

The **HEX-PRESS**

YOUR FREE HEXTHORPE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER • No. 51 DEC 1997/JAN 1998

**“He came down to earth from heaven
Who is God and Lord of all,
And his shelter was a stable,
And his cradle was a stall;
With the poor and mean and lowly
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.”**



**This is a stable
which is still in
Hexthorpe. Do
you know
where?**

(See page 8)

A reminder of summer

The photograph shows the display at 19 Bramworth Road. It wasn't a hanging basket, but the judge of the competition was so impressed that we have published it as an extra to the 1997 hanging basket competition. It gives us a reminder of summer days.



WEEKLY EVENTS

Methodist Church Hall

S.A.R.A Group

(Stay and Rest Awhile)

Mums and Tots Group

Thursday 9.45 – 11.45 am

N.B. There are still some places available at this group.

Mini-cruz

5 – 7 year olds

5.30 – 7.00 pm Tuesday

Mega-cruz

7 – 11 year olds

5.45 – 7.15pm Wednesday

Rock Solid Club

11 – 14 year olds

7.31 – 9.01 pm Wednesday

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

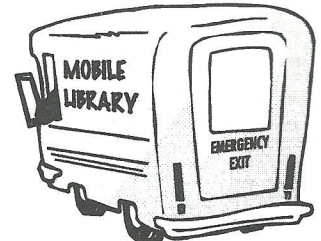
Hexthorpe Community Constable

contact P.C. Brian Simms

Tel: 366744

MOBILE LIBRARY

December 1	Week 1
8	Week 2
15	Week 1
22	Week 2
29	Week 1
January 5	Week 2
12	Week 1
19	Week 2
26	Week 1



Any letters, articles contact:

Donald, 31 Old Hexthorpe, Tel: 852521

Adverts, contact:

Julie, 165 Urban Road, Tel: 854898

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Hexthorpe Methodist Church

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Do Hexthorpe folk know a bargain when they see one?

'Course they do!

For December only

Christmas BARGAIN SHOPPING at B & M – a supermarket at Cleveleys.

Stay overnight for B & B at

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Steph's Sugar Peanuts

(Delicious!)

You need the red skinned nuts. Leave the skins on or it won't work.

You need: 4 cups of nuts
2 cups of sugar
1 cup water

Put the sugar and water in a pan and bring to the boil. Add nuts and cook fairly slowly until water has disappeared and sugar crystals are forming on the nuts. Stir occasionally and be careful not to let the nuts burn!

Pour nuts onto baking tray and break slab into pieces as it cools.

Handy Hints

A cup is 8 fluid oz. or 240 mls, but providing you use the same measure throughout it doesn't really matter.

Pipless lemon/orange juice

Cut fruit in half, wrap in the corner of a clean tea towel or muslin and squeeze out the juice.

THE JUNCTION Report

September Swim

The last couple of months have been quite busy for everyone involved in the Junction. Myself, Donald Reasbeck and Jean Reeve went on a management development course which was led by two Philippine women who came to see us in November. It was very helpful and relevant to where we are at the moment. It will improve the efficiency of how we serve the local community as well as further afield.

Some of you may have received some rather sad letters in green print from a non recognised group (as well as self appointed) that have printed some very slanderous remarks about various groups and individuals including the Junction.

The author hides behind a P.O. box number, but we know who he is and we are taking legal advice. As the people of Hexthorpe know our accounts are open for anyone to see, we have nothing to hide from anyone. We would not be here today if we were what he calls us. Please ignore any such leaflets and destroy them.

We are having another Santa's Grotto this year on the 20th December as well as carols outside the Junction, not forgetting our warm welcome, refreshments and mince pies.

One of our residents wishes to have a Christmas card competition for 2-7 year olds and 8-11 year olds. All cards can be handed in or posted at the Junction before Thursday 18th December 4 pm. The winners will be chosen on the 20th Dec. There will be a prize for 1st and 2nd in both age groups. We will be taking photographs of your child with Santa if you want for 50p and with a present a further 50p.

As you will have seen, by now the paper and glass recycling banks are outside the Junction and are being used quite well. Keep up the good work, keep recycling those bottles/jars and paper/mags etc.

Don't forget you don't need a problem to come in to the Junction, just drop in for a chat and a cuppa.

Andy

Bad weather prevented Ronald and Jackie Macdonald, of Shadyside, from completing their planned swim at Skegness - even the boatmen there were unable to put out to sea for a couple of months! So they transferred to the lake at Barnby Dun (near the Power Station's cooling towers.)

Ronald and Jackie originally had organised a group of seven swimmers to share the arranged 21 miles, but in the event, only their friend, Philip York, (an RAF policeman known to all as "Yorkie") was available on the day of the swim. Nothing daunted, they each swam three and a half miles in the VERY cold water, raising almost £300 for the R.N.L.I. (the lifeboat charity).

A week later Jackie took 9 medals in the 2 day "Master Swim" at Arbourfield. Then shortly after that, both distinguished themselves at Lake Bala in Wales, Jackie being the first RAF woman to complete the 3 and a half miles along the lake, and Ronald the first civilian round the "short course", swimming a mile in 19 minutes. Ronald still holds the record for the fastest Scot to swim across the English Channel.

Next year the three of them hope to recruit another three for a relay swim across the Channel. When you think of all the training for an hour's strenuous 3 mile swim in the sea, and being out in an open boat for 9 or 10 hours, you realise what an achievement this will be. But even more so is Ronald and Jackie's ambition to be the first husband and wife team in the year 2000 each to swim the Channel.

Ronald is a swimming instructor in charge of the increasingly popular Aquarobics at local pools. Jackie is an airwoman based at RAF Waddington in Lincolnshire. Their son, 3 year old Bruce, has just started in the Nursery at our Primary School. We congratulate Ronald, Jackie and "Yorkie" on all they have achieved so far and wish them well in their future plans.

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Mondeo Estate	34.00	35.00	110.00	77.00

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Letters to the Editor

The Cemetery and the Railway Club

Dear Editor

I am writing to see if you can clarify something for me. Is it true that the cemetery on St. James Flyover, Balby was put there and paid for by residents of Hexthorpe i.e. by donations from railway workers of the Plant Works? I am only aware of this possibility because of a conversation in a pub. I have never seen this in a researched history of Hexthorpe.

Have you seen the disgraceful way the cemetery has been left. The church has been allowed to rot when only a bit of care and attention or a live-in caretaker would suffice. Possibly our relations are buried there who helped to pay for the cemetery. Please could someone tell me about the background of it; because even if it isn't Hexthorpe's, which I think it is, then let Balby people speak out.

Also could anyone tell me if the Railway Club is going to be opened again, as this was paid for by the rail board and men of Hexthorpe and surrounds. It was a drinking place for town centre and Hexthorpe workers. Why don't people speak up? Many a fun night out was to be had at the Railway Club and it was a great meeting place for Hexthorpe and Balby tenants. Now we have a Tenants Association, why not campaign for the club to be revitalised.

Yours, thinking of Hexthorpe

J. Harrison

Diana's Boys

Dear Editor

I would like the following poem to be published. It was written by Denise Evans at the Stirling Centre.

Two broken hearts are beating
Two lonely hearts are sad
They will never have a meeting
With the Mother they Once had
With no loving arms around them
Your Boys turned into men
Their face so Pale, their heads hung low
Their Pain and grief began to show
Their memories so Strong and True
They faced the world with love for You
No great a Sorrow will they Carry
Prince William and Prince Harry

Yours,
Mrs Ogley

Uneven Pavements

Dear Editor

Recently I again tripped and almost fell as I was walking along the Urban Road pavement. Some time ago I actually fell and was badly bruised and shaken -- and I'm not an elderly person.

I understand that at the last Tenants and Residents Association meeting the matter of uneven pavements was raised. Some of them have never been right since Yorkshire Cable dug most of them up. Could the appropriate department of the Council please examine all our pavements and rectify the faults.

Yours,
A pavement sufferer

Danger on the roads

Dear Hexpress

Are lights on bicycles still a legal requirement? As a motorist and cyclist I am very concerned about people – young and old – who ride their bikes on the Hexthorpe roads. During the day time there are often bikes being rode more than two abreast and often with two on one bike. At night, particularly on Urban Road, they continue to shoot around the roads with no lights showing. Soon someone will be badly injured or worse and the motorist will no doubt be blamed. When remonstrated with, the youngsters often respond with abuse.

As a motorist, it frightens me when confronted with these bikes. As a cyclist, it gives me a bad name. Is it possible for the community policeman to talk to our youngsters concerning road safety and the riding of bikes? Do we still have a community policeman? It is time that offenders were stopped and cautioned.

Yours,

A concerned road user

Hexpress Comment

In our last issue we raised the lack of action concerning the old school site. Elsewhere in this edition we report on the latest information as to the future of that site. On this page a number of matters of concern have been raised by our readers. It is therefore encouraging to read the report of the Tenants and Residents Association where new action groups are being formed to bring positive benefits to the community. We can only recommend the work of such groups and urge our readers to make a new year's resolution to attend one of their meetings. We all know what needs doing. It is good to raise our concerns, as in our letters, but we are also the ones who can make things happen.

The "Helping Hand" Homework Club

(for ages 11-18 & over)

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Tenants and Residents Association

Well here we are again approaching Christmas and the New Year. Lots of things are happening around Hexthorpe, good as well as bad. The good things are the forming of new groups where local people are getting actively involved in community issues and things that need doing instead of just moaning about it.

I refer to the Gala working group and the newly formed Hexthorpe Environmental Action Forum (H.E.A.F.) which will not only look at what money and actions are needed to restore the Dell, but also other parts of Hexthorpe.

The H.E.A.F. meetings are held at the Youth Club on Shadyside the first Thursday of the month at 7 pm, except in January when it will be on the second Thursday (8th).

If you feel you have anything to contribute to this group or the Gala group come on to the meetings and make yourself known to us. The next Gala meeting is on Tuesday 13 January 1998 at Eden Grove club. We are also hoping to have a Burns Night at the Maltings to raise funds and awareness for the Gala.

At the November meeting we had Glynis Sharp from Northern College talking about credit unions. Some people have already stated to me that they want to be part of one and could we start one up for our area. As Hexthorpe would not be a big enough catchment area we could link into Hyde Park and Balby.

I am quite willing to get the ball rolling and have talks with people I know in these areas, but I need to know who else is interested from Hexthorpe. Can you either call in or phone me or simply let me or any of the Tenants and Residents committee know at the next meeting.

Which brings me onto the next meeting which will be our Christmas one, hopefully there will only be about 10 or 15 minutes business and the rest of the time will be party time.

The January meeting will be on the twentieth and we will be having D C Karen Harvey from crime stoppers speaking to us,

as well as Sergeant Mick Worthington from the local community police section.

At the November meeting quite a few people spoke about the trouble some young people were causing around the village and how it was going unchecked, well here again is an opportunity to have your story heard. Don't leave it to others because they can forget or will be too wrapped up with their own problems to think of yours.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a very happy new year.

Andy

B.T. & J. ASPDEN

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The Two Joys of Christmas!!

Christmas means different things to different people but whatever those differences are, most of us can relax at this time of year and appreciate the pure joy of it! Although the festive season of man comes in the middle of what may be described as the 'restive' season of nature, it doesn't necessarily mean that our animals cannot be appreciated at this time. As regular readers of this column will know - our pets need more attention and care at this time. However, this can also bring about even greater rewards as we share the creature comforts of our non-human companions. For animal lovers of all kinds, from the simply sentimental to the dedicated diehards, the joy of Christmas combined with the joy of animals makes for a double-dose of seasonal rejoicing that cannot be equalled!

Dogs, cats, rabbits and other small animals are not newcomers to the Christmas scene. Today a large percentage of Christmas cards feature cute and appealing creatures of all kinds and the biggest selling calendar selections are those that have animals as their theme. One of the earliest cards featured a pet horse and as long ago as Elizabethan times, many aspects of the yuletide gatherings were concerned with animals. The most popular of these were guinea pigs and rabbits, following their royal patronage by Queen Elizabeth I and for a time they upstaged the more obvious dogs and cats. Christmas was traditionally a time for family portraits and many of these show the smaller animals taking pride of

place at their owner's feet! Religious paintings of the time also followed this trend and the Nativity scene was often represented with the Holy Infant being visited by the three wise men, a rabbit and a guinea pig! A very famous seasonal painting of the Queen has her pet ferret in the bottom corner!

It was inevitable that the Victorian tendency to clutter up their homes with every kind of knick-knack imaginable would take in what was obviously becoming a permanent fixation with pets! Christmas decorations, when they first appeared, were often made in the shape of favourite companion animals! In Edwardian England small animals became all the rage and were used for a wide variety of ornaments. Wooden and pot containers, shaped like every tiny creature imaginable, held everything from pot-pourri to fresh flowers! At the same time that Edith Holden was penning her delightful 'Country Diary Of An Edwardian Lady' several of her lesser contemporaries were writing feature articles about pets.

Today the commercial aspect of Christmas is something that we all complain about but even here, it is completely dominated by animals. As far as card and gift idea publicity is concerned, our furry friends come second only to Santa himself for pictorial and artistic prominence! And most pet owners share the festive season with their pets. Retail pet product outlets have shown drastic increases in the amount of Christmas present mer-

chandise bought specifically for animals! The jingle bells of pet shop tills have never been greater than now!

Although most of us still remember the real meaning of Christmas and celebrate accordingly, it is nice to do so alongside the animals that share this planet with us and the companions that share our home. In today's modern, more cynical age, the tinsel may be somewhat tarnished and with conservation and environmental matters dominating our thoughts we are probably more likely to be dreaming of a Green Christmas - but the joy is still there!

Whichever way you look at it, animals and the festive season always have and hopefully always will - go together. The 'knockers' will undoubtedly class such a simple connection as sentimental trivia from a dedicated animal lover. It has however, stood the test of time - and what is so wrong with being sentimental, particularly at Christmastime? I like to think that there are many more of the right kind of pet owners around than the media would have us believe! People who truly appreciate the two joys of the season!

May you all benefit from the joy of Christmas and look forward to a happy and prosperous New Year that is once again full of the joy of animals!

If you have a specific non-medical query about your pet phone our Pet Helpline at the Artis Pet Sanctuary in Balby, Doncaster on 857104.

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Monday	9.00 to 5.30pm	Tuesday	9.00 to 5.30pm
Wednesday	Closed	Thursday	9.00 to 5.30pm
Friday	9.00 to 6.00pm	Saturday	8.30 to 4.30pm

Mr Green

Many years ago I had the good fortune to meet Valerie Shadrach the daughter of the late Horace Green. She told me that her father lived in Hexthorpe. At that time Valerie was the headteacher of a school in Featherstone. I told her that the children were investigating the history of the school prior to its closure. She suggested that perhaps her father could contribute something about the school as he had been a pupil there. This was the beginning of what turned out to be a long and rewarding friendship between Mr Green and the school.

Mr Green introduced himself to the children and staff. He became a much loved and respected visitor to the school who had the capacity to totally disrupt classes in the nicest possible way) because the children wanted to greet him and hear his stories, particularly about canings and other punishments meted out to unfortunate pupils. I think it made them feel happy to be educated in what some may consider are much less punitive times (although others may disagree!).

When Mr Green died, Valerie and her sister Barbara, asked that donations in his memory should be given to the school. This was a very touching and greatly appreciated gesture. The magnificent total of £315 was donated by the family, friends and community of Hexthorpe. I would like to record my thanks for those generous contributions on behalf of the school.

The school would like to use the money to provide a fitting memorial to a very

special person. After a lot of discussion it was decided:

- ✧ To purchase a plaque to be awarded each term to the pupil who has shown the best attributes of friendship as exhibited to us by Mr Green.
- ✧ To buy some musical instruments as Mr Green loved music and playing the piano.
- ✧ To buy a tree - a semi mature Norway Maple tree to be planted in the school grounds. The maple tree seems to be a particularly fitting memorial as Mr Green often visited his daughter Barbara in Canada. He also always wore a maple tree stud in his lapel.

On Tuesday, the Mayor will be present at a tree planting ceremony with Mrs Shadrach, Mick Cooper (The Councils' Tree Officer) and of course the pupils and staff from Hexthorpe Primary School. Because of the weight of the tree, it will be lowered into the planting pit in the school field by use of a JCB excavator.

This will be one of many trees planted throughout

Doncaster to commemorate National Tree Week although for the pupils in Hexthorpe it will serve as a permanent reminder of the school's links with Mr Green.

Cath Lawson, Headmistress of Hexthorpe School



Left to right: Cath Lawson, Valerie Shadrach, Charles Harrison, Sheila Mitchinson (Mayor)

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

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Local People & News in Brief

A grateful senior citizen

A senior citizen recently praised two young men who took action when they saw something suspicious at her bungalow door. They were passing by when they saw someone in her porchway. He looked to be up to no good. They challenged him and told him to clear off. As it happens, it was her grandson who was there legitimately. However, the lady has expressed delight that the young men were concerned about her welfare.

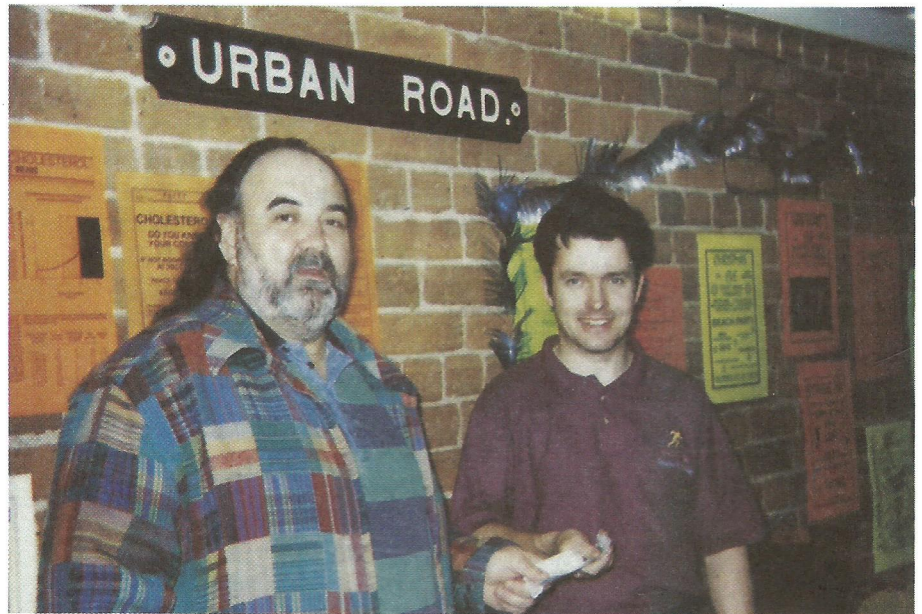
The old school site

On enquiring about the site of the old school, we have been given some further information. Mr Beaumont of the Council Estates Office informs us that originally a housing association and the council's Doncaster 2000 were co-operating to build affordable houses. This was put on hold because of the investigation into the Council's affairs. We understand that it won't be put on the market for sale until at least April next year.

Concern was expressed at the Tenants and Residents meeting about the state of the site and the danger it was. A letter was to be sent to the Chief Executive of Doncaster asking for swift action to be taken. Residents were encouraged to contact the council regarding the site.

Charity Night at the Maltings

A charity night was recently held at the Maltings. The proceeds were for the work of The Junction. A total of £200 was raised. Andy Ross, the Junction manager said "we are extremely grateful to Pat and Stuart, the staff and members of the Maltings. We appreciate the fact that they show such consideration towards our work. The money is much needed and will be put to good use."



Hexthorpe Methodist Church

Fri. 19th 7.00pm	'It's a Christmas Cracker' – games for the children and those young at heart, songs from the children, sketches & video clips. Followed by coffee/tea and mince pies.
Sat. 20th 11.00 to 1.00pm	Carols outside the Junction - with Santa's Grotto, coffee/tea and mince pies.
Sun. 21st 10.30am	All age service led by Donald Reasbeck
Sun. 21st 6.00pm	Carol Service. Favourite carols and Christmas readings. Followed by coffee/tea and mincepies.
Wed. 24th 7.00pm	Carols around Hexthorpe - starting from the Methodist church, all are welcome to join in.
Thurs 25th 11.00am	Christmas Day Service - a special service suitable for everyone. Led by Rev John Wiltshire
Sun. 28th 10.30am	All age service led by Judy Wiltshire
Sun. 28th 6.00pm	Evening service led by Rev Tom Read

A stable still in Hexthorpe?

The answer to the question on page 1 is that the stable is in the outbuildings of the Plant Hotel.

St. Judes

December

7th	10.00am	Mass
14th	7.00pm	Christmas Bingo
21st	10.00am	Mass
	5.00pm	Christingle
23rd	7.00pm	Carol Service followed by mulled wine and mince pies
24th		Midnight Mass
25th		Feast of the Nativity
28th	10.00am	Mass
31st		New Year's Eve Party