

What rocks Jesmond?

Tony Waterston

Every year, the Jesmond Residents' Association publishes a newsletter which is circulated to every address in Jesmond, North and South. The JRA has a membership which includes everyone who lives in Jesmond and this is our chance to be in touch with you. If you have concerns about your area then please get in touch. And if you want to hear all Jesmond's essential news – planning, events, controversy – then please join our email network Linkmail. See details on the back page.

During 2015, has Jesmond been rocked with controversy? Only by matters which are of importance to all urban communities: street design, parking, rubbish, the state of gardens and student parties. In addition to our involvement in planning and consultation the JRA has in the last year set up with others a monthly food market on Armstrong Bridge which is proving to be a firm favourite for local residents. We have also mounted a number of events in the successful Jesmond Community Festival which is held in May. One of our themes this year has been **Jesmond in 2025**, and we have had several meetings on this topic with speakers of all ages from primary school children through teenagers and students to the elderly. If you have any ideas on this topic please write to me – the JRA plans to pull together the ideas and subject them to debate in the autumn.

We are also joining with the City Council to carry out a review of the Acorn Rd consultation which was conducted back in November last year and which highlighted significant areas of disagreement between different groups in the community. We hope to be able to present the results of this review at the AGM, together with suggestions of how to carry out such consultations in future.

Communal Bins

A further controversy in 2014-15 has been over the roll out of communal bins as an alternative to individual household bins.

Strong views are expressed against communal bins in some parts of Jesmond and it is important that residents are adequately consulted.

You can see the City Council approach to this on their website:

<http://www.newcastle.gov.uk/environment-and-waste/rubbish-waste-and-recycling/communal-bins>

'In 2013 we trialed communal bins in areas of South Jesmond and found that the bins were well used and have made an improvement to the condition of the back lanes. Because of this, and after speaking to local people, we are currently running an extended trial in Sandyford. We will soon be reviewing this trial area to see what impact the new arrangement has had. What we learn during this time will help shape our proposals to introduce communal bins in other areas of Newcastle that have similar problems in back lanes.'

Clearly, objective evidence is desirable. In the meantime, the JRA favours taking a simple majority opinion (with each household having one vote) on the bins rather than just the third suggested by the City Council.

However Councillors have told us that they can recommend exemption of specific streets and also that they will accept the views of local residents' associations on whether or not the bins should be introduced.

Jesmond Library : Update June 2015

Sarah Breakey

We are very pleased to report the continuing success of Jesmond Library which is organised and operated by volunteers. It continues to be a thriving, welcoming and diverse Community Hub, as well as a Public Library offering books, newspapers and the People's Network Computers.

Regular Events and Thursday Talks – run by volunteers in aid of the Library

Regular sessions continue to thrive – Mindfulness, Camera Club, Story Telling, Play Reading, Community Singing, Art Classes, Coffee and Conversation, Wellbeing etc. The Thursday Talks from 6.00pm – 7.00pm cover a wide range of topics:

Remember the 33 Trolley Bus; Other Newcastles around the World; Jesmond 2025 – A Students View; A Place Quite Northward.

If you have ideas for other activities please get in touch: events@jesmondlibrary.co.uk

Special Events

The Library provides a very flexible space, conveniently located in the heart of Jesmond. During the Jesmond Community Festival the Library hosted Music, Singing, Dancing, Flower Arranging, Book Sales, Talent Shows, Talks and Discussions. If you need a room for your group you can hire the Catherine Cookson room for £10 per hour. If you are looking for a larger room, the main room can be hired for £20 per hour. New chairs, tables and display boards arriving shortly! Contact: events@jesmondlibrary.co.uk



Children's Section, Jesmond Library

Children at the Library

Jesmond Library's Children's area is an inviting and 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. Look out for the activities which take place during the school holidays – we have just had Starry Suzanne reading Cinderella.

Can you give a donation?

Our Library survives because of your kind donations. If you want to donate and/or become a member please pick up the leaflets from the Library or visit our website.

Take a few leaflets and pass them onto your friends!

Would you like to be a Volunteer?

We are very proud of our committee 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.

Contact: enquiries@jesmondlibrary.co.uk

Opening Times:

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

The JRA AGM

will be held at the

Jesmond United Reform Church

on Thur 10 September at 7pm

All Jesmond residents are welcome

Planning and Development

Nils Clemmetsen

The JRA continues to take a keen interest in planning matters affecting Jesmond. In particular we main 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 JRA will try to assist residents with planning matters where appropriate.

Current Planning Applications of note are:

- The Tyne & Wear Building Preservation Trust has submitted a planning application to carry out a refurbishment and conversion of the existing Banqueting Hall on Jesmond Dene Road to a reception hall and community space, erection of 3 storey extension to north elevation to provide artist's studios and 4 self-contained apartments (Class C3) including the provision of 14 car parking spaces, cycle storage, refuse storage and soft landscaping. The JRA has not taken a position on the application, the current status is that there is a recommendation from Historic England (used to be covered by English Heritage) that the application should be refused because a case for enabling development affecting a listed building has not been made.
- PizzaExpress on Osborne Road have applied for permission for an external dining area. They received a temporary permission for one year last year, but did not implement the scheme. They have applied again trying to make the case that there should be no time restriction. The JRA have taken the view that due to the previous history of the site that a one year temporary permission is appropriate to see how it goes before a permanent permission is sought.
- There is currently a proposal to use the former Military Vehicle museum in Exhibition Park as a brewery. The present Wylam Brewery at Heddon on the Wall would be closed and its operations relocated to Exhibition Park.

The JRA is opposing this proposal.



Proposed site of brewery in Exhibition Park

There have been some significant developments that have been determined during the last year. These include the following where permission was granted:

- Redevelopment of former Church High School on Tankerville Terrace for Newcastle High School for Girls
- Redevelopment of Fleming Nuffield site on Burdon Terrace as a Care Home and Children's Day Nursery



Burdon Terrace – proposed Care Home

There have been two applications to convert residential properties near Acorn Road into cafes and a further application to convert the former News Agent/General Store next to Haldane Court on Osborne Road into a hot food take away. Permission for these applications was refused.

JRA COMMITTEE Summer 2015

Chair – Tony Waterston
Vice Chair – Ian Nelson
Treasurer – David Etchells
Secretary – Ron Armstrong
Sarah Breakey
Annabelle Coakley
Nils Clemmetsen
Roger Loxley
Andrew Todd
Crispin Welby

Lead members on different issues:
Planning - Nils Clemmetsen
Licensing – Ron Armstrong
Jesmond Library - Sarah Breakey

Contact the JRA via

EITHER

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Tel: 0191 2812923

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Food Market on Armstrong Bridge

Roger Loxley

For those who live in or near Jesmond there's a folk memory of the craft market that used to take place on Armstrong Bridge every Sunday. The market closed many years ago after it had dwindled to a few similar stalls selling paintings and photos of various Newcastle and North East sights. But there has not been a market on the bridge for ages: until April 18th. This was the date of the first Jesmond Food Market.

We were lucky that first week, the weather had been glorious in the preceding days and it remained so on the Saturday. With blazing sun and little wind the augers had clearly done their best to ensure the conditions were right for our first market.

The second market, on 16th May was in slightly more testing conditions. Still with sunshine but a sharp shower or two and a stiff breeze tested the mettle of both stallholders and shoppers. But neither's spirit was dampened and the bridge was as busy, if not busier, than the first market. We'd gone with more stalls for May, with more bread, fresh meat, more vegetables whilst retaining the popular street food stalls that provided immediate sustenance to visitors.

We have been snowed under with requests from suppliers to have a stall and there's no way we can take everyone who wants to sell stuff. So, we will have to be careful whom we select and will try to ensure that the market remains very foodie, with variety, seasonally biased, healthy, environmentally sensitive and as local as we can get. That probably means that each market will be slightly different, which is a good thing really.

We can't guarantee the weather, of course, but it would be nice to think we could. But we can control the produce and I hope that future markets will be as successful as the first two. They will be on the third Saturday of each month, from 10am until 3pm. The next market is on 20th of June.

If the first two are anything to go by, the Jesmond Food Market will become a permanent feature of Jesmond.

Traffic changes - Brandling Village Area

Ron Armstrong

The City Council has now published a second set of proposals which encompass a much larger part of the area. These new proposals take into account the responses to the original proposals. They include:

- improving pedestrian crossing facilities particularly on Clayton Road and in the vicinity of the schools;
- introducing some one way streets (on Eslington Terrace, Eskdale Terrace, Lambton Road and part of Brandling Park Road) that will manage the school traffic significantly better;
- introducing parking facilities for buses close to the schools; and
- introducing a cycle lane on Eslington Terrace and cycling facilities on other streets.

The general response to these new proposals has been quite favourable.