

THE HEXPRESS

YOUR FREE HEXTHORPE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER No. 96 FEBRUARY 2016

thehexpress.co.uk

Flying Scotsman - the Pride of Hexthorpe



The world famous steam locomotive ‘Flying Scotsman’ was built at the Plant Works in Hexthorpe in 1923 and given its name by the LNER in 1924. It was the first of five Gresley’s Pacifics to haul the prestigious non-stop Flying Scotsman train service from London to Edinburgh. On 30th November 1934, driven by Bill Sparshatt, it became the first steam locomotive to be officially

recorded at 100 mph. This is only one of the famous locomotives that have been built in our community - local men producing magnificent machines. We have much to be proud of.

For most of the years between 1928 and 1936 its tender included a corridor giving access to the cab from the train so that the driver and fireman could be changed without stopping the train. In January 1947 Flying Scotsman emerged from the Plant as an A3, having received a boiler with the long ‘banjo’ dome.

All A3 Pacifics were subsequently fitted with a double chimney to improve performance. This caused exhaust and smoke drift and so the remedy was found in the German type smoke deflectors fitted from 1960. In 1962 British Railways announced that they would scrap Flying Scotsman and it had its last schedule run on 14th January 1963. Alan Pegler, a local business man, bought the locomotive, had it restored at the Plant as closely as possible to its original LNER condition. It then worked a number of tours in this country and in America. Sadly, Pegler ran out of money and the locomotive had a chequered career until it was bought by the National Railway Museum and a ten year renovation began in 2006.

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WHO'S WHO

Local Councillors

Sue Wilkinson Tel. 01302 817206

Glyn Jones Tel. 01302 816881

Methodist Minister

Rev Ian S Rutherford Tel: 01302 852024

Parish Priest

Fr Stephen Edmonds Tel. 01709 858358

Hexthorpe Community Constable

Contact Sergeant Butler Tel: 01302 385339

Stronger Community Officers

Contact: Tel. 01302 736930

PACT MEETINGS

These are held the last Thursday in the month at 2.00pm at St Jude's Parish Hall. All residents are invited to meet and ask questions of the local police officers.

The Junction

The Junction is open to all from 10.00am-4.00pm each weekday. There is a comfortable drop-in where you can spend as much or as little time as you like. You can have a tea or coffee and join in the friendly chat or just sit in peace.

Members of staff are happy to talk privately with you if you need to talk over something, or need some specific advice or help. There is a computer suite with free broadband access for all. Free computer courses are also available. For further information or help please call in or ring 01302 349341.

Any letters, articles, adverts contact:

thehexpress.co.uk or Donald 01302 852521

WEEKLY EVENTS

The King's Cross Church Hall (Methodist)

Monday

3.30pm Mini Cruz Key Stage 1 children

Tuesday

9.15-11.00am **S.A.R.A Group**
(Stay and Rest Awhile)
Mums and Tots Group

5.30pm **Mega Cruz** School Years 3-6

7.25pm **The Club with No Name** School
Year 7 and upwards

Wednesday

12.30pm Luncheon Club (first of each month)

2.00-3.00pm Line Dancing

**You are invited on any Sunday to the Worship
Services at The King's Cross Church**

10.30am and 6.00pm

At Hexthorpe Parish Hall (St Jude's) Laughton Road, Hexthorpe

Monday

1.30-3.00pm Yoga

Wednesday

10.00-11.00am Keep Fit

11.00-11.30am Coffee Morning

Thursday

2.00-3.00pm PACT meeting (see opposite)

4.45-5.45pm Keep Fit

Friday

9.30-10.30am Play/Learn (Mums & Toddlers)

4.30-6.30pm Youth Club (4-13 years old)

7.00-9.00pm Youth Club (14-18 years old)

Booking Manager: Sue Large: Tel. 07582 812440
The Hall is available for hire for parties and other special events.

Sunday Services

10.00am Morning Prayer

11.00am Parish Mass

Hexthorpe has a Cinema History (Part One)

This article has been written by a resident of Hexthorpe for forty years, Ron Curry MBE. He is Doncaster's cinema historian and the author of a book entitled, 'Let's go to the Pictures'. This is the story of a hundred years of cinema in Doncaster.



Doncaster's first cinema evolved in 1896 when travelling showmen like Alderman G.T. Tuby (later Mayor of Doncaster) was giving the first film presentation in a canvas tent. The Coliseum Bioscope, as it was known, was owned by Alderman Tuby. Outside was a brightly lit glittering wooden front with a noisy mechanical steam organ drowning out the sound of the traction engine that provided the necessary electricity. There was a small stage with a few dancing girls from which the

'Barker' would urge the public to step inside. 'The Coliseum' had no plush seats, the audience sat on benches facing a white sheet. The hand cranked projector clattered away in full view at the back. The short black and white silent films were a miscellany of everyday scenes – a train entering a station, workers leaving a factory. They lasted only two or three minutes. The more people who paid the tighter they were packed. The airy canvas tent would soon be replaced by the converted halls where films were now being shown, nicknamed 'Penny Gaffs' from the cheap admission charges.

This was the beginning of cinema in Doncaster. There was no soundtrack supplied with the films and so each Bioscope had a pianist playing music more or less suited to what was appearing on the screen. Some of the audience talked all through the performance, loudly enough to be heard over the piano and the projector. Members of the audience would sometimes read the subtitles out loud and shout comments on the action shown on the screen. The film often broke causing catcalls and the stamping of the feet. Films in the early years were made of highly inflammable material and caught fire very easily. The Cinematograph Act of 1909 was passed. There had to be a separate projection room, adequate exits and fire precautions. This caused the Coliseum tents to close, but the act stimulated the building of new cinemas.

Before that happened, Doncaster had adapted halls where films could be shown. The Pavilion at Hexthorpe Flatts was Kinematograph registered in 1913. It showed a changing roster of silent films with live musical accompaniment; feature films were still rare. Among the presentations would be a quirky (Florence Turner) comedy showing her practising for a face pulling competition, but ends up with her arrest. An episode of the American film serial 'The Perils of Pauline', with Pearl White, was the latest sensation in 1914. Newsreel showing Emmeline Pankhurst, a travelogue of the famous sights of Egypt showing Lord Kitchener seem reviewing the troops and a film showing troops celebrating the 1914 Christmas at the Front before returning to the trenches would be among the films shown.

Local News in Brief

Brilliant Roma Youngsters

The Doncaster Concert Band recently organised a concert in St Jude's Church. The band played in its usual superb way. Most of their music had a Christmas flavour and had the audience's feet tapping and hands clapping. They were well supported by the 4.30 choir, consisting of members of the Doncaster Council. However, the stars of the show were seven teenagers from the Roma community - the Roma Khamoro. There were four girls and three boys. They played and sang traditional Slovakian music. They were very confident and made a vibrant, exciting sound. The youngsters brought the audience to their feet. We hope that we will be hearing more from these talented musicians. If you have an opportunity to hear them, then don't miss out!

A Lost Cinema Plaque

The first centenary of cinema in the UK was celebrated in 1996. During this celebration a Cinema Heritage Blue Plaque was awarded to the people and places that had made a significant contribution to British Cinema history. Doncaster's plaque was unveiled in the foyer of the Warner Bros Multiplex on July 27th 1996. During renovation this plaque went missing. Ron Curry of Hexthorpe, Doncaster's cinema historian, is campaigning to have this replaced. He is seeking funding to remake and to install a new plaque so that an important part of the town's heritage is not lost for ever. Any ideas?

Christmas

The Christmas activities at Hexthorpe's two churches - St Jude's and the King's Cross Church - were well attended and appreciated by many Hexthorpe residents, both young and old. The traditional Christingle and

Carol Services never seem to lose their attraction. A carol group from the King's Cross Church sang at the Balby Tesco store and on Christmas Eve around Hexthorpe. Almost £200 was raised for TEAR Fund, a Christian relief fund. Thanks are given to those who gave so generously.

Hexpress Comment

This issue of the Hexpress is mainly dedicated to the past. It is good to remember our heritage. Hexthorpe has a long and great history. We all - from the youngest to the oldest - need to remind ourselves of this. It gives a sense of belonging, of community and of pride in our achievements. This should help the younger generation to be determined to continue in their rich heritage. In 50 years' time, what will be the legacy that they leave for their grandchildren? To encourage all this, a meeting has been rearranged to discuss the possibility of forming a Hexthorpe Local History Group.

Local History Group

There is an increasing interest in local history. There are a number of local community history groups in Doncaster. Hexthorpe has a rich heritage. In the last two issues of the Hexpress we have been reminded of this. Are you interested in discussing the possibility of forming a group to discover and record our heritage? A meeting has now been rearranged for Wednesday 2nd March at 7.00pm in the foyer of the King's Cross Church on Urban Road. If you are interested please come on that day and/or contact Donald on 852521 or via our website thehexpress.co.uk.

What is Happening to the Eden Grove



It is now more than 10 years since the Eden Grove Sports Ground and Club ceased to be used. There was provision for tennis, bowls, cricket, football and athletics, together with the Eden Grove Club buildings. When the Bombardier site was sold to Woodford it was on the understanding that provision would still be made for activities to be resumed there. There was to be a new club building by the river and the provision of football and cricket pitches.

On the approved plans for the site, such provision is indicated. However the question is – when will such a plan be implemented? The delay reported in our last issue will obviously have implications. Fortunately the Athletics have found an excellent home down at the Keepmoat Stadium.

But, Hexthorpe desperately needs facilities. Why should our young budding footballers and cricketers have to go elsewhere to find coaching and play for teams in competitions? It would enhance the life of the community if there were teams to go and watch. It is always a good social/community occasion to sit and watch a local cricket match on a lovely summer's day.

Older residents will remember the days when The Doncaster Plant Works Athletic Club was one of the finest in the country. There were athletic meetings held on summer evenings, attended by hundreds of people. Teams from the Plant, Sheffield United and Rotherham competed in the whole range of athletic events. The national decathlon championship was held there. One resident remembers vividly a pole vault competition when the British record was achieved.

There is a very interesting account of the history of the club written by Thomas H Fox. It is entitled 'Doncaster Plant Works A C - A profile'. It can be found online. It tells of the important role played by George Adam over many years; he was a forward thinker in training methods and also in the development of improvements in equipment. His work was crucial in the development of the club. Also it gives the names of some important visitors.

Do any of you know the name of a famous visitor to Hexthorpe in 1924? It was Eric Liddell, of 'Chariots of Fire' fame, who visited Eden Grove shortly after his Olympic gold medal success in Paris (see the back page). In 1933, Lord Burghley, Member of Parliament, Olympic gold and silver medallist, later to become President of the AAA and Chairman of the Olympic Committee, came to view the facilities. Chris Brasher, the 1956 Olympic gold medallist, opened the new cinder track in 1957. Famous athletes produced by the club include, Tom Hoyland, Frank Phillipson, Brian Shenton, Leslie Pinder, Arthur Rowe, Jeffrey Teale. These all had success at local, national and international level. We will give more details of them and the club in future issues.

Hexthorpe on a Frosty Morning



Do you know where these scenes are in Hexthorpe or where they were taken from?

We have challenges in our community but take time out to enjoy the good things – there are many.





Hexthorpe Primary School

'Learning together. Growing together. Aiming even higher.'



The HEXFILES



www.hexthorpe.doncaster.sch.uk

January 2016

New Library Opened by Horrible Histories Illustrator



'Horrible Histories' illustrator Martin Brown opened the new Hexthorpe Primary School library, which hosts the £10,000 worth of new books that the school won as part of the first 'World Book Day Award'.

Martin performed a show, drawing funny faces and characters from history. Pupils dressed up in historical costumes and learned facts, including that soldiers would have had lice in their clothes. Pupils guessed the record number of lice on a WWI soldier's clothes and were startled to learn that over 10,000 would inhabit his shirt alone! Martin signed books, with Waterstones in school to sell copies. He spoke to all children individually, discussing their cartoon drawings.

Pupil Isaiah John, 10, said: "It was a magical day. It was truly surreal. I couldn't believe I was meeting the illustrator of Horrible Histories, books that I have been enjoying for years." Njoki, age 10, said: "I finally know that I don't have to draw realistically to draw well!"

Doncaster Book Award



Top Authors at Doncaster Book Awards

Year 5 and 6 children visited the launch of the Doncaster Book Awards at the Dome where they met famous author David Baddiel. There was a world exclusive as David read from his new book 'The Person Controller' - many children were lucky enough to get their own signed copy weeks before its release.

Our very own Zuzanna, Isaiah-John and Maddie read David's other book 'The Parent

Agency' before the visit, so were invited onto the sofa on stage to interview the author. Baddiel loved meeting the children of Hexthorpe Primary, saying: "It was brilliant to speak to the kids, you feel as though they are genuinely engaged with the story, and that means a lot to me. Anything that encourages children to read is a good thing."

Just before Christmas, Year 5 children met author Matt Haig and illustrator Chris Mould, creators of the hit new book 'A Boy Called Christmas'. The children are now excited about reading the books on the DBA longlist. They'll be voting for their favourites later in the year.



Parent's Forum



This January, the HPS Parent Forum (which includes the Friends of the School) was re-launched and had first highly successful meeting. The new look group consists of parents, school staff, school governors, the Stronger Families team and members of the wider local community. We hope to build on the successful community relationships developed over many years and strive to continue to have HPS at the heart of the community.

Topics discussed at the first meeting included the election of a chair and secretary, a future parental questionnaire to increase parental voice, the role of the governors and how to improve admission meetings for children new to the school. The group also discussed what is available for children in the local community. Minutes will be available on the new look website when it is launched.

The next meeting will be held in school on Monday 22nd February at 2.00pm. If you would like to become involved in this opportunity help the school move forwards, please contact the school office.



Jeans for Genes®

Fantastic fundraising



Jeans for Genes®

Many thanks for your generous support for Jeans for Genes day in the Autumn term. The theme was 'Superheroes' and we had a surprise visit from Captain America and Spiderman. It was all very exciting and £688.49 was raised!



A further £200 was raised by Mrs Dunn selling delicious home-made cakes to very appreciative staff giving a grand total of £888.49 – the best ever! All the money went to Cystic Fibrosis. Well done and thank you to everyone.

DONCASTER IN BLOOM AWARDS

Gardening club are very enthusiastic and go to the allotment on a weekly basis from Easter through to October half term. They work very closely with Pete and Keith who give the school outstanding support keeping the allotment in trim when the children are not there. Anyone who saw their fantastic dahlias at the Harvest tea will know what skilled gardeners we have amongst us. The Gardening Club had another successful year and the school allotment achieved silver gilt standard at the Doncaster In Bloom awards. Well done to all of you and special thanks to our fantastic supporters at the allotments.



It's Panto Season! (Oh Yes It Is!)

Before Christmas, Hexthorpe pupils had three chances to experience that great British tradition: the pantomime! Year 6 pupils created an animation and artwork in a special competition and won first prize. Their creative skills won them tickets to see 'Aladdin' at the Sheffield Lyceum theatre. Then, on the last day of term, the whole school was delighted by a surprise panto performed by the staff. Everyone got involved in the impromptu performance of 'Snow White', with Mr Hall as the magic mirror, Mrs Potter as the wicked queen and Mr Cassell excelling in his role as the dame. A new star was born! Finally, a variety of Hexthorpe pupils took part in Doncaster Book Awards' 'panto in a day' event in the majestic setting of the Doncaster Mansion House. They worked with the Talegate Theatre Company in learning sketches and songs for 'Aladdin', which they performed for their parents at the end of the day.



HP'S CHRISTMAS FAIR

The fantastic sum of £631.52 was raised by The Friends of the School at the Christmas Fair held before the holidays. The fair was held in the new sports hall and was extremely well attended and enjoyed by all. Once again, congratulations to The Friends of the School and many thanks to them for their fantastic hard work all year on behalf of the school.



Success in National Diabetes Competition



Hexthorpe Primary pupils won a national award for a short film they created about life in school for children and young people with Type 1 diabetes. The animated film titled 'Dylcia's Diary' was highly commended in Diabetes UK's 'Diabetes in School' Short Film Competition. The children went to a special screening and awards ceremony, which took place at the Bafra film club in London.

Dylcia said: "I feel amazing! I didn't think we'd make it to the finals because I saw many videos and I thought they were amazing. I'm really overwhelmed. We just wanted to raise awareness of diabetes, and make sure that people were getting the right care in school, and if people know how I cope with it, it might help them."

Stephen Ryan from Diabetes UK said, "Hexthorpe Primary School impressed the judges with the quality and originality of their film. The film promotes what life can be like in school for children with diabetes in a fun and engaging way. By raising awareness of a very serious condition, the school's film will help make a difference to the lives of children and young people with type 1 diabetes. We would like to thank all of the schools who took part in our competition. The quality all round has been extremely impressive."

Foundation Fun



Children in Foundation Stage have settled into their new classes and are enjoying exploring lots of new learning opportunities every day. They are becoming independent and confident learners who love new challenges.

So far this year they have learnt about friendships, keeping fit and healthy, different celebrations and caring for animals. Look how busy they have been!



Late news...

Our sports coach Miss Farrell took a group of Y5 and Y6 children to the Keepmoat stadium to participate in the Kids Cup football competition.

Ethan (aged 10) said, "It was cold but really exciting. There were lots of fun matches and we met children from other schools in Doncaster that we'd never heard of".

David (aged 10) commented, "Unfortunately we came fourth in group 2 so didn't get into the semi-final, but we enjoyed it anyway". The children all had a good time.

Well done to all who took part.



Tributes

Mr Greenfield (1925 – 2015)

Toby (Mr Greenfield) was born in Doncaster to Gladys, nee Gladys Lowe, and William Greenfield. However, Toby spent a huge amount of time at his grandparents' home, (the Lowe family home) at the little village of Carlton-le-Moorland between Lincoln and Newark – and when he won a scholarship to the Magnus Grammar School at Newark, he lived at Carlton throughout his schooldays. His school reports indicate a life-long problem in having a brilliant mind but having an inherent slowness in working and a problem in forming relationships.

Leaving grammar school, Toby joined the Royal Navy, serving memorably on HMS Belfast, and certainly saw the world! I have been reading dozens of letters and cards that he wrote to his mother and aunts from every port imaginable. I can remember, as if it were yesterday, meeting Toby, just home on leave, and looking immaculate in his naval uniform of bell-bottoms etc, when I was 18 years old - and him looking incredibly shy to have to be face-to-face with a girl in the family! (I was his cousin Michael's girlfriend and then wife).



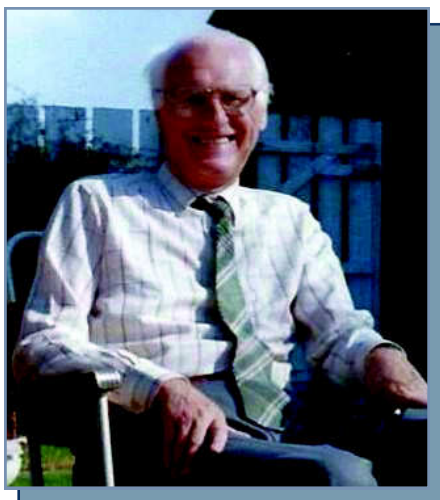
When he retired from the navy, he took a job at the Continental Telephone exchange in London – using his fluency in languages to good effect. He mostly commuted from Doncaster to London by train, so that he could satisfy his huge interest in trains and railways! – of which he had enormous knowledge!!

In his final retirement he settled back in Doncaster, living in Kirk Street, Hexthorpe. His home became the home of numerous stray cats that he thought the world of!!! He also had a passion for birds, and supported many charities that cared for wild life. The Christian faith meant a lot to him, and, in later years, when he had poor mobility, he would get a taxi to church on a Sunday – particularly loving to get a taxi to the little chapel at Tickhill Road Hospital, even when he wasn't a patient there!! There were many years of ill-health for him, and he didn't find life easy – but I do feel he appreciated what we all did for him more than he was ever able to tell us; and what we all did to bring happiness into his often sad life was really precious. I will miss him so much. *Pat Chapple*

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John Stephenson (1924 – 2015)



John lived in the family home in Stone Close Avenue for most of his long life. His father worked in the paint shop at the Plant. John attended the Hexthorpe School and then the Central School. He was a diligent pupil and was described as ‘one of the finest students since the opening of the school’. He began work in the Plant drawing office. That was the beginning of quite an outstanding career. Through courses at Doncaster and Sheffield Colleges he gained certificates, at the highest level, in Mechanical Engineering and Management Studies. He became a Fellow of the Institute of Mechanical Engineers, something not given lightly. He became one of the top engineers in British Railways. In the very month of his death, a Railway magazine was highlighting the Class 86 Electric Engine of which John had been the lead engineer.

Visits around the world were commonplace. If you name a country, John would probably have been there. He lectured in many of them and advised the Japanese in their railway developments. Having the name of Stephenson the Japanese could not believe that he was not one of the Stephensons of the ‘Rocket’ family fame! He was feted like a super star.

On one occasion on a flight he sat next to and talked with Mother Theresa. John had many interests – he read books avidly; he was a crossword wizard; he loved classical music; he was a photographer; he worked with leather; he embroidered; he collected fine china; he had an amazing collection of ‘Railwayana’; he had a fine stamp and coin collection; he had a complete set of fishing tackle; he was a member of the Yorkshire Cricket Club, the English Heritage, the National Trust and the Geographical Society. What a man!

He married Betty, his lifelong sweetheart and friend, in 2008. They then lived in St Anne’s Rest Home and then in Warde Aldam. John was a real gentleman – that has been said by work colleagues, care home workers, local people, members of his church. He was a private man, an unassuming and self-effacing man, a man of integrity, a model of uprightness. He was generous in his support of the work of the Junction.

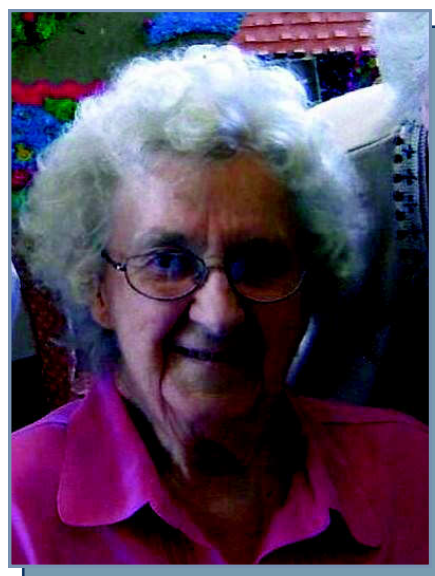
Put very simply, John was a good man. He was man of faith. He was a member of the King’s Cross Church, being the church treasurer for many years. John had developed a real and living faith in Jesus. It was that faith that undergirded his whole life. His work colleagues talked of what a good man he was. That is the real test. What he believed in his heart he demonstrated in his life. **Donald R**

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Alice Walton (1920 – 2015)

Alice, or Miss Walton as she was known by many, was born in Doncaster, attending schools in Balby and Bentley before going on to further education at Doncaster Technical College, Church View. Upon finishing her education she started her railway service in the Stores Accountant's Office of the LNER and stayed until going into the Women's Army Corps. She served in transport and searchlight units, rising through the ranks to Captain. After wartime service she continued in the Territorial Service, rising to the rank of Major and being the recipient of the Territorial Decoration. In 1951 she became Secretary to the District Engineer of the British Transport Commission based in Doncaster. She remained in this job until her retirement. After the death of her father, Alice moved into a new bungalow in Old Hexthorpe.



At the celebration of her life in the Doncaster Minster it was said that: “We give thanks to God for all that Alice was and for all she has given us. What were they? Her service to the country in war and peace; her integrity and efficiency; her delight in travel; her support of charities both local and national, e.g. the National Trust; her ability to make and maintain lasting friendships; her commitment to the life of the town, especially its musical life; her love and commitment to her family, especially for her care of her mother; above all her commitment to God and his church.”

Alice and her parents worshipped at St Leonard and St Jude's, Scawsby, then St Jude's, Hexthorpe and then in the late 1960's at St George's. At the Minster Alice was involved in Sunday School, PCC, Stewarding, The Friends, Organ Recitals, Raspberry Teas.... You name it, Alice gave support. “Alice was the sort of person whose opinion mattered. If she disagreed with somebody be it the Vicar, or whoever, she would have good reasons for doing so. She demanded to be taken seriously. There was an integrity and a Christian faith, both shown in the whole way in which she conducted her relationships. Her faith was a robust, no nonsense one and very deep. She walked, as St Paul says, ‘by faith, not sight’ or as the writer to the Hebrews puts it, ‘Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.’ Alice said her prayers, loved her Bible and regularly received the Sacrament.” She has borne her physical limitations without complaint. So St Paul's words about leaving the earthly ‘tent’ of our bodies for a heavenly one, comes as a benediction for her.” *Supplied by Corinna and Martin Towers*

Continued from page 1

The overhaul was completed this month. Much publicity has been given. Many people have said that the Flying Scotsman they remember ‘was not like this’.

The restored one retains the modernised exhaust arrangements and the well-known green is not there. This has caused much discussion, but it has been announced that it will retain its smoke deflectors and double chimney but will be painted in green in the summer.



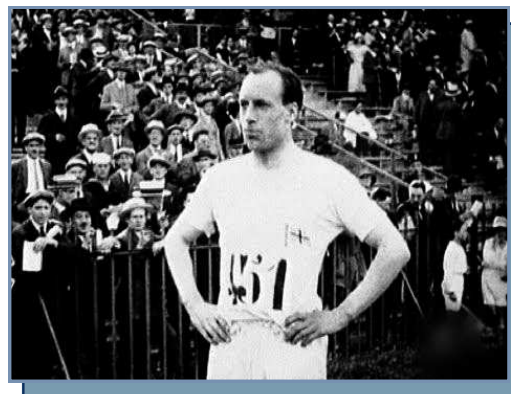
The LNER used the locomotive for publicity purposes. Here are some examples. Its first film appearance was in 1929 ‘The Flying Scotsman’; it featured in the Railway

Series of W Awdry; its tenders appeared in ‘Thomas and Friends’; it was seen in ‘102 Dalmations’ and in ‘Top Gear Race to the North’; one of the £5 coins produced for the 2012 Olympic Games featured the ‘Flying Scotsman’.

The Other Flying Scotsman Visits Hexthorpe

Eric Liddell, of Chariots of Fire fame, won the Gold Medal in the 400 metres event at the Paris Olympics in 1924. At the same games he won the Silver Medal in the 200 metres. Where did he then go? He made a visit to Hexthorpe in the very same year, soon after his triumph in Paris. He appeared at the Eden Grove Athletics Club. What a day that must have been.

Eric was born in China to Scottish missionary parents in 1902. Therefore his nationality was Scottish. He went to school in London and then was a student at Edinburgh University. He represented Scotland in athletics and rugby. It is well documented that he refused to run in the 100 metres in Paris because the final was to be on a Sunday. He believed that Sunday should be a day of worship and rest. This annoyed many people, but he was forgiven as he then went on unexpectedly to win the gold in the 400 metres.



What a year in Hexthorpe’s history. The naming of the locomotive built here as ‘Flying Scotsman’ and a visit from a human ‘Flying Scotsman’!

Do you know what happened to Eric? He announced his plan to stop running and he went to China to teach people about Jesus. The Japanese had invaded China and Eric eventually was interred in a prison camp. He set up church services, schooling for the children, sporting activities and helped care for the sick. One morning Eric the super athlete died in a faraway prison from a brain tumour at the age of only 43.