah Kettle**

On 24th September, the street community were out in force in Sanderson Rd with bikes, balls, balloons and banners; as well as table tennis tables, tipples and nibbles. TV crews, journalists and Councillors came to join in and record the fun. The aim of the party was to allow children to play out – something that is rare in today's motorised world.

The best part was seeing groups of people who had never met each other or who would normally not talk to each other chatting away. A camera crew came to film a documentary about the health and well-being of people who live in Newcastle for the BBC. The crew continued to interview people at the party and film footage of children playing in the street throughout the day.

Could streets in the future become places for children to play out? This is definitely something on the council's agenda and they are keen to push this forward.

Please write to the JRA for support if you would like your street to be a play street.





Christmas Events

This Christmas there will again be a Christmas tree in Acorn Road, thanks to the generosity of North Jesmond councillors and the assistance of local residents and in particular, Acorn Hardware's Steve Robson. Last year our tree was donated by local resident Ian Watson and we also organized a street

closure and local market in Acorn Road – something we hope will happen again with rather more stalls another year. 2017 will be more modest but there will be participation from most of the shops and there will be a competition for the best dressed window.

We expect the tree to be beautifully lighted again and there will be a lighting up ceremony on Thursday 7th December at 4.30 pm, followed by Christmas carols at the tree.

The JRA is seeking donations towards the lighting of the tree and we are hoping to build up a fund to allow the whole street to be lit up at Christmas in future.

Do please write to the JRA if you have any suggestions about how to make Acorn Road (and other Jesmond shopping streets) more festive –

jesmond@jesmondresidents.co.uk.

Tony Waterston

Licensing

Over the last few years there has been little change in licensed premises in Jesmond. There is a steady stream of attempts to extend operating hours to premises on Osborne Road, all of which have been refused to date.

The recent trend for craft breweries and micro pubs is now reaching Jesmond. There have been two recent applications to open micro pubs, one on Brentwood Avenue and the other on Jesmond Road in Cradlewell.

I am liaising with the council regarding improving ease of access to the licensing portal.

My aim is to make finding out about new licensing applications as simple as possible. The JRA is also looking at ways to improve our communication regarding licensing. If you have any suggestions or questions regarding licensing applications and their status, you can contact me directly kathyc09@yahoo.co.uk.

Furthermore, if you would like to get more actively involved with this issue, please get in touch with me. Together we can build a better community.

Kathleen Cunningham Licensing Officer for the JRA



Jesmond Library: Update Autumn 2017 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, free WiFi and the People's Network Computers.

A New Chapter at Jesmond Library

The Building works at Jesmond Library are almost complete, just new window frames to go in the room upstairs.

The second floor community room has been refurbished, as have the upstairs toilets. The open sided staircase now has glass panels, creating safe access to the upstairs and the back entrance has improved flooring.

Now the first floor of the library can be brought back into public use for the first time since the Friends took it over.

The new space will mean we can host even more events for all sections of the local community, and this in turn will produce extra income to help the Library remain open and self-sufficient.

A New Room – A New Name The refurbished room upstairs now needs a name. Can you think of one?

Pop into the library and put your suggestion in the box!

Regular Events

Regular sessions continue to thrive – Mindfulness, Camera Club, Story Telling, Play Reading, Community Singing, Holiday Activities for Children, Italian, Greek, German, Spanish, French and Mandarin Conversation Classes, Well-being for 50plus and Current Affairs Discussion Groups.

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 and take place regularly.

Further details of opening times and events see www.jesmondlibrary.co.uk

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!

Planning and Development

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.

It has been a relatively quiet year in planning terms in Jesmond.

There was a new application to convert the ground floor flat into a café at 68 Saint Georges Terrace – across the back lane from the back of Tesco's. The application was again refused with this decision being upheld on appeal.

Jesmond Vale

I assisted residents opposing the wooden extension to the Bluebell Pub. The application was granted, but there were some significant conditions added by the Planning Committee.

There was an application to redevelop the former Northern Sinfonia building. Concerns are the height of the building; traffic associated with the proposed nursery usage and reduced width of the path along the Ouseburn. This application was refused however the applicants have appealed.



JRA Committee 2017-2018

Elected at the AGM on 6th September 2017

Chair – Tony Waterston

Treasurer – David Etchells

Secretary – Nils Clemmetsen

David Houpt

Dorothy Fellows

Kathy Cunningham (Licensing)

Matthew Allsop

Paul Easton

Prem Khanna

Roger Loxley

Sarah Kettle

Dawn Dunn (Co-opted) Tidy Gardens

Andrew Stark (Newcastle University rep)

Tally Kerr (Northumbria University rep)

Food Market - Roger Loxley

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. The next markets will be on Saturday 18th November and Saturday 16th December which will be our Christmas Market.

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!



Funding of the JRA

The JRA operates on a voluntary basis; however costs such as newsletter production and venue hire are unavoidable. If you would like to make a donation by cash or cheque this can be sent to the secretary. Alternatively you may wish to set up a standing order; forms are available from the secretary. The suggested household annual donation is £10.

Contact the JRA via

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