

Friends of Jesmond Dene Newsletter

Spring 2015

Number 75

Reg Charity no: 702260 Web Site Address: <http://www.jesmondDene.org.uk>

**Postal address: 'Friends of Jesmond Dene', c/o Ouseburn Parks' Visitor Centre, Red Walk, Jesmond Dene, Newcastle,
NE7 7BQ.**

Editorial

We hope that you find this edition of the Friends of Jesmond Dene newsletter interesting and entertaining. The A.G.M. will be held at 14.00 hrs on May 17th at the Visitor Centre, Jesmond Dene.

Contents Inside:-

AGM
Administration and Membership Information
Adopt a Plot Scheme
Environmental Education Update
Halloween Event 2014
Pets Corner
Memories of the Banqueting Hall and Jesmond Dene
Big Garden Bird Watch Event in Ouseburn Parks, 2015
Volunteer Rangers Blog
The Geology of Jesmond Dene a Burning Question
Volunteer Rangers Guided Heritage Walks
Forthcoming Events

Newsletter Editorial Team

Words from the Chairperson

On behalf of all the committee members of the Friends of Jesmond Dene, and the Volunteer Rangers thank you to all the people who have made donations via annual subscriptions to the FOJD for the conservation and upkeep of the Dene. This includes a generous donation of £1000 from the RFF Gibson Trust as well as numerous other donations from our 'Friends'.

We were very sorry to hear that Robert Wooster passed away during December 2014. Robert was Chairman and a loyal supporter of the FOJD for many, many years. We will all miss him.

Clive Gerrard Chair FOJD and Volunteer Ranger

Annual General Meeting.

This will be held on Sunday 17th May at 14:00hrs, in the Visitor Centre, Jesmond Dene. There will be displays open to members of the General Public on the 16th May, 10.00am – 15.00 and the morning of 17th May. Our aims of the open day are to keep the interest of all current FOJD but, also to attract new members. The open days will include items from the archive collection, information about the FOJD, the new Adopt-a-Plot- scheme, and all the activities/opportunities in which FOJD and Volunteers can take part. After the AGM, the FOJD can take time to look at all the displays and if they wish come on a short guided walk with one of the Volunteer Rangers. The AGM will start with a presentation to the winners of the children's photo competition – please see posters around Jesmond Dene.

Administering the FOJD

The two big tasks in administering the FOJD – producing and distributing the newsletters and managing membership subscriptions – have now been modernised. The Newsletter is available online and the Friends' website is the primary news source for both members and the general public.

Printed copies of newsletters are still available for collection at the Ouseburn Parks' Visitor Centre, but we hope all members will now take advantage of our upgraded website for their Dene updates.

These changes are necessary for the Friends to continue and to expand its scope. If you still have concerns or suggestions, or could help with this changeover, please contact us using the form on the website at http://www.jesmonddene.org.uk/?page_id=2 or write to us at Friends of Jesmond Dene - Newsletter Feedback C/O Ouseburn Parks' Visitor Centre, Red Walk, Jesmond Dene, Newcastle NE7 7BQ.

Membership Subscription

Membership subscriptions for the year 2015 were due in January and are set at a flat rate of £5 p.a. for households. Everyone should now have been moved onto an annual bank Standing Order for these payments, but if not would you please ask your own bank to help set this up or the Membership Secretary if you need help or advice on how to do this - contact **Keith Pringle**, FOJD at the address on the last page of this newsletter.

Details you will need to set up the standing order are the bank details for the Friends bank - The Sort Code / Account Number you will need are **30 93 55 / 01464356**. Would you also please ask them to assign a payment reference of your own full name (forename and surname) so that we can correctly identify your payment.

Adopt-A-Plot Scheme

In the last newsletter Ann Denton FOHAP wrote about the Friends of Heaton & Armstrong Parks “**Adopt- a – Plot**” scheme. The FOJD are implementing this type of volunteer contribution into Jesmond Dene, alongside the regular volunteer sessions. Families or individuals, who are unable to attend the supervised volunteer sessions can still help look after a small piece of the Dene, at a time to suit them. For example, collecting litter from the old mill or, perhaps keeping a particular flight of steps free of leaves and debris, or even looking after a flower bed. Anyone wanting to find out more please contact Sarah on 0191 2650564 or email sarah.capes@newcastle.gov.uk

Environmental Education Update

Although schools now visit Jesmond Dene throughout the year, the busy season will certainly be arriving soon and I am making sure I have resources ready for when it really picks up. Last year, roughly 3000 pupils from over 60 schools visited Jesmond Dene and took part in Environmental Education workshops. The majority of visits are from Primary schools, but we also have Nurseries and Secondary school visits. One of my favourite sessions to lead and a popular one with schools is the 'Billy Goats Gruff' session. This includes making a magic potion to ward off the troll; trip trapping across our very own troll bridge and meeting the goats in Pets' corner.

Although it is often difficult for Secondary schools to come on visits, we are currently working with a group from Heaton Manor School, who will hopefully continue to visit us weekly for the rest of the school year. They are working with the Rangers, Pets' corner staff and I on a variety of activities, such as feeding animals, light gardening duties, bird box making and minibeast hunting.

The youngest visitors I work with are those that attend the monthly Tree Tots sessions. This is our regular toddler group where we aim to get outside in all weathers. Each month is based on a different story or theme and our little visitors love all things messy, with mud painting being a favourite activity!

I also really enjoy working with adults and have continued supporting our fantastic guided walk volunteers. This group were busy last year with public and group walks with a selection of these walks running this year. Please see the event details for information.

Another area that is about to get busy is our bees! And you will likely see volunteers and staff up on the Visitor Centre roof again soon checking up on the hives. We will hopefully be delivering another talk about our beekeeping this year.

There are also great opportunities for teacher training and I have been involved with a variety of projects to develop this further for trainee and qualified teachers. In May, I and the Rangers will be hosting a full day for 80 Northumbria University students. This gives them a taster of the benefits and of outdoor learning and information about resources available.

The Nature Area is always a fantastic space to use for Environmental Education and it was great to introduce it to local teachers last year, giving them ideas and information about how they could use it with their classes. So Jesmond Dene will be busy with groups of all ages this year.

Becca Smith Education Officer

Halloween in Jesmond Dene

The Halloween events 2014 proved as popular as in previous years and were held on two separate nights. We had fun carving pumpkins and then went out for a “spooky” walk around the Dene. Along with all the spooky sights (including skeletons and spiders!) we collected secret, hidden alphabet letters as we walked through the woods.



We found a witch in the woods; she invited us in to her lair and told us all about scary Bogus Boo. From the alphabet letters we had collected in the Dene, we helped her remember a missing word from a magical chant to frighten him away.

We left her and chanted all the way back to the visitor centre, where we tried pumpkin soup and had hot chocolate with marshmallows.

Jo Ritzema Volunteer Ranger



The new Pets Corner Keeper

I say new pets corner keeper but that's a bit of a stretch...let us say the person who replaced Billy. My name is Ken Watson former Ranger at Newburn.

We have a variety of volunteers working at Pets' Corner. The first volunteers I started working with came from Kirkley Hall College. Students study animal management and need 300 hours experience to complete and pass their course. We started with two students a day which ensured they had plenty of hands on experience with a range of animals.

Finding the volunteers was easy; I must say too easy at times! In 2014 we had 24 different volunteers and 12 work experience placements. Also in September 2014, a class of up to 15 students from Askham Bryan College started attending every Monday during term time for practical experience with animals.

Having a variety of animals has been important for the students and visitors. This has been challenging at times but we have built up some good partnerships with farms and other animal establishments. We often borrow animals for short periods of time such as pigs, which are always popular with the public. We are still looking at possibilities to borrow some smaller animals.

Some staff help finally arrived in the shape of Hazel Bell who works part time and on my days off. Hazel has a wealth of knowledge with being a former student at Kirkley Hall. She has previously worked with horses and at a dog grooming business. She also has experience working with children, in her previous role with the council in the children's and young people section, a valuable attribute at Pets' Corner.

We have continued to develop since the Lottery funded refurbishment, such as improvements and changes to animal enclosures. We have acquired a pet shop licence, which was suggested by animal health, allowing us to sell any surplus stock.

This is where we are at, at the moment but things are always changing. We are currently working with Kirkley Hall, investigating any additional animals we can house in Pets' Corner and discussing with a local shop, 'Dragons Den' the possibility of reptiles, so watch this space!

Ken Watson Pets Corner Keeper Jesmond Dene

JESMOND DENE ARCHIVES

Over the years, the Friends of Jesmond Dene have collected quite a store of archive material which is kept in the Visitor Centre in the Dene. There is a wealth of written information, slides and photographs, both old and new. Tom Hope, a previous member of staff has been helping to sort and catalogue the material.

We would very much like to make this more easily available to the public, maybe by putting on a show in the Centre, but also by eventually putting everything on-line where it would be accessible to all. The FOJD Committee have purchased a scanner with this in mind so that we can begin to go through all the boxes and make the information more available.

Whenever we talk to members of the public, people come up with memories of the Dene & surrounding Parks that add to the history of the area. If you have any visual records you could share with us, or stories from 10, 30 or even 50 years ago, we would love to hear from you.

- Did you ever visit the Banqueting Hall when it was still roofed?
- Do you remember the maypole by the pavilion near the waterfall?
- Do you know of relatives getting tea or ice cream from Deep Dene House (now the Fisherman's Lodge)?

You can contact us and/or send your memories for possible inclusion in the Newsletter : - **c/o FOJD Archives Project', Ouseburn Parks Visitor Centre, Millfield House, Jesmond Dene**

For more information on Jesmond Dene you might like to look at the following

Friends of Jesmond Dene http://www.jesmondDene.org.uk
Volunteer Rangers Old Mill Project http://www.jesmonddeneoldmill.org.uk/
Volunteer Rangers Nature Area Project http://www.jesmonddenenaturearea.org.uk/
'Autumn' video by FOJD film Group on YouTube http://youtu.be/NDIGg4Bib_g

Lord Armstrong's Legacy

Lord William Armstrong and at a later date Sir Andrew Noble and his family willed land in Jesmond Dene, and Heaton and Armstrong Parks to the people of Newcastle 'in perpetuity'. Part of the Armstrong Legacy includes the Banqueting Hall. This was opened in 1862 built by one of the most notable and prestigious Newcastle Architects John Dobson. Ten years later in 1870 the Gatehouse was added at the top designed by another famous architect Norman Shaw who went on to help Lord Armstrong design and build Cragside; the first house in the world to be powered using hydroelectricity.

People walking past the Banqueting Hall now will see that this grade II listed building is in a ruinous state and is missing a roof. But, it wasn't too long ago that it was used for leisure purposes in the way that Lord Armstrong intended, as demonstrated in the following article.

Memories of the Banqueting Hall

I remember visiting the Banqueting Hall in Jesmond Dene in 1965. At the time the Hall could be hired for functions and someone (I can't remember who) had arranged a dance and sold tickets. I and a group of friends decided to go, arriving by bus. In our ignorance we tramped through the Dene, in the dark, crossing two foot-bridges, rather than walking along Jesmond Dene Road. Having gained entrance, we descended the staircase to the main hall (now roofless). It was a bit like entering a medieval castle and going down to the dungeons. There was a local 60s 'pop group' playing and I remember the room being well lit and attractively decorated. The dance was well attended and, it being the 60s, the young men all wore jackets with collars and ties. There was a bar in the corner selling alcoholic beverages (much appreciated) and, all together, we enjoyed a very good night. I remember coming up the stairs with some girls who promptly went off and left us, but I've no idea how we got home to Gateshead. This was in the time before mobile phones and ubiquitous taxis.

Dave Poste FOJD and Volunteer Ranger



Banqueting Hall on 17th January 2015

Memories of Jesmond Dene

Mrs. Jean Baty a FOJD as well as the President of Jesmond Residents Association (JRA) has a lifetime of positive memories of Jesmond Dene and shares some of her thoughts with us. She writes:-

‘The idea of the Friends of Jesmond Dene originally came from us (JRA) many years ago and our then Chairman for many years Don Maguire, set it up. The Dene is such an asset to Newcastle, known world-wide, and we were concerned about its neglect. It took a lot of hard work and lobbying to obtain action to restore it but it has all been worthwhile.

Going back in time, I spent a great deal of my teens in The Dene, mainly 1943-48, as I lived close by in those days and I loved to explore all the paths and find new nooks and crannies. I used to take my books and study for exams in the peace of the Dene surrounded by so much beauty. And, yes, even buying an ice-cream at the Deep Dene Cafe on occasion. At 16, I used to meet my boyfriend after school, on our bikes, in the old quarry and do our home work. I was at Central High and he was Royal Grammar School. All very innocent, I may say, in those days.’

Jean Baty FOJD and President of the Jesmond Residents Association



Fishermans Lodge - formerly Deep Dene House home of Sir Andrew Noble and his family which became the Cafe fondly remembered by Jean in the above article.

Big Garden Bird Watch Event in Ouseburn Parks, 2015

This event was jointly organised by the Newcastle City Council Rangers in conjunction with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and Sustrans, a sustainable transport charity. It was based in Jesmond Dene and took place on Saturday 24th January 2015 from 10.30am until 2.30pm.

While Sustrans were running a “birdy” treasure hunt and supervising the making of bird-related craft items the Jesmond Dene Volunteer Rangers were showing children how to make bird feeders, members of an RSPB Local Group had set up telescopes and were pointing out birds on feeders in and around the Nature Area.

In addition, a series of three bird walks were planned. The first started at 10.30. We set off walking to the Nature area, looking at the birds on the feeders, where we saw Blue Tits, Great Tits, and Long-Tailed Tits. Under the feeders was a flock of Woodpigeon, while flying overhead were Magpies and Carrion Crows. We continued upstream beside the Ouseburn, passing a Moorhen by Pets’ Corner and pairs of Mallards everywhere. Between the Banqueting Hall and Fisherman’s Lodge we passed Robins and Blackbirds, and for those lucky enough to be at the back of the party, a Song Thrush. Just before the entrance to the Fisherman’s Lodge car park, we saw not one but two Jays, just across the river, giving us excellent views. Just at the entrance to the Fisherman’s Lodge car park, a member of the RSPB Local Group spotted a Goldcrest, our smallest British bird, high up in a holly tree.



At Two Bridges, we were lucky enough to see a Treecreeper, and we heard that other tree climber, the Nuthatch but failed to see it. Only an hour was allowed for the walk, so we returned by the same route. As we passed the Fisherman’s Lodge on the way back, we had great views of a Sparrowhawk, soaring high above the treetops, showing us its display flight.

The second walk started at noon and went in the opposite direction, across Coleman’s Field, over the new footbridge and under Armstrong Bridge, where we saw the white Feral Pigeons that used to live in the dovecote in Pets’ Corner, before it was regenerated. Dropping down to Benton Bank Bridge, we had two sightings of the Kingfisher as it flew under the bridge, once in each direction.

We then walked through Jesmond Vale to White Bridge where we had good views of a Grey Wagtail.

We crossed the road into Armstrong Park, where we walked south, past the Cattle Run to just past the Shoe Tree where there is a second feeding station. At that feeding station, we saw the usual collection of tits and we heard a Nuthatch. As we were leaving to return to Coleman's Field we heard the high-pitched twittering of Goldfinches in the trees on the side of Windmill Hill, but failed to see the flock. Overhead was flying a single Herring Gull.

We returned by the top path through Armstrong Park, but as we were crossing the footbridge over the Cradlewell Bypass, we saw an unusual sight. In the trees at the north end of the bridge was a Harris's Hawk, a buzzard-like bird with white feathers at the base of its tail. This is an American species, frequently kept in the UK by falconers. This escapee had been spending some of its time in the Ouseburn Parks since November.

The third walk followed the same route as the first, but was a bit shorter, finishing just past the Fisherman's Lodge. One of the children did a good job in spotting our second Moorhen of the day, skulking in the shadows by Fisherman's Lodge. On the way back, some of us caught a brief glimpse of the Sparrowhawk in a display flight, exactly where the party on the first walk had had better views of it earlier.

Comparing the list of species seen on the walks with that compiled by the RSPB Local Group in the Nature Area, there were an extra seven species seen from the Nature Area that had not been encountered on the walks: Stock Dove, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Coal Tit, Wren, Mistle Thrush, Dunnock and Chaffinch.

The grand total for the day was 29 species. 24 members of the public went on bird walks, 55 visited the Nature Area and 39 made bird feeders. The total participating would be less than 118, the sum of these numbers, as some would have participated in more than one activity.

Another bird-related event in Jesmond took place on National Nestbox Week, on Monday 16th February. As well as two bird walks starting at 9.30am and 1.00pm, adults and children were able to make bird boxes and bird feeders and take part in other craft activities.



Photo of Jay taken on 24th January 2015 Jesmond Dene

Jesmond Dene bird list 24.1.2015

Sparrowhawk	Wood pigeon	Stock dove	Magpie
Carrion Crow	Jay	Mallards	Moorhen
Great spotted woodpecker	Blackbird	Mistle thrush	Kingfisher
Song thrush	Robin	Goldfinch	Grey Wagtail
Goldcrest	Harris's Hawk	Chaffinch	Feral Pigeon
Dunnock	Nuthatch	Tree creeper	Herring Gull
Wren	Blue tit	Coal tit	Long tailed tit
Great tit			

Mike Cook, Vice Chair FOJD and Volunteer Ranger

Autumn tasks performed by Jesmond Dene Volunteer Rangers

Path clearing in Jesmond Dene and Armstrong Park. Because of the time of year autumn leaves tend to cover the paths and rain washes soil down the slopes of the Dene onto the paths. The volunteers have spent several sessions scraping mud and leaves from the paths.

Cutting back shrubs that were encroaching on paths in the Dene and Armstrong Park. This is a task that takes place most of the winter months.

Cutting down laurel that had grown too large was blocking out the light. A couple of sessions were devoted to cutting down the laurel to about knee height and stacking the cut wood ready for chipping. A further session was arranged for when the chipper was available so that the stacked wood could be chipped and the resulting chippings spread amongst the trees.

Cleaning out the pond near Fisherman's Lodge. At this time of year the pond tends to get full of leaves and the outlet often gets blocked. A session was devoted to making sure that the pond was clean and tidy.

Making bat boxes and bird boxes. One or two of the volunteers got involved in making bat boxes and bird boxes from wood provided by Sarah the Park Ranger. The wood for the bat boxes had to be untreated as bats are very fussy about chemicals in places they make their roosts.

Collecting greenery for use in Christmas wreath-making sessions and Sarah had the volunteers collecting cuttings of yew and other greenery to be used in those sessions.

Making log candle-holders. Some of the volunteers spent some time cutting up appropriately sized logs to make candle-holders that could be decorated by members of the public. This involved lots of sawing, drilling and planing.

The volunteers spent **a couple of sessions at Havannah Nature Reserve** cutting back along bridle paths and replacing a missing gate post. They also helped Dave (the butterfly man) to clear some areas of heath land by removing small tree saplings so that the butterflies would have open areas to fly in the sun and lay their eggs.

On another occasion time was spent in an area **alongside the Coast Road** preparing a wild-flower meadow. This involved raking the growth from the previous year and removing it so as not to provide a high level of nutrients for wildflowers. When this was done new wild-flower seeds were sown.

A session was spent **cleaning gutters and drains in Armstrong Park**, some of which were blocked with mud. One drain, which had not worked for some time, was investigated and was found to be blocked by a plastic plug. Heaven knows how that got there!

Two or three weekends were arranged in conjunction with Friends of Heaton and Armstrong Parks in which the Volunteers helped them to tidy up Heaton Park by cutting back and litter-picking.

Dave Poste FOJD and Volunteer Ranger

Dave will be keeping an up-to-the-minute blog of Volunteer Ranger Activities very soon on the FOJD webpage

The Geology of Jesmond Dene a Burning Question

If you were standing in Jesmond Dene and were able to travel back in time some 300 million years, things would appear quite different. The climate would be much warmer and more akin to conditions in the tropics. The sea would be shallow and warm with giant rivers depositing sediments in layers of mud, silt and sand. Giant forests were growing in these areas building up deposits of dead wood which would later form the coal seams.

The rocks you see in the Dene today are horizontal layers of mudstone, shale, sandstone and coal. They were formed as the forest deposits became buried with layers of sediment and over millions of years became lithified (turned to rock).

At the end of the last ice age (10,000 years ago) water was in abundance as the giant glaciers that covered the country started melting. These melt waters carved out the steep sided Dene we know today and exposed some of the coal.

Coal seams can be seen in Jesmond Dene near the walls of the Quarry at Blackberry Crag. If you look carefully at the rocks in this area you may see impressions of plants that lived 300 Million Years ago.

The coal has been exploited in the Newcastle area for hundreds of years and was used to power the industrial revolution which made Newcastle a wealthy area for some. The removal of the coal from the ground came at a high price for many. The Heaton Colliery, located close to Jesmond Dene was the site of a great disaster nearly 200 years to this day. On 3 May 1815 a flood in the mine killed 75 people including 34 boys. The site of the disaster is now known as Heaton Spinney, trees were planted for each person who died and still survive today.

A local man, William Armstrong used the power of coal to forge the steel that made his many ships, cranes and guns. His wealth allowed him to purchase land in Jesmond and create the Dene we know today.

It is widely believed that the burning of this coal is changing our climate and will have a great impact on the lives of future generations. Although Armstrong knew nothing about the theories of climate change he was pioneering the use of water to create energy over 100 years ago. His work in hydraulics and hydro electric power may hold some answers to the 'burning' question of our time.

Seamus Tollitt, Ouseburn Parks Manager
March 2015



This shows a fossilized Fern and is indicative of the types of fossils you can find in the Coal measures.

Logs for Sale

Since autumn 2012, the Volunteer Rangers have been raising funds from selling logs. The volunteers, cut, split and bag the logs. The bagged logs are then left to dry out/season in the wood store. All the wood has come from trees that have either needed to be felled for health and safety reasons or those that have come down of their own accord: like the horse chestnuts in the Dene and the beeches in Heaton Park. Some timber is left on site as it adds to the biodiversity of the woodland; it slowly rots down and provides home for many invertebrates, small mammals and fungi.

Firewood ready for burning should never contain more than 25% moisture and ideally below 20%. The moisture content is checked by moisture meter and most of the logs sold in the Dene are below 20%. Bringing seasoned logs indoors a few days before burning will also help to reduce moisture content.

Bagged logs can be bought from the Visitor Centre for £3.50 per bag; please call beforehand if you are making a special journey on 0191 281 2082.

Further information about wood or other solid fuels can be found at www.solidfuel.co.uk

Sarah Capes, Newcastle City Council Parks and Countryside Ranger.

Volunteer Ranger guided walks in the parks

Early in 2012 it was suggested that walks in and around the local parks might be popular. A group of volunteers got together with support from the Rangers and Education officer in Jesmond Dene. We were guided and inspired by John Grundy – the author & television presenter - who gave us time, support and encouragement in setting them up.

We initially planned two walks, one through Jesmond Dene and the other covering Heaton Park. These proved popular and another, Armstrong Park and Jesmond Vale was added. This spring we are putting together a fourth based on Paddy Freeman's Park and the 'wilder' areas of the Dene.

Those of us leading the walks have found the research needed to find out as much history of the areas as possible very interesting and we have learned a lot along the way. We also get a lot of feedback from walkers who know the places well and offer interesting anecdotes of their memories of the parks.

The walks are open to all and usually take about 2 hours, but have also been booked by specific groups so are tailored to their needs. In conjunction with other events in the Dene a 30 – 40 minute short walk is offered taking in features such as the Mill, Chapel or St. Mary's Well. We have occasionally, instead of a walk, taken an illustrated talk to a group and might expand on this if there is a demand.

Below is the programme for this summer with booking details. In addition, there will be free walks over the Heritage Open Days weekend which will be advertised later.

Maggie Dowman, FOJD and Volunteer Ranger



Heritage Walks



Explore the history of Ouseburn Parks on one of our popular guided walks.

Armstrong Park and Jesmond Vale

Thursday 19 March, 1.30 – 3.30pm Meet at Heaton Park Pavilion

Learn about Robin Sheep's cave and visit the Shoe Tree

Jesmond Dene Walk

Sunday 19 April, 1.30 - 3.30pm Meet at the Visitor Centre

The wonders of Jesmond Dene's past, present and future

Heaton Park Walk

Sunday 3 May, 2 - 3.30pm Meet at Heaton Park Pavilion

Mines, A Temple, Bears and much more!

NEW WALK - Paddy Freeman's and Wild Jesmond Dene

Wednesday 20 May, 6 - 8pm

Meet by the lake in Paddy Freeman's Park

Find out about the Freemans and see some less visited sites in the Dene.



The volunteer guides were most impressive and gave the talk in a really enthusiastic style.



All walks are **£3 per person** and **booking is essential**.

For bookings phone 0191 2812082

or email parks&countryside@newcastle.gov.uk

Newcastle

Ouseburn Park Events April – September 2015

Wednesday 1 April 10.30 – 11.30am and 1 – 2pm (First Wednesday and Friday of every month)

Tree Tots (for under fives)

Ouseburn Parks Visitor Centre – Jesmond Dene

£3 per child

Join us for a story, a variety of fun outdoor activities and sometimes a trip to Pets' Corner. Please phone 0191 2812082 to book.

Sunday 5 April 10 - 1pm

Nature Area Open Day

Jesmond Dene

Donations welcome

(Across the River from Pets Corner – look out for the signs)

Come and explore our Nature Area, take part in pond dipping, minibeast hunts and watch the birds at the feeding station. This is a drop in event and all children must be accompanied. Please contact the Visitor Centre for more information 0191 281 2082.

Sunday 5 April 1 – 3pm (First Sunday of every month)

Meet the animals

Pets' Corner Jesmond Dene

Suggested donation £1 per child

This is a drop in event where you will be able to handle and meet some of the animals in Pets' Corner.

Monday 7 April 1 – 3pm

Signs of Spring

Ouseburn Parks Visitor Centre – Jesmond Dene

Suggested donation £2

Pick up a trail to spot signs of spring and drop in for seed planting in the classroom.

Thursday 9 April 1 – 3pm

Children's Easter Crafts

Ouseburn Parks Visitor Centre – Jesmond Dene

£5 per child

Take part in a variety of Easter themed craft activities. All children must be accompanied by an adult. **Booking essential**, please call 0191 2812082 to book and for more information.

Friday 10 April 10.30 – 11.30am and 1 – 2pm (First Wednesday and Friday of every month. This one is different due to bank holiday)

Tree Tots (for under fives)

Ouseburn Parks Visitor Centre – Jesmond Dene

£3 per child

Join us for a story, a variety of fun outdoor activities and sometimes a trip to Pets' Corner. Please phone 0191 2812082 to book.

Friday 10 April 1 – 3.30pm

Tree Trail and Campfire

Heaton Park

£4 per child, £3 per adult

Join us for a fun trail around Heaton Park with activities and stories all about trees. Followed by a fire in the woods, some simple campfire refreshments whilst learning to light a fire. Activities are aimed at 7 – 13 years. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Please wear appropriate clothes for being outdoors in the woods.

Booking essential, please call 0191 281 2082 to book and for more information.

Saturday 11 April 10 -12

Volunteer Session

Heaton and Armstrong Parks

Join the Friends of Heaton and Armstrong Park on this, one of their monthly volunteer sessions. All tools will be provided, supervision by the Rangers and please dress appropriate for the weather. Please contact 0191 2650564 or email parks&countryside@newcastle.gov.uk to let us know you'll be coming along.

Wednesday 15 April 1 – 3pm

Little Animals

Pets' Corner – Jesmond Dene

Suggested donation £1 per child

Find out about the animals in pets' corner and take part in a trail and animal crafts all about baby animals. There will be opportunities to meet some of the smaller animals throughout the afternoon. This is a drop in event. For more information phone 0191 281 2082.

Thursday 16 April 1 – 3pm

Felt Making Craft Workshop

Ouseburn Parks Visitor Centre – Jesmond Dene

£6 per child

Fun craft session, learning how to wet felt. With an opportunity to make your own felt artwork and felt monster to take home. Suitable for children 8+. **Booking essential.** Please phone 0191 2812082 to book.

Sunday 19 April 1.30 – 3.30pm

Jesmond Dene Walk

£3 per person

Explore the wonders of Jesmond Dene's past, present and future on this guided walk in the company of volunteers who are passionate about the parks.

Booking essential. Please phone 0191 2812082 to book.

Friday 1 May 10.30 – 11.30am and 1 – 2pm (First Wednesday of every month)

Tree Tots (for under fives)

Ouseburn Parks Visitor Centre – Jesmond Dene

£3 per child

Join us for a story, a variety of fun outdoor activities and sometimes a trip to Pets' Corner. Please phone 0191 2812082 to book.

Sunday 3 May 4.30 – 7.30am (yes am! The walk will be about 2 hours.)

Dawn Chorus

Ouseburn Parks – Jesmond Dene

£5 per person

To celebrate International Dawn Chorus Day join the Rangers and Volunteer Rangers on this early morning walk through the Dene to listen to the delightful sounds of the birds. We'll come back to the Visitor Centre for a breakfast roll, a hot drink and show you some footage of other wildlife in the Dene. Suitable for adults and older children (12+). **Booking essential.** Please contact the Visitor Centre on 0191 2812082 to book your place and for more information.

Sunday 3 May 2 – 3.30pm

Heaton Park Walk

£3 per person

Explore the history of Heaton Park, on this guided walk in the company of volunteers who are passionate about the parks. Meet at the Pavilion. **Booking essential.** Please phone 0191 2812082 to book.

Sunday 3 May 1 – 3pm (First Sunday of every month)

Meet the animals

Pets' Corner Jesmond Dene

Suggested donation £1 per child

This is a drop in event where you will be able to handle and meet some of the animals in Pets' Corner.

Wednesday 6 May 10.30 – 11.30am and 1 – 2pm (First Wednesday of every month)

Tree Tots (for under fives)

Ouseburn Parks Visitor Centre – Jesmond Dene

£3 per child

Join us for a story, a variety of fun outdoor activities and sometimes a trip to Pets' Corner. Please phone 0191 2812082 to book.

Saturday 9 May (Evening - time to be confirmed on booking)

Bats and Moths

Ouseburn Parks Visitor Centre- Jesmond Dene

£4 per person

(Part of the Jesmond Community Festival)

Learn about the different species of bats that live in the UK, and then we'll set out for a walk and see which ones we can find, so don't forget your torch! We will also be running a moth trap throughout the evening and we will have a look to see what has been caught on our return to the Visitor Centre. Suggested age 8+, children must be accompanied. **Booking essential.** Please contact the Visitor Centre on 0191 2812082 to book your place and for access details.

Sunday 10 May 10am – 12pm

Moth Morning and Pond Dipping

Nature Area

Donations to the Jesmond Community Festival

(Across the River from Pets Corner – look out for the signs)

(Part of the Jesmond Community Festival)

We'll go through the moth trap from the night before to see what we've managed to catch and try our best to identify them before letting them go. You can also try some pond dipping to see what creatures live under water in the Nature Area. This is a drop in event and you can stay as long or as little as you like. Please contact the Visitor Centre for more information 0191 281 2082.

Tuesday 12 May 10 – 12.30pm

Volunteer Taster Session

Ouseburn Parks – Jesmond Dene

(Part of the Jesmond Community Festival)

Are you looking for a new way to keep fit or just spend more time outdoors? Come along to this taster session to find out more. All equipment will be provided but please wear clothes you don't mind getting dirty and sturdy footwear. For meeting place, more information and to **book your place** contact the Visitor Centre on 0191 281 2082 or email parks&countryside@newcastle.gov.uk If you are interested in volunteering but can't make this date, please get in touch and we'll let you know other dates that you can come along to.

Tuesday 12 May 7 – 8.30pm

Ouseburn Parks Visitor Centre – Jesmond Dene

A-Z of Beginner Beekeeping – The Jesmond Dene Way!

£4 per person

(Part of the Jesmond Community Festival)

Come along to listen to how the parks staff and volunteers have fared in their quest to keep bees over the past three years. We are not experts but love our bees and we hope it will inspire you to think about keeping your own bees.

Refreshments will be available and **booking is essential.** Please contact the Visitor Centre on 0191 2812082 to book your place.

Saturday 16 and Sunday 17 May 10 – 3pm

Friends of Jesmond Dene Open Weekend

(including AGM on Sunday at 2pm followed by a talk - TBC) Drop by either day and find out what the Friends and Volunteer Rangers get up to, how they help and support the parks staff in keeping Jesmond Dene a popular visitor attraction. There will be history displays, information about the new archive project, the new “Adopt a Plot” scheme, video footage of the wildlife in the Dene and history walks. The Visitor Centre and gift shop will also be open.

On Saturday from 10 – 12pm the Nature Area will be open for you to have a look around and join in with the pond dipping and minibeast activities. On Sunday at 11am you can join in a short guided walk and the Friends will hold their AGM at 2pm followed by a talk TBC.

Wednesday 20 May 6 – 8pm

Paddy Freeman’s and Wild Jesmond Dene

£3 per person

(Part of the Jesmond Community Festival)

Find out about the Freeman Family and see some less well know sites of Jesmond Dene on this guided walk, in the company of volunteers who are passionate about the parks. **Booking essential.** Please phone 0191 2812082 to book.

Sunday 24 May 10 -12

Volunteer Session

Heaton and Armstrong Parks

Join the Friends of Heaton and Armstrong Park on this, one of their monthly volunteer sessions. All tools will be provided, supervision by the Rangers and please dress appropriate for the weather. Please contact 0191 2650564 or email parks&countryside@newcastle.gov.uk to let us know you’ll be coming along.

Wednesday 27 May 1 – 3.30pm

Nature Area Open Day

Jesmond Dene

Donations welcome

(Across the River from Pets Corner – look out for the signs)

Come and explore our Nature Area, take part in pond dipping, minibeast hunts and watch the birds at the feeding station. This is a drop in event and all children must be accompanied. Please contact the Visitor Centre for more information 0191 281 2082.

Saturday 6 June 10 – 12pm

Volunteer Session

Heaton and Armstrong Parks

Join the Friends of Heaton and Armstrong Park on this, one of their monthly volunteer sessions. All tools will be provided, supervision by the Rangers and please dress appropriate for the weather. Please contact 0191 2650564 or email parks&countryside@newcastle.gov.uk to us know you’ll be coming along.

Sunday 7 June 1 – 3pm (First Sunday of every month)

Meet the animals

Pets’ Corner Jesmond Dene

Suggested donation £1 per child

This is a drop in event where you will be able to handle and meet some of the animals in Pets’ Corner.

Sunday 7 June 1 – 4pm

Garden Party

Heaton Park Lodge Garden

Join the Friends and Rangers to find out more about the past, present and future of Heaton and Armstrong Parks. The Friends will be offering refreshments and plants will be on sale to raise funds. Please contact the Visitor Centre for more information 0191 281 2082.

Sunday 28 June 10 -12

Volunteer Session

Heaton and Armstrong Parks

Join the Friends of Heaton and Armstrong Park on this, one of their monthly volunteer sessions. All tools will be provided, supervision by the Rangers and please dress appropriate for the weather. Please contact 0191 2650564 or email parks&countryside@newcastle.gov.uk to let us know you'll be coming along.

Sunday 5 July 1 – 3pm (First Sunday of every month)

Meet the animals

Pets' Corner Jesmond Dene

Suggested donation £1 per child

This is a drop in event where you will be able to handle and meet some of the animals in Pets' Corner.

Wednesday 22 July 1 – 4pm

Nature Area Open Day

Jesmond Dene

Donations welcome

(Across the River from Pets Corner – look out for the signs)

Come and explore our Nature Area, take part in pond dipping, minibeast hunts and watch the birds at the feeding station. This is a drop in event and all children must be accompanied. Please contact the Visitor Centre for more information 0191 281 2082.

Saturday 25 July 10 -12

Volunteer Session

Heaton and Armstrong Parks

Join the Friends of Heaton and Armstrong Park on this, one of their monthly volunteer sessions.

All tools will be provided, supervision by the Rangers and please dress appropriate for the weather. Please contact 0191 2650564 or email parks&countryside@newcastle.gov.uk to us know you'll be coming along. (More dates for follow in August, September and October. Please contact us nearer the time)

Wednesday 29 July 1 – 3.30pm

Bushcraft, Campfire and Environmental Games

Heaton Park

£4 per child, £3 per adult

Join the Rangers for some fun games and activities followed by a learning to light a fire with some campfire refreshments. Activities are aimed at 7-13 years. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Please wear appropriate clothes for being outdoors in the woods. **Booking essential**, please call 0191 2812082 to book and for more information.

Sunday 2 August 1 – 3pm (First Sunday of every month)

Meet the animals

Pets' Corner Jesmond Dene

Suggested donation £1 per child

This is a drop in event where you will be able to handle and meet some of the animals in Pets' Corner.

Wednesday 5 August 1 – 4pm

Buzzing Bees and other Bugs

Paddy Freeman's Park – (next to the Café)

Suggested donation £2

Learn amazing facts about honey bees and beekeeping. Follow clues on a short trail to find out more, try on a bee suit and take part in other bug activities. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Please contact the Visitor Centre for more information 0191 281 2082.

Thursday 13 August 1 – 4pm

Nature Area Open Day

Jesmond Dene

Donations welcome

(Across the River from Pets Corner – look out for the signs)

Come and explore our Nature Area, take part in pond dipping, minibeast hunts and watch the birds at the feeding station. This is a drop in event and all children must be accompanied. Please contact the Visitor Centre for more information 0191 281 2082.

Thursday 20 August 1 – 3.30pm

Bushcraft, Campfire and Environmental Games

Heaton Park

£4 per child, £3 per adult

Join the Rangers for some fun games and activities followed by a learning to light a fire with some campfire refreshments. Activities are aimed at 7-13 years. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Please wear appropriate clothes for being outdoors in the woods. **Booking essential**, please call 0191 2812082 to book and for more information.

Tuesday 25 August 1 – 4pm

Buzzing Bees and other Bugs

Ouseburn Parks Visitor Centre – Jesmond Dene

£2 per child

Learn amazing facts about honey bees and beekeeping in Jesmond Dene. Follow clues on a short trail to find out more, try on a bee suit and take part in other bug activities. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Please contact the Visitor Centre for more information 0191 281 2082.

Sunday 6 September 1 – 3pm (First Sunday of every month)

Meet the animals

Pets' Corner Jesmond Dene

Suggested donation £1 per child

This is a drop in event where you will be able to handle and meet some of the animals in Pets' Corner.

Thursday 10 September 1 – 2.30pm

Heaton Park Guided walk – Mines, a Temple, Bears and much more!

(Part of the Heritage Open Days)

Explore the history of Heaton Park, on this guided walk in the company of volunteers who are passionate about the parks.

Booking essential. Please phone 0191 2812082 to book.

Sunday 13 September 1 – 2.30pm

Jesmond Dene Guided Walk

Meet at Ouseburn Parks Visitor Centre, Jesmond Dene

(Part of the Heritage Open Days)

Join our fantastic guides on a walk through Jesmond Dene finding out about the past, present and future of this park.

Booking essential. Please phone 0191 2812082 to book.

Saturday 19 September (Evening - time to be confirmed on booking)

Bats and Moths

Ouseburn Parks Visitor Centre- Jesmond Dene

£4 per person

Learn about the different species of bats that live in the UK, and then we'll set out for a walk and see which ones we can find, so don't forget your torch! We will also be running a moth trap throughout the evening and we will have a look to see what has been caught on our return to the Visitor Centre. Suggested age 8+, children must be accompanied. **Booking essential.** Please contact the Visitor Centre on 0191 2812082 to book your place and for access details.

Sunday 20 September 10am – 12pm

Moth Morning and Pond Dipping

Nature Area

Donations

(Across the River from Pets Corner – look out for the signs)

We'll go through the moth trap from the night before to see what we've managed to catch and try our best to identify them before letting them go. You can also try some pond dipping to see what creatures live under water in the Nature Area. This is a drop in event and you can stay as long or as little as you like. Please contact the Visitor Centre for more information 0191 281 2082.

Saturday 10 October 1.30 – 4pm

Bulb Planting and Autumn Nature Trail

Ouseburn Parks Visitor Centre, Jesmond Dene (next to Millfield House Café)

Come and plant some bulbs to take home with you and nurture. You can also take part in our Autumn Nature Trail and an Autumn Scavenger Hunt. There will be a £1.50 charge for the bulb planting, 50p charge for the trail and the scavenger hunt is free. This is a drop in event, please contact the Visitor Centre for more information on 0191 2812082.

Sunday 11 October 1.30 – 3.30pm

Bulb Planting and Autumn Nature Trail

Heaton Park – near the pavilion.

Come and plant some bulbs to take home with you and nurture. You can also take part in our Autumn Nature Trail and an Autumn Scavenger Hunt. There will be a £1.50 charge for the bulb planting, 50p charge for the trail and the scavenger hunt is free. This is a drop in event, please contact the Visitor Centre for more information on 0191 2812082.

Tuesday 27 and Saturday 31 October 5.30 - 8pm

Halloween Pumpkins and Walk

Ouseburn Parks Visitor Centre, Jesmond Dene (next to Millfield House Café)

£5 per child and £2.50 per adult.

Come along to one of Halloween events and carve a pumpkin lantern (pumpkins will be provided). We will then go for an evening walk through the Dene to see what we can find, there may be eyes watching us from all sorts of places!! We'll return to the Visitor Centre for a hot chocolate and pumpkin soup. Minimum age 6 years. **Booking essential**, please call to book your place and for more information on 0191 2812082.

Committee list:

Chairman	Clive Gerrard
Vice Chairman	Mike Cook
Treasurer	Linda Fean
Secretary	Sue Stokel-Walker
Members	Christina Cook, Maggie Dowman, Yvonne Shannon
Membership Sec.	Keith Pringle
Newsletter Team	Maggie Dowman, Yvonne Shannon

Sarah Capes (Ranger, 0191 281 2082) ouseburnparks@newcastle.gov.uk mobile 07966 264391

Webmaster Carlton Reid <http://www.jesmondDene.org.uk>

Next Newsletter contributions or any other queries to:-

Friends of Jesmond Dene, c/o Ouseburn Parks Visitor Centre, Millfield House, Red Walk, Jesmond Dene, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE7 7BQ or email as above