

Jess Steele



64 St Helen's Park Road, Hastings TN34 2JJ
01424 421518 07912 269676

jess@jerichoroad.co.uk

@LocalityJess (2,884 tweets, 2042 followers)

@JerichoJess (363 tweets, 480 followers)

Blog: <http://jesssteele.wordpress.com/>

Overview

Jess bridges policy and practice to develop new intellectual territory, ventures and programmes including the Community Allowance, the Meanwhile Project, the Seaside Towns Economic Partnership and the Campaign Against Delinquent Ownership. She wrote the winning tender for the national Community Organisers programme and led its development and delivery, including negotiating significant additional resources.

Jess has been regeneration-watching for 25 years. As an independent community activist and entrepreneur in South East London, she founded the creative outreach charity Magpie, led the award-winning 'Get Set for Citizenship' regeneration programme, established several local social enterprises and published extensively on local history. Recruited to the National Community Forum in 2001 she saw the power of local-to-local networking and joined the British Urban Regeneration Association as Deputy Chief Executive in 2004, responsible for training, events and best practice.

At the Development Trusts Association from 2007, Jess established its unique practitioner consultancy service, the Pool, drawing on the expertise of the development trusts movement to offer high-quality support on community enterprise and community assets. Later she became one of two Directors of Innovation for Locality.

Jess lives in and works from Hastings and is a founder trustee of the Hastings Pier & White Rock Trust which successfully campaigned to transfer the pier into community ownership and raised £14m for its renovation. She is a leader in the White Rock Trust which is using community organising to get the neighbourhood ready to maximise the impact of the rejuvenated pier.

Since establishing Jericho Road Solutions in May 2013, Jess has supported nearly 20 groups of local people to tackle challenging buildings, including running the CADO (Community Assets in Difficult Ownership) programme, the BRICK Brokers project to support developer-community partnerships, and working with a range of neighbourhood clients on social investment, organisational development and property acquisition. These include building projects in Liverpool, Manchester, Halifax, Sheffield, London, Bristol, Coventry, Weston-super-mare, Bognor, Portsmouth, Folkestone, Hastings, and the Isle of Wight.

Skills and Expertise

POLICY INTERESTS AND EXPERTISE

History and theory of regeneration policy & programmes, community asset development inc meanwhile uses, community enterprise, welfare policy. Community organising, engagement & participation, effective campaigning. Practitioners shaping policy. Seaside regeneration.

MANAGEMENT SKILLS

Options analysis, corporate strategies, business plans. Staff/team management, appraisal & personal development, change management, neighbourhood coaching. Excellent financial/project management skills, including multi-funder programmes. PRINCE2 Practitioner. SFEDI accredited.

PROJECTS, EVENTS AND RESEARCH SKILLS

Project and programme design, management and delivery, especially in entrepreneurial context. Conference direction, generating topics and new formats for knowledge sharing. Literature reviews, policy research and development, presentation to ministers and civil servants.

COMMUNICATION SKILLS

Inspiration, accuracy and precision in written work. Passionate and persuasive advocate in one-to-one, small group or formal meetings. Experienced presenter, lecturer, workshop leader, public speaker, and chair. Skilled scribe and reporter, able to summarise, clarify, distil essences. Linking people and ideas to make more than the sum of the parts.

ORGANISATIONAL SKILLS

Information management, including professional database development in MS Access. Event conceptualising, co-ordination and logistics, from large-scale conferences to Participative Rapid Appraisal. Long-term self-administrator.

COMPUTER LITERACY

Routine use and tailored development in Word, Excel, Access, PowerPoint, Project, Salesforce, Sage, Ning, Wordpress. Willing pioneer in the digital world. Fascinated by the potential of GIS.

Education/Qualifications

London School of Economics	MSc	Social Anthropology	Distinction in all papers
University of York	BA (Hons)	History	1 st class
Haberdashers' Aske's Hatcham Girls' School		S level, 4 A levels, 9 O levels	

Employment/Experience

Current Employment

Jericho Road Solutions **Director** **May 13 - date**

Echoing Martin Luther King that playing the Good Samaritan is only an initial act; instead we must "transform the whole Jericho Road so that men and women are not beaten and robbed as they make their journey on life's history", JRS specialises in unlocking the hidden resources that can make this possible. Neighbourhood coaching to good people in interesting places with challenging projects, while working at national level with government, funders, corporates and academics to make local change easier. Contracted as Locality's Associate Director for Community Organising to support the development of CoCo (Community Organisers Ltd).

Current Directorships

Meanwhile Space CIC **Sep 2009 - date**

Non-exec director to support the intelligent use of buildings and land. Established Meanwhile Foundation (2012), a national charity as a 'plug-in' tool to promote and facilitate meanwhile use.

(Hastings Pier &) White Rock Trust (prev. Friends of Hastings Pier) **Nov 2006 - date**

The 'midwife' for the rescue of Hastings Pier. Campaigning, fundraising, project development. Neighbourhood planning and property development, based on community organising.

Past employment

Locality/Development Trusts Association **Director of Innovation** **Apr 07 – May 13**

Established and led the Pool, the DTA's unique consultancy service. Developed the Constructive Review process to mine the collective intelligence of the movement, alongside more traditional consultancy. Designed and managed Advancing Assets for Communities and the Meanwhile Project. Initiated, piloted and developed the Community Sector Trading peer learning approach. Led DTA and then Locality into live online conferencing, cloud storage, digital community-building and social media, and continues to champion and explore the digital world.

Wrote the successful bid for Locality as the national delivery partner for the Community Organisers programme, led and managed the programme's development and discovery phases.

Communities & Local Government [Secondment] **Jan 09 – Jun 09**

Covering medical leave to oversee the government's community assets policy and programmes, including the launch of the Asset Transfer Unit. Used the opportunity to develop several new strands of work, including inventing the 'Meanwhile' programme for town centres.

British Urban Regeneration Association **May 04 – Apr 07**
Deputy Chief Executive & Programmes Director

Responsible for staff recruitment, development, appraisal and management in a sustained period of growth leading to 18 staff. Restructured the organisation to balance strategic and operational goals, and nurtured organisational culture change. Led on development of internal policies.

Business development, delivery and management of BURA's programmes (Events & Projects, Training, and Best Practice Awards). Project initiation, budgeting, scheduling, monitoring and evaluation. Developed the Re:Invigorate series (multi-disciplinary thinking for mixed income communities), the Regenerator workforce development campaign, and the BURA Seaside Network. Organised over 100 events from major conferences and ceremonies to informal dinners, workshops and ongoing networks. Extended the Regeneration Training Programme to new regions. Led the Best Practice programme, negotiating sponsorship and shaping four awards programmes and wider learning & support. Panel judge for Deputy Prime Minister's Award for Sustainable Communities. Specialised in connecting Sir John Egan's intellectual framework on skills for sustainable communities with the real-life experience of regeneration managers.

The Bridge Community Finance Ltd Director July 03 – May 04

Practical social enterprise support for start-up, crisis recovery and forward strategy. Financial management & administration contracts, systems overhaul and trouble-shooting services; Consultancy focusing on funding, capacity building and project design.

Magpie most senior role: Strategic Director Oct 96 – May 04

Founded the Magpie Resource Library as an independent charity for active local citizenship and community-led regeneration. Leadership and vision as chair, co-ordinator, Strategic Director and eventually Strategic Advisor. Managed a team rising to 13 staff. Specialised in creative outreach and community management of regeneration. Lead officer for two regeneration programmes:

- Vital Centres & Green Links SRB programme (1996-2003, £1.6m)
- Get Set for Citizenship SRB programme (2000-03, £2.5m)

London Regeneration Network: Development Officer Nov 1999 – Dec 2000

McMillan Legacy Group: Co-ordinator Jan 1997 – Jan 1999

Goldsmiths College: Local History/Citizenship Lecturer/Co-ordinator 1995 –2001

LB Croydon: Heritage Officer Sept 1994 – Dec 1996

Amnesty International British Section: Director's Secretary Mar 1992 – Oct 1992

ChildLine: PA to the Directors of Counselling and Development July 1991 – Mar 1992

Architype Design Co-operative: Administrator Oct 1987 – Apr 1991

Walter Segal Self-Build Trust: Administrator Apr 1988 – Sept 1988

Keith Vaz, MP: Research Assistant July 1987 – Oct 1987

Newspoint News Agency: Information Assistant July 1987 – Apr 1988

Directorships & Other Positions

AHRC Connected Communities Advisory Committee (Aug 2013-date)

CoCo (Community Organisers Ltd) (Nov 2012 – Oct 2014): The solidarity network for Community Organisers and legacy body for the CO programme.

NRU National Community Forum (Jan 2002 - Oct 2006): NCF Founder Member. Benefits Working Group. Mindsets Working Group. Panel on Community Participation Across Government.

Dovetail Childcare Solutions Ltd (Feb 2001 - Apr 2006): Founding Company Director, responsible for funding (Neighbourhood Nurseries) and financial management

Lewisham Local Strategic Partnership (Sept 2001 - Sept 2002): Residents' Rep for Deptford and New Cross, and elected Vice Chair of LSP

Deptford Discovery Team (1994 – 2007): Founder of community environmental consultancy

Deptford Community Forum (1993 – 2004): Vice-chair

Deptford Forum Publishing (from 1992): Founding Company Director, author and editor

- Committee member of local charity Deptford into the 80s (...90s, ...Deptford 1st) (1984-2005)
- Established the Deptford History Group and Deptford Community Business Network (1993)
- Chair of the management committee of the Kite community newspaper (1996-97)
- Convenor of the Heritage Environment & Tourism (HET) Group to develop a strategic package for the last year of Deptford City Challenge community funding (1994-97)
- Company Director of 441 Association running a community enterprise centre (1997-2003)

Publications/Research

"Community organising: doing politics to build power and change policy" in *Rethinking Public Policy* Liz Richardson & Catherine Durose publication Sept 2015

"Self-renovating neighbourhoods", *Journal of Urban Regeneration & Renewal* October 2012

"New Trusts for New Towns" in *Anchors of Tomorrow* Community Alliance April 2009

"Social Justice, Social Control or the Pursuit of Happiness: the Goals & Values of the Regeneration Industry" in *Re-moralising Britain?* Peter Scott, Chris Baker and Elaine Graham (eds) Feb 2009

Unlocking Poor Neighbourhoods: the CREATE proposal [author] Sept 2006

Sustainable Communities: Learning from the DPM Award Finalists [author] May 2006

Some are more Equal than Others: Stories of Neighbourhood Renewal [author] October 2003

Get Set for Citizenship: Laying the Foundations of Neighbourhood Renewal [co-author] June 2000

The Children Can't Wait: The McMillan Sisters & the Birth of Nursery Education [editor] Dec 1999

Deptford Creek: Surviving Regeneration [editor] March 1999

The Regeneration Experience: Lessons for the Deptford Community Sector [editor] May 1998

The Streets of London: The Booth Notebooks (South East) [editor] February 1997

Longest Journey: A History of Black Lewisham [editor] November 1995

A Working Class War: Tales from Two Families [editor] August 1995

Rations & Rubble: Remembering Woolworths [editor] November 1994

Turning the Tide: The History of Everyday Deptford [author] November 1993

Publishing in Education – various books by primary school children [publisher] 1993 – 1997

A Historian Among the Anthropologists: Excavating the Field [author] June 1993

Networks & Boundaries: Race, Gender & Poverty in the Construction and Reconstruction of Community in Deptford, 1930-1990. [author] April 1990

Courses

Designed and taught undergraduate and adult learning courses at Goldsmiths and UEL in:

- Popular Memory
- Local History in Action
- Citizenship and Urban Change

and also acted as pastoral tutor to students in the Professional & Community Education department at Goldsmiths.

