

The HEX-PRESS

YOUR FREE HEXTHORPE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER • No. 43 AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 1996

No Need for Chemist says Health Authority

There is no need for a chemist shop in Hexthorpe. That is the verdict of the Health Authority. Local people have asked for one. There is a chemist who is wanting to establish a shop here. The authority says no. That is the position which was revealed at the recently held Tenants and Residents Association meeting.

A petition asking for a chemist shop has been raised in the Post Office by Mr & Mrs Knox. It had almost 600 signatures. It was said that a Balby chemist once had an arrangement with the Hexthorpe Post Office to collect and deliver prescriptions on a daily basis. However, this was not maintained by the chemist, leaving many elderly people without any access to a chemist's shop.

The meeting was told that a chemist had applied for permission to open a shop in Hexthorpe. The application was turned down on the grounds that other chemist shops are not far away – there are chemist shops in Balby and we are not far off from the town centre. Therefore the Health Authority believe that Hexthorpe is adequately covered.

Someone also pointed out that the

previous chemist shop in Hexthorpe Road was not well supported in the days before its closure.

The feeling of the meeting was certainly in favour of seeing a new chemist open here. "The argument that we are near the town centre was used when the library closed down," says one resident, "we are a community in our own right. We need facilities." The Rev. John Wiltshire, the Methodist Minister agrees, "I recently took an elderly lady to the surgery on Greenfield Lane. There is no way she would have been able to go to the chemist shop on her own. To do so, elderly people have to journey into town. A local chemist shop is much needed."



Urban Road facing town, at the beginning of the century. On the left is the old Hexthorpe House; on the right is the old Primitive Methodist Chapel. The Prior Well Inn is further down on the right at the corner of Littlewood Street. This picture is taken from 'Balby and Hexthorpe' a book of old photographs compiled by Peter Tuffrey, recently published.

WEEKLY EVENTS

Methodist Church Hall

S.A.R.A Group
(Stay and Rest Awhile)
Mums and Tots Group
Thursday 9.00 – 11.00

Girls Brigade
Tuesdays 6.00 – 8.30 pm
5 to 8 years meet at 6.00 pm
8 to 11 years meet at 6.00 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 6.00 pm
11 to 16 years meet at 7.45 pm

**You are invited on any Sunday
to the Worship Services at
Hexthorpe Methodist Church**
10.30 am and 6.00 pm

Aerobics
Every Thursday 6.00 – 7.00 pm

Hexthorpe Environmental Group
Last Friday of the month at 8.00 pm

At St Jude's Church Hall

Playgroup
Wednesday 1.00 – 3.00 pm

Tai Kwando
Monday 7.30 – 8.30
Tuesday 7.00 – 9.15
Thursday 7.00 – 9.15

Sunday Services
and Junior Church 10.00 am
Evening Prayer & Benediction
6.30 pm

WHO'S WHO

Local Councillors

Gordon Jones
7 South Street
Tel: 367396

Charles Harrison
81 Florence Avenue
Tel: 858542

Paul Farley
18 Balby Road
Tel: 818379

Methodist Minister

John Wiltshire
1 Cedar Road, Balby
Tel: 852024

Methodist Lay Workers

Andy Ross
61 Hexthorpe Road
Tel: 349341

Peter Gilson
21 Bentley Avenue
Tel: 768417

Parish Priest

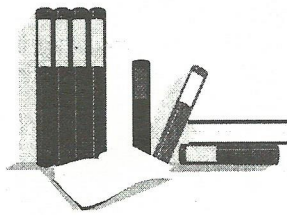
The Rev. J. Gilbert
The Vicarage
132 Shadyside
Tel: 852057

Hexthorpe Community Constable

contact P.C. Brian Simms
Tel: 366744

MOBILE LIBRARY

August	5	Week 2
	12	Week 1
	19	Week 2
	26	Week 1
September	2	Week 2
	9	Week 1
	16	Week 2
	23	Week 1
	30	Week 2



Any letters, articles contact:

Donald, 31 Old Hexthorpe, Tel: 852521

Adverts, contact:

Julie, 165 Urban Road, Tel: 854898

Published by Hexthorpe Methodist Church

Designed by Typestyle DTP,
Tel: 01302 744005

Printed by GNBA Design & Print
Bawtry Hall, Bawtry Tel: 01302 710576

Rhubarb Whip

1lb rhubarb, wiped and trimmed, ¼ pt. water, 4 oz sugar, 7 oz can evaporated milk, 1 raspberry jelly.

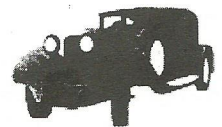
Method:

Put rhubarb into pan with water and sugar and cook over a low heat until really soft. Cut up jelly and put pieces into hot rhubarb stirring until jelly has dissolved. Leave mixture until cold. Whip the evaporated milk until **stiff**. Fold it into the cold rhubarb and jelly mixture. Turn into 1 large or individual dishes and leave to set in fridge. When set top with grated chocolate. Serves 6.

Handy Hint: To prevent stewed fruit from breaking up, boil water and sugar together before adding the fruit.

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Issues aired at meeting

– Successful start

There was a good turn out at the Tenants and Residents Association meeting, despite the fact that there was competition from Euro '96 on the television. Perhaps it was because of that! Many matters were raised and discussed. Councillor Charles Harrison was able to help here. The main item of the meeting was an explanation by Mr. Keith Thimbleby of the Council of the new compulsory tendering scheme.

Community Policeman

Present at the meeting were two policemen – Sergeant Worthington, who looks after community policing, and P.C. Brian Simms, who is our community policeman. They introduced themselves and emphasised that policing was a partnership between the police and the community. P.C. Simms can be contacted on Doncaster 366744. If he is not in the office, a message can be left for him.

The Crimpsall

It was pointed out that the barrier across the path, which was fixed to prevent cars from entering the Crimpsall, has been replaced. It had been vandalised. The responsibility for its upkeep belongs to the National River Authority, now known as the Environmental Agency. Contact them if there are problems.

The Flatts

Concern was again expressed about the state of the Dell and the Flatts generally. The contract firm who are responsible for its upkeep often seem to be fighting a losing battle. The meeting was encouraged by the chairman to remember the saying – 'Use it or lose it'.

Bottle Bank

A need for a bottle bank was expressed. There is a paper bank near the clock; this is looked after by Hexthorpe Environmental Group. A request was made that a bottle bank could be placed by the side of it.

Grass Cutting

Many residents were dissatisfied with the way the grass is cut on the estate. In particular, the mess which is made because the cuttings are not collected was highlighted. The grass-cutting is contracted out by the Council, which it has to do. It was pointed out that the grass cuttings never were collected in the past because the cost of doing so is prohibitive.

The state of the pavements in our streets was also brought to the meeting's attention; grass and weeds are growing through the crevices. One or two streets are looking very untidy. It was emphasised that if you have a complaint, don't just grumble to yourself or your neighbour, but ring the appropriate department of the Council or speak to your local councillors.

Compulsory Competitive Tendering

Mr. Thimbleby explained how many of the services which the Council once supplied now have to be put out to tender. For example, refuse collection, street cleaning, grass-cutting, park maintenance and school meals are all now done by private contractors.

The government now says that matters concerning Housing Services have to be put to competitive tendering – these include collecting rent arrears, repairs, maintenance, tenant agreements, managing empty properties. Decisions on who gets a house remains with the Council Staff. The contracts last for five years and then tenders have to be received again. The contracts are awarded by a panel, involving tenants and officers. The Council acts upon the panel's recommendations.

However it was reported that the deadline for tenders for Housing Services had passed, and the only bid had come from the Council. Private contractors had shown no interest; this was so throughout the north of England. The whole process has been expensive.



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Hexthorpe Primary School

- first anniversary coming up soon!!

Last summer was a period of anxiety during which it was difficult to imagine that the school would be ready to welcome children in September 1995. The contractors were working hard, but there seemed to be so much unfinished work that it was impossible to see how we would be prepared and organised, and able to fully operate as a school for the new term. For some of us, it felt like moving house but much worse! For the staff from the First School, there was the nostalgia associated with leaving a well loved school steeped in memories for generations of pupils (mostly pleasant I hope!) and moving to a different site. For the Middle School staff it must have felt as though they were being 'taken over' in terms of the increase in staff and pupil numbers, and of course they had to cope with work on site and the changing nature of the building.

But after initial delays, it was all systems go! An invitation was issued to the community to see the new school and we were happy to receive many visitors who remarked on the lovely classroom environments and the attractive surroundings. On the whole we were very happy with the new building. We were in no doubt that we would be able to offer the children in Hexthorpe an even better quality education in an improved location, where we could develop continuity and progression for them between the ages of 4-11 years.

The first term

During the first term several social events were organised, many of them by the children. The 'Harvest tea' which was supported by Sainsbury's was a great success and an important way in which to build relationships between the elderly and young. Once again, the business community of Hexthorpe responded well to requests for support at the Christmas Fair which was another successful and enjoyable event. Singing carols in the Dell in spite of the inclement weather, was a significant event as it marked our commitment towards an appreciation of the local environment and its potential. We all enjoyed refreshments

afterwards in school and many people remarked on how great it would be if the park could be restored to its former status as a beautiful focal point for family events. We will be working on this in the future and hope that you will support our efforts. The children also entertained the elderly by singing carols at the Crimpsall Centre, and were invited to sing outside Adams Childrenswear in front of the Frenchgate Centre as part of a national charity fundraising event.

Warm and welcoming

During the second term the school had a 'General Evaluation Visit' carried out by an Inspector from the Local Education Authority. We were complimented on the way in which a 'warm, welcoming, well organised and settled working environment had already been achieved in a relatively short period of time.' It was really good to receive this kind of positive view of the school. I knew that every single member of staff had worked tremendously hard in and out of school hours on behalf of the school, and indeed everyone continues to do so. Not only have we a regular structured programme of staff professional development activities, but many staff are also involved in running clubs after school too. Over the past year we have had French, Japanese, Art, Football, Gymnastics, Netball, Choir and Drama clubs. The children have taken part in inter-school netball and football games, entered and won prizes in a 'design an anti-drugs badge and slogan' competition, and decorated Easter eggs displaying amazing ingenuity and creativity.

Social Events

Social events have included regular bingo sessions and 'specials' at Christmas, Easter and end of term. Discos always prove to be popular and have been well attended by children and adults. The school participated in a 'National Grounds Day' the aim of which was to raise awareness about the potential of the outside environment as a learning resource. All kinds of activities took place including the

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Primera/Mondeo	30.00	28.00	100.00	70.00

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Escort Van	23.00	105.00
Transit	28.00	120.00
Luton	35.00	180.00
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planting of numerous plants and shrubs around the school. The school was invited to take part in the Cusworth Festival where a group of Year 5 children performed an excellent programme of music and dance which was well received by everyone. The staff planned Greek and Italian days as part of the curriculum and everyone involved learned a lot in a most enjoyable manner. Apart from the on-going educational visits which have been planned this year, the children in Year 6 spent a week in Whitby and Year 7 went to the Hazlehead Activity Centre. Moving further afield, Margaret Dorlin spent two weeks in Albania on a 'mercy mission' and I spent two weeks in Italy, definitely not relaxing (unfortunately!) but participating in an intensive course learning Italian and something about Italian life and culture.

A European School

An exciting development has been our involvement in a European Education Project with schools in Italy and Ireland. This is the first year of a three year project on on health for which we have received funding through the EU. We were also pleased to hear recently that we were one of four Doncaster schools to receive accreditation as a 'European School' on account of the work done in this area over the last few years. Radio Sheffield came to school to interview staff and pupils about their work, and the reporter was suitably impressed to hear the confident manner in which they (not the staff!) could converse in French and Italian! Linking with other schools nearer home, Stillington School near York has been our UK link over the past three years. The pupils and staff love visiting Hexthorpe (mainly because it is very different from their small village school of 45 pupils) and came here recently, whilst the reciprocal visit to Stillington by Year 3 children is due to take place this month.

Goodbye

We are constantly seeking opportunities to enhance the curriculum and give our pupils the kind of quality education

which is their entitlement. The teachers work very hard and long hours after school in order to rigorously plan the curriculum and assess the pupils' work. It is definitely no easy task being a teacher these days but we have been very fortunate in having very industrious and enthusiastic staff (both teaching and non-teaching) who have demonstrated a great commitment towards the children of Hexthorpe. Sadly we have to say goodbye to some members of staff who I know are sorry to leave us. We thank them very much for their valuable contributions and wish them well in their new ventures. We are also losing two year groups, years 6 and 7, and wish them happiness and success in their new schools.

Good support

We have always been very fortunate to have supportive parents who show a lot of interest in what happens in school, attend meetings and activities, and show a willingness to develop real partnership with the school in an atmosphere of trust and respect. It is also not an easy task being a headteacher especially when involved in the amalgamation of two schools. I can only say that this past year has been challenging, stressful, and exhausting sometimes, but it has also been exciting exhilarating and very enjoyable for most of the time. I have always felt very privileged to be working here and would like to say a very big thank you to all the staff, governors and parents, and to everyone in the community of Hexthorpe for their interest, support and hard work on our behalf. But most of all I want to say a very special thank you to the children in our school, most of whom on a daily basis remind me, because of their affection and enthusiasm for learning, why I came to this job over thirty years ago. The children are indeed our future. It is for them that we need to keep on developing professional and improving the school, so that it will be a centre of excellence for the community of Hexthorpe.

Catherine Lawson

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Fri	11.45 to 1.30pm	4.00 to 6.00pm	8.00 to 11.30pm
Sat	11.45 to 1.45pm		

Phone for orders: Brian & Margaret 856843

Hexthorpe Tenants and Residents Association

The meetings are held at the Primary School on the third Tuesday each month at 7 pm prompt.

The dates for the next two are as follows:

Tuesday August 20th & Tuesday September 17th

We hope to have someone from environmental services and a drug awareness night at these meetings. Keep your eyes on the posters around Hexthorpe to find out which one is on at which meeting.

So don't just leave it to others – get involved. Hope to see you at the next meeting.

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Natural Instincts!

Are cats above the law? I was recently asked this question by an owner who quoted the fact that one hears of many cases against dog owners for what their pets do but hardly anything regarding the actions of cats! Can cats in fact do just about anything without their owners suffering the full penalty of the law? Even kill?! The simple answer is YES - except in certain circumstances!

If you know that your cat has dangerous characteristics or contagious diseases (and it can be proved that you know) you should not let it out. In these circumstances you could be sued for negligence if you did. But if a cat is simply following its natural instincts you are not accountable for its actions. Neither are you responsible for where it wanders to. A cat can go where it likes.

If it goes into a neighbour's house or garden for instance, and kills one of their pets (small animal, bird etc.) or even pigeons or chickens, you cannot be held responsible. Likewise if it uses someone's flower border as a toilet and digs up their prize blooms, legally it is not your fault! The precedent for this was set in a famous case back in 1926 and as the law still stands no-one can take any action against you for what your feline friend gets up to whilst it is out and about on its own! Unlike a dog, even if it is directly responsible for causing a serious accident or if it injures someone, you cat (or you) cannot be

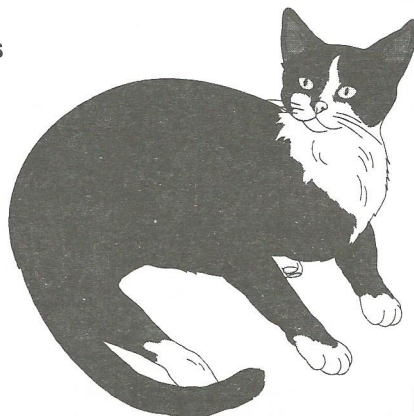
prosecuted in law. Unfortunately for the cat owner - it works the other way too! If a car driver accidentally kills or injures your cat he doesn't have to do anything about it as he has not legally committed an offence.

For its own protection your cat should have an identity disc with your name and address so that you can use the law to protect it against the actions of

others! You do not however, have to keep you pet from straying as it cannot be guilty of trespass, irrespective of where it decides to go! Obviously a reasonable owner will do any thing possible to ensure that their cat doesn't cause any problems to anyone else.

But the UK's most numerous and popular domestic pet is really a free agent when it comes to legal matters and although strictly speaking not 'above' the law, it is certainly less likely to land its owner into trouble than a dog is! In

some instances you can be held liable for noise or smell nuisance by having an unreasonably large number of cats - but in general terms prosecutions against cat owners are very rare.



☆ *If you have a specific non-medical query about your pet (or would just like to tell us about him) phone our Pet Helpline on 857104 from 10 am to 5pm weekdays.*

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Local People & News in Brief

Toilets Reopened

The toilets outside the Flatts' gate have been refurbished. They had been boarded up after being vandalised and mis-used. Many people have complained that there were not toilets at all in the park. It is to be hoped that this time people will allow them to be kept open.

Success for the Junction

The Junction was placed in the final of a South Yorkshire Community Awards Competition. This was organised by the Sheffield Telegraph and the South Yorkshire Community Foundation and sponsored by Whitbread in the Community and British Gas. The work of the Junction, with photograph, was featured in an article in the Sheffield Telegraph. Unfortunately it was not placed in the first three, but the judges were extremely interested in what takes place there. They were keen to help in the search for a van, so that the furniture project can proceed. Andy highlights the need for a van in the Junction Report on the back page.

Young people travel the world

Michelle Collet of Urban Road has recently returned from Central America, where she was on a Raleigh International expedition to Belize. Her visit there was fully reported in the Doncaster Star. Michelle helped to build a jam factory, a corn mill and a school in the interior of the country. It is hoped that the factory and mill will provide some income so that medicines and books can be bought.

Michelle is aged 18 and we are delighted to report news of her visit. The vast majority of our young people are well-motivated and makes a vital contribution to our community.

Claire Barlow of Old Hexthorpe is to visit Senegal for six months, at the end of the year. She is to look after the children of those who work with the Wycliff Translators. We hope to report news of her visit in our future issues.

Professional Musical to visit Hexthorpe

'Feel the Spirit' is being presented at the Methodist Church on Saturday 14th September. This is a musical revue and is performed by a group of professional singers and actors. It has visited over one hundred towns and cities with enormous acclaim.

It is based around the lives of Moody and Sankey, and is the exciting and gripping story of the fight to give women and men dignity and worth. In addition there are twenty great songs from the Victorian music hall and beyond. It has been featured on BBC 1. One critic writes, "There is a timelessness about the play which makes sense today . . . quite stunning."

Tickets are £3.00 and can be obtained from:

31 Old Hexthorpe, tel. 852521.

Good News Hounds

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Junction Report

May I begin with thanking everyone that has donated items of clothing, furniture and other households items. This is mainly due to the distribution of our publicity leaflet (at long last!).

Someone did say that they didn't get a leaflet, which I find a bit strange. But I gave him the benefit of the doubt and ask if anyone else didn't get one please let me know and I will rectify it.

I am also very grateful to those silent few that continually provide teabags, or have made things for our open days to help us raise money. We still painstakingly strive on to help people in need of items of furniture etc. without a van.

It can be pretty frustrating some days when you have someone in need in the office and someone on the phone with the items they require and no possible way of meeting both their needs. So I hope those of you that are currently in the pipeline will bear with me a little longer.

It is also frustrating for the team of volunteers and the man that is constantly applying to hundreds of charities for funding.

There's still nothing more concrete happening as far as the job seekers allowance is concerned, but I am still prodding away to find out more than the basics that we already know.

We are planning another open day for the Junction on Saturday 24th August, 10 am until 1 pm. We still have a lot of Bric-a-Brac from the last one. As usual there will be a warm welcome and a cuppa, and should it be warm enough a cold drink.

Don't forget, you do not have to have a problem to come in and see us.

Andy

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The second in our series on local agencies.

It is a project funded by Doncaster Social Services aimed at helping people by improving their quality of life to help them live as normal a life as possible.

The service is available to anyone over 18 years living within the boundaries of Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council who have been referred to us by Social Services or the Primary Health Care Teams.

There are five co-ordinators working in designated areas of the Borough who call on clients once they have been referred to the CCA. A suitable volunteer is then matched to the client.

Volunteers carry out various duties such as:

Collecting Prescriptions

Letter writing/readings

Accompanying shopping or to Hospital/Doctors

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