

# The HEX-PRESS

YOUR FREE HEXTHORPE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER No 27/ December 93 / January 94

## THEIR FIRST *Christmas*

"Christmas is for the children" - we often hear that remark at this time of year. So we thought we would show you some of the children in Hexthorpe for whom this will be their first Christmas.

Of course, the first Christmas was all about the new baby Jesus. It was when the baby grew to be a man and died on the cross that the words of the angel at Christmas became clearer - "I will bring you good news ... today a Saviour has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord." A list of Christmas activities in Hexthorpe are on page 2. Why not join in one of them this year?



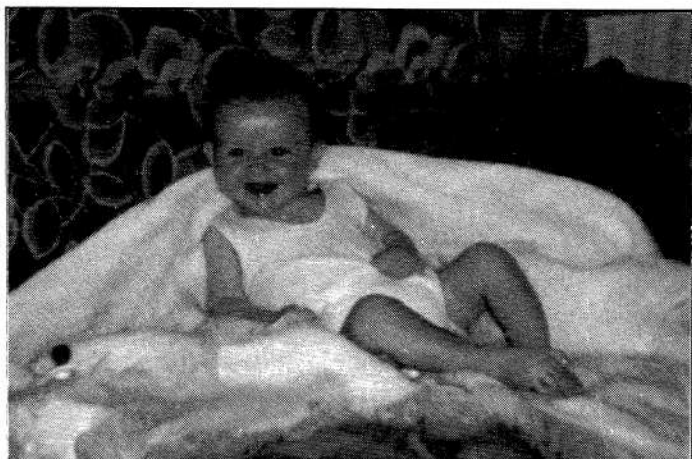
*Francis Slack  
7th April*



*Becky Murrell  
6th January*



*Lauren and Gemma Shaw  
3rd August*



*Christopher Keys  
4th February*



*William Reasbeck  
3rd September*

# CHRISTMAS IN HEXTHORPE

*You are welcome to any of these events*

## FIRST SCHOOL

Fri Dec 10th 4.30 pm - 6.30 pm **Christmas Fair**

Thurs Dec 16th am & pm **Christmas Concert**

## METHODIST CHURCH

Fri Dec 17th 7.00 pm **Christmas Celebration for all ages**

Sun Dec 19th 10.30 am **Christmas Family Service**

6.00 pm **Carol Service**

Fri Dec 24th **Christmas Eve**

*Street Carol Singing - collecting for The Evangelical Alliance Relief Fund*

Christmas Day 10.30 am **Family Service**

Sun Dec 26th 10.30 am **Service**

## ST. JUDE'S CHURCH

Dec 5th 5.00 pm **Christingle**

Dec 24th **Midnight Mass**

Christmas Day 10.00 am **Mass of the Nativity**

Dec 26th 8.45 am **Mass**

10.00 am **Solemn Mass**

6.30 pm **Service of Lessons & Carols**

## EUROPEAN SURPLUS FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Tins of stewing meat are available for those on Income Support, Family Credit or receiving Disability Working Allowance. You must provide proof of your eligibility. Distribution will be in the Methodist Church Hall on Thursday Dec 16th from 1.30pm to 4.00pm.

## WEEKLY EVENTS

### Methodist Church Hall

**S.A.R.A. Group**  
(Stay and Rest Awhile)  
Mums and Tots Group  
Thursday 10.15 - 12 noon

### Girls Brigade

Tuesdays 6 - 8.30 pm  
5 to 8 years, meet at 6 pm  
8 to 11 years, meet at 6 pm  
11+ years, meet at 7.15 pm

### Boys Brigade

Wednesdays 5.15 - 9.15 pm  
5 to 8 years, meet at 5.15 pm  
8 to 11 years, meet at 6 pm  
11 to 16 years, meet at 7.45 pm

### Ladies Keep Fit

Thursdays at 7 pm  
Middlers Club  
Friday from 6 to 7 pm  
Ages 9 to 13

Middle School children welcome

### Hexthorpe Environmental Group

Last Thursday of the month at 7 pm

### At St Jude's Church Hall

#### Playgroup

Mondays 1.15 pm  
Wednesday 1.15 pm

#### Tai Kwando

Tuesday 6.30 pm - 9.30 pm  
Thursday 6.30 - 9.30 pm  
contact P. C. RIMMER  
Tel: 366744

## WHO'S WHO

### Local Councillors

**GEORGE BRUMWELL**  
16 Laneham Close  
Tel: 535725

**GORDON JONES**  
7 South Street  
Tel: 367396

**CHARLES HARRISON**  
81 Florence Avenue  
Tel: 858542

### METHODIST MINISTER

Ian Bell  
1 Cedar Road, Balby  
Tel: 852024

### METHODIST LAY WORKER

Mr. Darren Stott  
113 Old Hexthorpe  
Hexthorpe  
Tel: 857128

### PARISH PRIEST

Fr. N. D. SENNITT  
132 Shadyside  
Hexthorpe  
Tel: 852057

### HEXTHORPE COMMUNITY CONSTABLE

contact P. C. RIMMER  
Tel: 366744

# COUNCILLOR'S COLUMN

On behalf of Labour Councillors of Central Ward, I would like to thank the Hexpress for the opportunity to make people aware of some of the issues we are dealing with in Hexthorpe.

The first issue we have been very concerned with is the problem at the community centre at Hexthorpe. This facility was closed by the Health and Safety, when water was found to be leaking onto electrics in this building.

As much as this decision was contentious, we have to protect the staff and members of this building. At this moment the community groups have found temporary alternative accommodation but the youth club is still closed.

As a council we found ourselves in a situation with no surplus money in the budget of Recreation and Culture to pay for the repairs. After discussion with the Labour Group officers, and with the support of the Labour Group, we are pleased to say that money has been found for the roof and electrical repairs. I understand roof repairs have now been done, and that the electrics will be repaired as soon as possible.

We are hoping that all user groups will be back shortly.

We have also had varying complaints about Hexthorpe Flatts Park. We have put new equipment in the play area with safety surfaces. But the main complaint is dogs fouling within the park. We have been fortunate to have the Flatts, Sandall Park and Elmfield Park included in an introductory scheme for the use of a "Poop-a-Scoop"; waste bins are already in place in the park.

There are By-laws making it a fineable offence to allow dogs to foul in the park, these have been submitted to the Secretary of State for the Environment for confirmation. Could we, therefore, appeal to all dog owners who walk their dogs in the Flatts, to use these facilities for the benefit of their community.

**G Jones**

## P. C. RIMMER ADVISES

There are two things to remember at this time of year. It is getting dark much earlier and the Christmas period is upon us. Both these are the time when thieves strike. Late afternoon and early evenings are the times of most break-ins, so take particular care. Burglaries increase in the run-up to Christmas - bikes, especially mountain bikes, are the main target. Make sure that they are securely locked away.



**OPENING HOURS**

<b>Tues</b>	11.45 to 1.45 & 4.30 to 6.00
<b>Wed</b>	11.45 to 1.45
<b>Thurs</b>	11.45 to 1.45 & 8.30 to 11.30
<b>Fri</b>	11.45 to 1.45 & 4.30 to 6.00 8.30 to 11.30
<b>Sat</b>	11.45 to 1.45
<b>Sun</b>	9.00 to 11.30

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# Letters

Directorate of Recreational  
and Cultural Services  
The Council House  
P.O. Box 270  
College Road  
Doncaster

Dear Editor

## HEXTHORPE YOUTH AND COMMUNITY CENTRE

In your October/November edition of the Hex-Press you drew attention to the closure of the Hexthorpe Youth and Community Centre and the subsequent loss of facilities for the youth club and the respective community groups.

I am pleased to report that the Council has agreed to make available the necessary resources from the 1993-94 Capital Building Programmes to allow the required refurbishment to be undertaken.

The necessary orders have been placed for essential roof repairs and electrical safety work to be started as soon as possible. May I therefore, use your community newspaper to inform all users of the action taken and to apologise for the loss of provision.

Clearly, we shall write to all organisations informing them of the date for completion of remedial repairs and the subsequent re-opening of the premises.

Finally, may I add my congratulations to you and your production team for the quality of presentation and content of Hex-Press. As a former "train spotter" I have fond memories of Hexthorpe in the 50's.

Kind regards.  
Yours sincerely

**Tony Sockett**  
Assistant Director  
(Community Development)

Dear Editor

I know quite a few Hexthorpe people who have visited our new Garden Centre by Hexthorpe Bridge, but I don't think many knew what he told me.

Martin Rose said that he had not only a bicycle stamping set to put your postcode etc on your bike, but he would also do any garden machinery that the thieves are after nowadays. What is more, he said he would do it for free! Let's spread this news about, I say.

**Satisfied Customer**

Urban Road  
Hexthorpe

## A DANGER TO CHILDREN

Dear Editor

I write on behalf of many concerned parents about the continued use of Hexthorpe Middle School's playing field as a dog toilet and exercise park.

I wonder how many owners realise the potential disastrous consequences of children being contaminated with dog faeces. There are two recorded instances that are known about, one of a child losing his sight because of Toxocariasis (the eggs of this parasitical worm live in dog faeces) and the second of a boy who fell, broke his leg and the open wound was contaminated with dog faeces resulting in the child losing his leg.

Many dog owners continue to allow their dogs to exercise on the field and foul the area.

These are extreme cases but it could happen to a Hexthorpe child, perhaps yours!! We mainly have to deal with children coming in from play with shoes and clothing fouled with dog dirt. A most unsavoury task. I've had to do this cleaning more than once when my two sons have been playing on the field. How many times do the staff at the school have to put up with pupils bringing the unpleasant mess into the classroom? The area is a **SCHOOL PLAYING FIELD!!!!**

Guilty dog owners who allow their dogs on the field have no excuse whatsoever. They are selfish, irresponsible people who have no regard for the fact that the children must have somewhere clean to play. I implore them to walk a way further across to the park, the dogs won't mind and there are plenty of dog waste bins to dispose of the animals' droppings.

Let's pull together, give the kids a clean playing area and utilise the facilities the D.M.B.C. are supplying to help clean up Hexthorpe.

Yours sincerely

Name & address supplied

## **MR AMBROSE REMEMBERS**

The articles in the last issues of Hexpress concerning Mr Ambrose and the Hexthorpe Junior School in the 1940s, and the letter from New Zealand written by Marina Roskilly (Durrans) have created much interest. In fact there have been more comments, visits and phone calls about them than ever before. One suggestion is that there should be a reunion of former pupils of the Junior School from the time of Mr Ambrose. He is keen to visit Hexthorpe again. We are hoping to arrange this in 1994 - watch this space.

### **MRS CLEMENT'S FRUIT CAKE**

12 oz mixed dried fruit  
4 oz sugar  
4 oz marg  
1/4 pt of water

Simmer in a saucepan for 20 minutes. Leave to cool. When cold mix in 8 oz SR flour and 1 egg. Mix well.

Bake in a 1lb tin (lined) for approx 1 hour on Gas Mark 2.

### **HANDY HINT**

Want to liven up your cooking with herbs or spices but not sure how much to use? A 1/4 teaspoon to every pound of ingredients is a safe rough guide.

# HEXTHORPE MEN *meet in* California

Stuart Green, the son of Mrs Green of Lindum Street, has told us of a remarkable meeting he had some years ago in Yosemite National Park, California. Stuart was brought up in Hexthorpe, and after his education here and in Durham he spent some time working in the USA. He was on the high mountain Glacier Point, which overlooks the Yosemite Valley, and at a famous viewpoint, when he heard a broad Yorkshire voice exclaim, "Eeh, what a lovely view!"

After entering into conversation, Stuart discovered that the voice belonged to a man who came from Doncaster.

"Whereabouts in Doncaster do you live?"

"Oh, in Scarll Road at Hexthorpe," came the reply.

"That's where I was brought up," said a surprised Stuart. "My mother still helps to run a small confectioner's shop next door to the fish shop at Kirk Street."

"Well, fancy, I call in there every day on my way to work."

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# It's a Pets Life

By Gerald Coley

*When it was a puppy they couldn't put it down.  
When it was a dog, they did.*

## THE PRESENT WITHOUT A FUTURE!

We all know that "a dog is for life" but although Christmas is a time of giving it really is crackers giving pets as presents! For sadly at this otherwise joyous time, hundreds of Christmas present animals - for whom the jingle bells toll - go straight back up the chimney! Puppies and kittens particularly are attractive and their appeal can be different to resist at any time of year but never be tempted to buy a pet on impulse.

Remember, deciding to own a pet means making a commitment to care for that animal for the rest of its life. You cannot make that decision for someone else. The sad thing is, Christmas cheer soon turns to misery for thousands of pets who are abandoned each year once they have ceased to be a novelty or their care has become too expensive or time consuming. It has been estimated that only one in three of all puppies born for instance, are actually wanted! These pets have often been acquired without forethought or given as Christmas presents to unsuspecting friends.

Owning a pet can be an enjoyable and rewarding experience but Christmas is not the ideal time for introducing a pet into the

family home. The extra noise, the numerous visitors and the general change from normal routine creates an unsettling atmosphere for a new pet. If you have thought long and hard about having a new pet (and you should have done) then get the relationship off to a good start by waiting until **after** Christmas when you can offer your new companion the time and patience it deserves. If you already own a pet you will need to be responsible for the animal's health and safety over the festive period. "Treating" your pet to rich foods may give the animal an upset stomach. If you do want to pamper your pet stick to the proper formulated treats that are available. These are much better than mince pies or Christmas pudding! And don't encourage your pet to over indulge or consume alcohol!

Pets can be fascinated by the glitter of decorations and may even attempt to eat them. So please ensure that all decorations are hung well out of your pet's reach - especially sprigs of holly and mistletoe which have poisonous berries. Before you pull your crackers or let the champagne corks pop ensure that your pets are out of earshot as loud bangs may frighten them! But above all, don't "surprise" anyone with a living gift. My own message echoes all the others that you will hear at this time of year but is simple and to the point - "**Think not so much of the present ... but more of the future!**" That way we will be making for a much better Christmas and a Happier New Year for us and our creatures great and small.

### MOBILE LIBRARY

Nov 29	Week 1
Dec 6	Week 2
Dec 13	Week 1
Dec 20	Week 2
Dec 27	Week 1
Jan 3	Week 2
Jan 10	Week 1
Jan 17	Week 2
Jan 24	Week 1
Jan 31	Week 2

### NEW LIBRARY BOOKS

Once again the Balby Librarian has sent us a list of some recent new books in the Balby Library.

**Bennett, Jackie - Wild Life Garden**

A month by month "natural" gardening book

**Dexter, Colin - The Third Inspector Morse Omnibus**

A collection of crime fiction

**Drinkwater, Carol - Mapping the Heart**

A passionate voyage of discovery

**Ellis, Peter - Biggles**

A "biography" of Biggles

**Guinness Book of Records 1994 (for reference only)**

**Harding, Mike - The Virgin of Discos**

A collection of highly original and entertaining tales

**Mitchell, W.R. - The Men Who Made the Settle-Carlisle**

A vivid account of "Navy" time 1869-1876

**Murder Under the Mistletoe**

A collection of Christmas Who-dunnits

# LOCAL NEWS IN BRIEF

afternoon and had tea with Miss Groom and her sister. The highlight of the day was a telegram of congratulation from Her Majesty the Queen.

## THE "PHANTOM" LIBRARY

Hexthorpe has a library and that is official. The Borough Solicitor confirms it. In a legal notice in the local press informing the public of a proposed prohibition on the waiting of cars in part of Laneside Close, it states that "A copy of the Order and a map ... may be examined at ... Hexthorpe Library, Shadyside, during normal office hours." The notice was issued by the Borough Solicitor on 23rd September 1993. If you can catch a sight of the library, please let us know. As we all know, it was closed down after a campaign to keep it open was unsuccessful.

## BALBY CARR CHOIR

Balby Carr Comprehensive School choir have performed recently at a Songs of Praise service held at Alder Grove Methodist Church. The Church was full and the choir, conducted by Mr Carey Williams, was a credit to the school and area. The choir, we understand, have been booked to sing in Sheffield at two Bach Society concerts. This is a great honour for the school.

## A VISIT TO SABAH

Sabah is the destination for Miss Jean Davis of Gladstone Road. Sabah is part of the island of Borneo. Jean worked there for many years - her main job was translating the Bible into a tribal language. She is on a tour, visiting friends and churches there. When asked what she was most looking forward to, she replied, "Fresh pineapples."

## THE MONARCHS RULE

The Hexthorpe Monarchs boys football team have had a successful start to the season. At the time of going to press they are challenging for top place in their league. Hard work and training is being rewarded.

## TELEGRAM FROM THE QUEEN

Miss Maud Groom of Bramworth Road has recently celebrated her 100th birthday. It was a very special day as friends and neighbours called with cards of congratulations. The Lady Mayoress visited in the

## ANGLING NEWS

Doncaster and District Angling Association have the fishing rights of the River Don from Sprotborough to Hexthorpe Flatts and the Crimpsall. Anglers in possession of a member's book have free fishing. The books are obtainable from most tackle shops. All anglers over twelve years old must also be in possession of a N.R.A. national rod licence.

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This is a fascinating photograph which has been sent to us by Mr Stuart Green. It is of the unveiling of the Great War (1914-18) Memorial in St Jude's Churchyard. We think that the photograph must have been taken from a window upstairs in the butcher's at the corner of Denison Road. As indicated, the buglers, seen near the memorial, are playing the Last Post. It is interesting to see the hundreds of people who were there; the ladies in fine hats and most of the men bare-headed, normally they would have been wearing caps.

The younger ones of us will not recognise the buildings opposite, and the houses up Shadyside and Urban Road. These, of course, have now gone and have been replaced by new houses and bungalows. Notice the gas lamps and the prams at the bottom left.

The numbers present would reflect the sense of loss the community must have felt. If you look at the war memorial you will see that many of Hexthorpe's young men are named on it. There were not many families who did not lose someone. Some families lost more than one son. When the Second World War ended, the names of those killed in that war were added.

We wonder if there is anyone still living in

Hexthorpe or elsewhere who was present at the unveiling ceremony. We would be very interested if they were able to make the picture come alive for us.



UNVEILING THE GREAT WAR MEMORIAL, HEXTHORPE. (THE LAST POST) N°3

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