

The **HEX-PRESS**

YOUR FREE HEXTHORPE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER • No. 45 • DEC. 1996/JAN. 1997

Happy Christmas



The Dell, 1996, after a snow shower

Photo: John Hoskin

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

Hexthorpe Environmental Group

Last Friday of the month at 8.00 pm

At St Jude's Church Hall

Tai Kwando

Tuesday 5.45 – 8.30 pm Juniors
Thursday 5.45 – 8.15 pm

Sunday Services

Mass and Junior Church 10.00 am
Evening Service 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

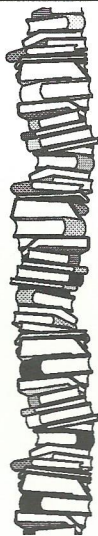
The Rev. J. Gilbert
The Vicarage
132 Shadyside
Tel: 852057

Hexthorpe Community Constable

contact P.C. Brian Simms
Tel: 366744

Mobile Library

December	2	Week 1
	9	Week 2
	16	Week 1
	23	Week 2
	30	Week 1
January	6	Week 2
	13	Week 1
	20	Week 2
	27	Week 1



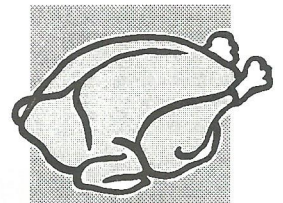
Date and Apple Pickle

(Delicious with cold turkey!)

Put 1lb of finely chopped, stoned dates, the block kind, with 1lb of peeled and grated cooking apples and 1lb peeled & grated, or finely chopped onions into a bowl.

Add ½ tsp. of salt and a little pepper (black is best), 1lb Demerara sugar, 1 tsp dried English mustard powder. Pour ¾ pint of malt vinegar over the whole lot and stir well.

Leave over night. Next day put into clean jars, cover and label. Makes enough to give some away!



Any letters, articles contact:

Donald, 31 Old Hexthorpe, Tel: 852521

Adverts, contact:

Julie, 165 Urban Road, Tel: 854898

Published by Hexthorpe Methodist Church

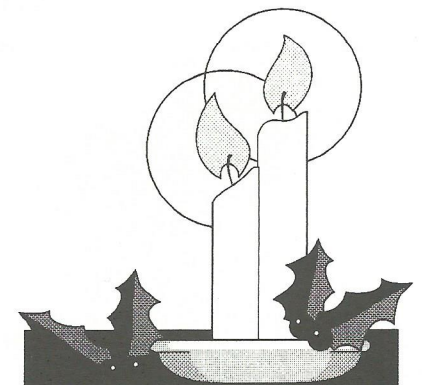
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Handy Hint

Make your Christmas candles last longer by putting them in the freezer a while before lighting them.



Dismay at Council Decision

Disappointment, dismay and anger were the responses of people who attended the October and November meetings of the Hexthorpe Tenants and Residents Association. At the November meeting it was announced that the planning application to build bungalows on the clock site had been approved by the Council.

As was reported in our last issue the clock site had been designated for community use. The original Hexthorpe – Balby Local Plan had the objective of creating a central square in Hexthorpe, with a library and youth centre to be included. The Doncaster Unitary Development Plan made this a specific proposal.

The three local Hexthorpe Labour Councillors were present at the November meeting and were left in no uncertainty concerning peoples' views. "The Tenants and Residents Association was set up so that we could be consulted. There was no consultation. Our views don't count. What's the point?", said one member.

At the October meeting Councillor Gordon Jones answered questions about the proposed bungalows. He was thanked for being willing to face the meeting. However, although the meeting of about 45 people strongly wanted the clock site to be kept for community use, he said that he couldn't support the views of the local people.

He argued that the site had been empty for years and that money would not be available yet to build a library and develop the site for community use. Therefore Mr Jones said that it would be foolish to turn down the offer of the building of bungalows. Furthermore, he said that Social Services claimed that it was a first class site for their project.

There was a sense of frustration in the meeting. Views were expressed strongly that Hexthorpe was again being ignored; that objections had not been seriously considered and not adequately answered; that the site

was unsuitable for the proposed bungalows; that there had been consultation over the original scheme for a library, but none when it was decided to change the original plan; that the site was an ideal place for a central square and focus for the community. The meeting's desire for community use for the land was described as 'pie in the sky' by our councillor.

We publish part of the document which the Planning Department submitted to the Council Planning Committee when it recommended acceptance of the scheme. We make no comment.

'Ten letters of objection to the proposal have been received from local residents, including representatives of the Hexthorpe Tenants and Residents Association and the Methodist Church Council. The objections raised are as follows:

- The loss of a site allocated for a library and youth centre.
- The loss of a natural site for a focal point for the Hexthorpe community.
- The over-provision of bungalows in Hexthorpe where family homes are needed.
- The use of a site for residential purposes surrounded by traffic and currently used by youths for congregating.'

'Given the considerable amount of time that has elapsed since the original compulsory purchase and the envisaged continued financial restrictions of the Council, the Director of Leisure Services has indicated that he considers it unlikely that a library would be built on this site in the foreseeable future. *He has further indicated that, subject to there being no objections from ward Members, he will present a report to the Leisure Services Committee recommending the relinquishing of the site for this proposed by the committee.*'

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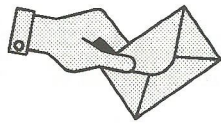
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Wheelie Bins Cleaners praised

Dear Editor

After all the heartache of shops and businesses closing down in Doncaster, it is great that we can rely on our local services in Hexthorpe. In particular, I mean the Wheelie Bin Cleaning Service.

Without this much appreciated service, the sheer mess on our walkways and the odours would be awful. However, no sooner are our bins emptied, than the Wheelie Bin Cleaners are round within minutes. Well done; at last something we can rely on. I must recommend this service to everyone.

Yours

J Batty, Hexthorpe

Sight

Dear Hexpress

During a recent time of poor health I found the following poem an inspiration. It is anonymous. Perhaps it could help someone in our community as it helped me.

Sight

*Man sees a body struggling with pain;
God sees a spirit growing strong again.
Man sees but weakness;
God sees new power.
A saint is learning patience with every trying hour.*

*Man sees but sickness, counts the healing slow;
God is rejoicing to see a loved one grow.
Man sees days wasted;
God counts them gain.
For faith as sweet as a childhood is growing out of pain.*

*Man feels a sorrow rising in his breast;
God in his wisdom leadeth into rest.
Man sees the present;
God sees the goal,
And by seeming bondage is setting free the soul.*

Yours sincerely

J.R. (Hexthorpe Resident)

A new bus stop requested

Dear Editor

When I alight at Doncaster Railway Station to come home, I can manage the stairs down and just about manage to walk up the stairs and across to the outside – but I can't manage a taxi fare home.

I have my thirty pence ready and my OAP bus pass, but where is the bus stop for me? Opposite St James' Church. The bus which goes into West Street from Trafford Way doesn't stop for railway passengers at all. Is it possible to have a Hexthorpe bus-stop in West Street, please?

Yours,

(Name and address supplied)

A very grateful reader

Dear Hexpress

I would like to thank three ladies living in Hexthorpe who came to my assistance when I was taken ill as soon as I alighted from the bus in Shadyside on Friday 6th September. Their kindness was greatly appreciated. Thanks also to the person who rang for the ambulance.

B Smith

112 Bennetthorpe, Doncaster

Is this Democracy?

Dear Readers

I write in personally concerning the planning application for 6 bungalows on the clock site. We were informed that Social Services decided it was the best site in the Doncaster area to build bungalows for the physically disabled. In conjunction with the South Yorkshire Housing Association plans were submitted for planning approval. We could write letters of objection to the scheme – but to whom? – The Planning Department of the Council, which then makes a recommendation to the Council Planning Committee – made up of elected councillors. This committee makes the decision whether to go ahead.

Therefore we have written letters of objection to the ones who make the decision, the very same people who promote the scheme in the first place i.e. the Council. Is this democracy? It could be if local peoples' views were heard; but it seems that there is no one listening. In the report of the Planning Department some of the valid objections were not adequately answered or were dismissed without explanation.

There is no wonder that local people feel a lack of empowerment and become cynical when their views are ignored.

Donald Reasbeck

Old Hexthorpe

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The latest news from The Junction

In the last issue I told you how pleased we were to have a van of our own, and how Alan Oliver gave us one.

Well, it has now been put to rest as far as hauling furniture around Doncaster is concerned. In fact the person that has bought it is aiming to restore it to a mini-bus again to take the family on holiday.

We do have the very short term loan of St Vincent de Paul Society's wagon complete with driver and helper (both volunteers), until they get settled back into their new premises in Edlington.

So we are back searching for another van, and we did get a hundred pounds for the old one towards the next one. But that does not stop the army of needy people coming to us from all over Doncaster looking for furniture and other household items. Thank you to those of you who have been referring new people to us as well as donating clothes, furniture etc.

Did any of you listen to the interviews on Radio Sheffield about Hexthorpe? They were on the Tony Capstick show from Monday 30th September to Friday 4th

October. Don't worry if you missed them, I have a copy if you want to borrow it.

Christmas time is upon us once again, and again this year we will be having a Santa's Grotto and Open Day on Saturday 21st December from 11 am to 1 pm. Plenty of stuff for the kids and tea or coffee and mince pies for the grown ups. So if you have not been in to see us or to find out what we do, you can use this opportunity to find out. Hope to see you!

I have been given all the up to date information on the job seekers allowance, as well as the new earnings top-up, which is a pilot scheme in Doncaster. This will help single people or couples that do not have any children and are on low income to get an earnings top-up.

If you are confused about any of the new benefits call into the Junction or if you are in town call into the benefits advice office on Duke Street or the C.A.B. in Waterdale.

Andy

Are you working, or looking to work, at least 16 hours a week?

Are you a single person or a couple, with no dependent children?

If you can say yes to these questions, it's very much in your interest to find out about **Earnings Top-Up now**. It's a new scheme that has been set up in this area to give a regular wage boost to people on lower incomes. On average, Earnings Top-Up can be worth £18 a week for single people and £25 for couples.

Find out the wage levels which qualify for Earnings Top-up. If you are already working you could get a wage boost now. If you are looking for work it may mean you

can consider more jobs than before. In any event, sending for the helpful information pack - which contains a guide to qualification and money levels - is free. What have you got to lose?

Call Freephone 0800 99 1234 now or complete the attached reply card and return to: Earnings Top-Up, FREEPOST MR8192, Manchester, M1 9AZ as soon as possible.

	Total weekly income, after tax and National Insurance (NI) contributions				
	£75 or less	£80	£85	£90	£100
Single people aged under 25 working less than 30 hours a week	£22.75	£19.39	£15.89	£12.39	£5.39
Single people aged under 25 working 30 hours or more a week	£33.05	£29.69	£26.19	£22.69	£15.69
Single people aged 25 or over working less than 30 hours a week	£28.00	£24.64	£21.14	£17.64	£10.64
Single people aged 25 or over working 30 hours or more a week	£38.30	£34.69	£31.44	£27.94	£20.94
Couples	£56.05	£52.69	£49.19	£45.69	£38.69
Couples where one works 30 hours or more a week	£66.35	£62.99	£59.49	£55.99	£48.99

B.T. & J. ASPDEN

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A Seasonal Treat!

At this time of year we pamper our pets with presents and supply surprises and give gifts to each other! But how about a seasonal treat for our garden birds at a time of year when they will appreciate it most? As well as your usual offerings it is fun to supply a wider menu and may even attract a bigger and more varied clientele! That goes for the rest of the year too!

Monkey Nut Kebabs are always enjoyed by blue tits and great tits. Use a 30cm length of strong wire (you could open up a wire coat hanger) and make a hook at each end. Push on as many peanuts, still in their shells, as you can and hang it up!

Crumble Pastry Grubs sounds horrible but it isn't! Mix 85g (3oz) of flower with 30g (1oz) of margarine. The dry mixture will rub into little bits that look like grubs. Sprinkle these on the ground or the birdtable and watch the birds lap them up!

To make a **Raisin Pastry Surprise** mix up a firm dough from 140g (5oz) of flour, a handful of raisins, 30g (1oz) of margarine and 40g (1½oz) of lard. Add a tablespoon of water. Pinch off little lumps and press into the cracks of an open pine cone - which can then be hung up or placed on the birdtable. Most birds love this one!

Yule Log For this get a fairly thick tree branch with rough bark, about

50cm in length. Drill as many holes of different sizes as you can through the 'log'. Put a hook in the top to hang it up with. Fill the holes by cramming in as much food as you can; peanuts, raisins, suet, pastry, acorns, ... and so on! This is a particular favourite of greenfinches.



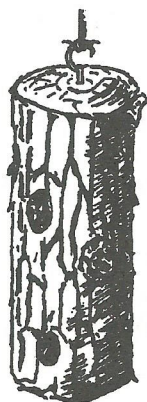
Christmas Birdcake Using a mixing bowl, put in plenty of good bird seed. Add raisins, peanuts and a little grated cheese. Then add 85g (3oz) of suet or lard. (No need to melt this if it has been left in a warm place for about an hour.) Cut up the fat into small pieces and rub evenly into the seed mixture using your fingertips. If you wish to hang your cake up put it into margarine tubs or similar empty pots with string from a hole in the centre. Leave your cake in the fridge for an hour to set before putting it outside.

Other items that can be used to embellish the Christmas spread are suet, lard, cheese, dry porridge oats, maize flakes, canary seed, sunflower seed, nuts, small

pieces of bacon rind, raisins, sultanas, apples, baked potatoes and toast. And don't forget the wide variety of treats obtainable from your pet shop or garden centre. Have fun providing a festive feast for our feathered friends!

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

P.S. I would like to wish all readers of The HEX-PRESS a merry Christmas and a happy new year with many thanks for their response via the Pet Helpline during 1996.



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Thur	11.45 to 1.30pm	4.30 to 6.00pm	8.00 to 10.30pm
Fri	11.45 to 1.30pm	4.30 to 6.00pm	8.00 to 11.30pm
Sat	11.45 to 1.45pm		

Phone for orders: Brian & Margaret 856843

Local People & News in Brief



The Hexthorpe Club 'A' Team

A Successful Week

A week of special events was organised by the Hexthorpe Methodist Church. A group of students from Cliff College, near Sheffield assisted. The events included a fun event and 5-a-side football on the school field. Local teams entered the football and it was won by the Hexthorpe Club 'A' Team.

Several hundred people attended the various activities – a men's workout and breakfast at the Maltings, after-school kids' club, a French meal for the ladies, an afternoon cream tea in Patrick Stirling Court and several others. At each venue someone shared their Christian faith and often discussion followed.

A New Can Bank

Already there are bottle and paper banks next to the clock. Soon a new can bank is to be placed there. It will be adopted by the Hexthorpe Tenants and Residents Association. All types of can will be welcome. You are urged to make use of these banks.

Christmas Carols

As usual a Christmas Carol Party will be singing carols around Hexthorpe on Christmas Eve. This is organised by the Methodist Church. If you would like the carollers to call please contact Donald on 852521. If you would like to join the group, meet at 7.00 pm on Christmas Eve outside the Methodist Church on Urban Road.

A Visit to Senegal

Claire Barlow is to be working in Senegal for the next six months. She is to be looking after the family of a couple who are working for the Wycliff Bible Translators. Claire, 18 yrs, of Old Hexthorpe is flying out to Africa early in January. The venture is costing her £3,000 and she has been busy raising the money by events like car boot sales. She now has the required amount. We wish her well and look forward to news from her.

S.R.B.

S.R.B. stands for Single Regeneration Budget. Meetings are shortly to be held to inform local people of how the Fund can help localities. If you are able, please keep yourself informed so that Hexthorpe can benefit. Meetings need to be well attended so that our voice is heard.

Late News

The second annual report for The Junction is being drawn up. Here are some of the preliminary figures:

	1st year	2nd year
Using Advice Centre	669	936
Requests for furniture	102	286
Clothes	36	179
Counselling/Talk	104	175
Housing	95	100
Daily use of Drop-in Facility	10	12

More details in our next issue.



Some of those who enjoyed the fun-day

Christmas in Hexthorpe

At St Jude's

- Friday 13th December **Christmas Bingo** 7.00 pm
 Sunday 22nd Dec. **Christingle Service** 5.00 pm
 Tuesday 24th Dec. **Midnight Mass** 11.30 pm
 Wednesday 25th Dec. **Family Mass** 10.00 am



At the Methodist Church

- Friday 20th December **A Christmas Celebration**
 7.00pm
 A cabaret of entertainment with sketches and songs from the children and adults of the church. Followed by coffee/tea and mincepies.
- Saturday 21st **Carols outside the Junction**
 11.00am to 1.00pm
 - with Santa's Grotto, coffee/tea and mincepies
- Sunday 22nd 10.30am **All age service** led by Rev John Wiltshire entitled 'His Name is Jesus.' Something for everyone.
- Sunday 22nd 6.00pm **Carol Service**
 Traditional carols and Christmas readings. A real favourite for all. Followed by coffee/tea and mincepies.
- Tuesday 24th 7.00pm **Carols around Hexthorpe** - starting from the Methodist church.
- Wed. 25th 11.00am **Christmas Day Service** - a special service suitable for everyone. An opportunity for the children to bring their favourite present.



Christmas Word Search

Can you find the following 20 words hidden in the square?

- | | | | |
|----|-----------|----|-----------|
| 1 | babe | 11 | Nazareth |
| 2 | Mary | 12 | shepherds |
| 3 | Joseph | 13 | Gabriel |
| 4 | Bethlehem | 14 | Herod |
| 5 | donkey | 15 | Magi |
| 6 | manger | 16 | glory |
| 7 | angel | 17 | Lord |
| 8 | swaddling | 18 | lamb |
| 9 | David | 19 | Saviour |
| 10 | heavenly | 20 | star |

M	A	N	H	E	R	B	S	O	J
A	G	G	E	L	A	S	E	L	R
R	Y	I	R	B	D	D	P	G	Y
E	S	A	E	H	L	R	H	E	R
K	R	T	V	T	E	E	S	D	O
N	U	L	E	R	H	H	P	E	L
O	Y	O	N	A	E	H	E	G	B
D	L	I	D	Z	M	T	H	N	M
D	A	V	N	A	R	E	S	A	L
S	W	G	L	E	I	R	B	A	G

(Move from one square to another in any direction - letters may be used for more than one word.)

Wise men searched for Jesus 2000 years ago.

Wise men (and women) still do.

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