

## JRA Newsletter – Summer 2016

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### Introduction - Tony Waterston (Chair of Jesmond Residents Association)

Every summer 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](http://www.jesmondresidents.org) and offer your comments and feedback on the forum on the website. 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.

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### Streets for People (S4P) - Tony Waterston

For most people who live in cities, the car is of huge benefit and convenience in getting from one place to another quickly and particularly in transporting children and heavy loads. However cars, vans and lorries bring their own problems and the toxic effects of poor air quality resulting from exhaust fumes (particularly diesel) have been well publicised in recent months. As a paediatrician I am proud that my professional body the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health has published a report with the Royal College of Physicians on the effects of air pollution on children which states that 40,000 deaths a year are attributable to exposure to outdoor air pollution.

The report can be found here:

<https://www.rcplondon.ac.uk/projects/outputs/every-breath-we-take-lifelong-impact-air-pollution>

S4P is aimed at making it easier for people of all ages to get around Jesmond more easily on foot, by bicycle and using public transport. It is NOT intended to push cycling but to make the residential streets more pleasant for all users as this picture (column opposite) of a street trial in Waltham Forest shows

The first part of the programme was a consultation using the interactive website Commonplace, on which 467 people left their comments. The top five comments asked for slower traffic, less traffic, safer crossings, segregated cycle lanes and removal of through traffic from residential streets. There were a number of 'hot spots' identified where problems are significant:

including Forsyth Rd, the junction of Osborne Rd and Jesmond Dene Rd, and the Osborne Rd/Haldane bridge junction. There are also a number of streets through residential areas which are seen by residents as 'rat runs'.



Soon Councillors and members of the local reference group (which includes the JRA) will pay a visit to Waltham Forest where the programme has been up and running for several years.

<http://www.enjoywalthamforest.co.uk>

The JRA will be working to make sure that all interested residents have a chance to take part in the designs that come out of the consultation, and contribute their ideas about the streets they know best. Please be in touch if you would like to be more closely involved in this exciting programme.

## Jesmond Library : Update Spring 2016 - Sarah Breakey

We are very pleased to report the continuing success of Jesmond Library which is organised and operated by volunteers. It has become 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, Holiday Activities for Children, Italian, Greek, Spanish and French Conversation Classes, Technology 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 are taking place throughout June.

### Jesmond Community Festival

Jesmond Library hosted a number of diverse and wonderful events for the Festival. Singing, Dancing, Flower Arranging, Music, Teddy Bear Tea Parties, Talent Shows, Talks and Discussions, to name but a few. There was standing room only at many of the music events – which created a very enjoyable atmosphere. See photo.

All were extremely successful and popular with a wide range of permanent residents and students.

As always the Teddy Bear Trail proved a big hit and if you did not manage to find them all, there is a map in the Library showing their locations.

### Jesmond Creative Writing Competition Launch – Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> July 12noon – 1.00pm

Come along and get inspired to put pen to paper and write a masterpiece! Everyone welcome.

### New Books

In just over 2 and a half years the friends have added over 600 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! The selection is extensive to suit all ages and interests.

### Would you like to be a Volunteer?

We are very proud of our dedicated team of volunteers. Without their support and commitment the Library would not be the success it is. If you can spare any time at all – please consider becoming a volunteer – It is a rewarding and enjoyable experience. Come into the library or visit the website to sign up 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. Remember every holiday we have a dedicated session of craft activities run by the volunteers.

### 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. The displays in the children's area demonstrate some wonderful work by the children on Roald Dahl.

### Coming Soon

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

### 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](http://www.jesmondlibrary.co.uk)

**Facebook** [www.facebook.com/JesmondLibrary](https://www.facebook.com/JesmondLibrary)

**Email** [enquiries@jesmondlibrary.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@jesmondlibrary.co.uk)

for general enquiries and volunteering

**Email** [events@jesmondlibrary.co.uk](mailto:events@jesmondlibrary.co.uk)

for courses/events/room bookings

**Email** [finance@jesmondlibrary.co.uk](mailto: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!**



## 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.

### Acorn Road Area

There have been a number of planning applications relating to commercial activities in and around Acorn Road. Following the improvement works, Greggs and the next door premises, the 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 to 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.

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

A) 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.

B) 68 Saint Georges Terrace – across the back lane from the back of Tesco's. This application was also refused.

### Planning Applications of General Interest:

\*Permission was granted to convert the former Military Vehicles Museum in Exhibition Park into a brewery and venue for events. This is now operational. There have been concerns raised on the impact on the park and we are watching this.

\*Permission was granted for the installation of an all-weather playing field surface on Intake Area 10 of the Town Moor for Newcastle High School for Girls.

\*46 Osborne Road – This is the run down property next to the City Retreat Salon and Spa. Planning permission was granted for a development of a café/restaurant at ground floor and HMO residential units. We are hoping that work will start on this soon.

\*The plans for the Banqueting Hall on Jesmond Dene Road continue to develop. Revised plans were submitted in February. The proposals include refurbishment of the existing banqueting hall to community space and the erection of a 3 storey extension to provide artist's studios and 4 self-contained apartments. Historic England have responded by stating that the new build element should be tied in to the restoration of the Hall



The Banqueting Hall in its heyday

## Food Market - Roger Loxley



The monthly Jesmond Food Market continues to go from strength to strength. The market celebrated its first birthday in April with a market that broke our attendance records! In fact, the May market then did the same with record numbers attending. Its function is to provide a place where people can shop for a week or just get lunch and we think it fulfils that well.

The range of stalls has settled and now provides just under 30 stalls at each market with no more than 20% offering hot food to take away. There are three regular bakers, two fruit and vegetable stalls and three butchers together providing the basic necessities.

These are augmented by a range of other stalls offering everything from charcuterie to fresh juice (made from supermarket discards) and coffee to sweet treats. Stallholders are finding that they are getting plenty of repeat customers arriving with shopping lists and expectations of what they are going to buy. So much so that we have started selling our own shopping bags; very much the in-thing this season.

The market has very much become a fixture of the Jesmond landscape now - long may it continue to do so! The summer markets are on July 16th and August 20th – all on Armstrong Bridge.

**The JRA AGM will be held at the  
Jesmond Cricket Ground  
on Wed 14 September at 7pm**

New JRA Committee members  
will be elected at the AGM  
Contact Ron Armstrong if you are interested

## 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.

## JRA Committee Summer 2016

Chair – Tony Waterston  
Vice Chair – Ian Nelson  
Treasurer – David Etchells  
Secretary – Ron Armstrong  
Sarah Breakey  
Nils Clemmetsen  
Prem Khanna  
Roger Loxley  
Claire Penn  
Crispin Welby  
Carolyn Wood

## Lead members on different issues:

Planning - Nils Clemmetsen  
Licensing – Ron Armstrong  
Jesmond Library - Sarah Breakey  
Website – Ian Nelson

## Contact the JRA via EITHER

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Tel: 0191 2812923

## OR

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