

The **HEX-PRESS**

YOUR FREE HEXTHORPE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER No. 73 Nov - Dec 2003

Sponsored by HEXQOL, the Hexthorpe Quality of Life Initiative.

HEXTHORPE POST OFFICE IS SAVED – BUT PLEASE USE IT

Please use your Post Office is the plea of the Hexthorpe Postmaster, Roy Knox.

This comes after the news that the Post Office is to remain open, after a real threat of closure.

'Post Watch have prevented its closure and it now needs the full support of all Hexthorpe residents to keep the office viable,' Roy says. 'Please do not put your money into the bank; tell the DWP that you wish to stay with the Post Office and open a P.O. Card Account.'

The Post Office issued a statement in August of their intention to close the Hexthorpe Post Office. Observations had to be in by the 5th September. Numerous people and organisations wrote to them saying that the period of consultation was too small and that it was the time of year when people were away. Furthermore, the local community organisations did not meet

during August and so were unable to make a response.

Some pointed out that some of the information included in the P.O. Paper on the matter of closure was not correct. It suggested that the alternative offices of Priory Place, Balby Road and Hyde Park, were all accessible along a level terrain. The person who wrote that doesn't know Hexthorpe, as the only two ways in and out are over bridges!

One resident commented 'The suggestion that we use the Hyde Park Post Office is a ludicrous suggestion, as getting there on foot requires a person to be very fit. Just think of those pensioners who live in Old Hexthorpe or Travis Gardens – the present Post Office is already a fair walk.'

However the Post Office listened and the Hexthorpe one has been given a reprieve.

Residents must now see that it is used, so that we can keep it permanently.

WHO'S WHO

Local Councillors

Stuart Exelby 70 Carr View Avenue, Tel 329521
John Hoare Tel. 751787
Glyn Jones, 20 Lister Avenue, Balby DN4 8AR
Tel. 816881

Methodist Minister

John Wiltshire, 1 Cedar Road, Balby Tel: 852024

The Junction Manager

John Crawford, 61 Hexthorpe Road Tel: 349341

Parish Priest

The Rev. J. Gilbert, 2 Riverside Close, Hexthorpe
Tel: 852057

Hexthorpe Community Constable

contact P.C. Peter Hartshome Tel: 0114 220 2020

MOBILE LIBRARY

On Fridays:

Patrick Stirling Court	9.30-10.00pm
Shadyside: (opp. Windle Rd)	10.05-10.35am
Eden Grove	10.40-11.10am
Shadyside (St Jude's Church)	11.15-11.45am

Any letters, articles, adverts contact:

Donald, 31 Old Hexthorpe, Tel: 852521

Published by: Hexqol Hexthorpe Quality of Life

Advertisements: Contact Joan Reasbeck,
31 Old Hexthorpe, Tel. 852521

Advertisements in each issue cost from £5.00 per issue
to £15.00 according to size.



A W A R D S

WEEKLY EVENTS

Methodist Church Hall

S.A.R.A Group (Stay and Rest Awhile)

Mums and Tots Group Thursday 9.45 - 11.45 am

Mini-cruz

5 — 7 year olds Tuesday 5.30 - 7.00 pm

Mega-cruz

7 — 11 year olds Wednesday 5.45 - 7.15pm

Rock Solid Club

11 — 14 year olds Wednesday 7.45 - 9.01 pm

**You are invited on any Sunday to the Worship
Services at Hexthorpe Methodist Church**

10.30 am and 6.00 pm

* * * *

At Hexthorpe Parish Hall (St Jude's)

Laughton Road, Hexthorpe

Monday	1.45-3.15 pm	Yoga
	7.00-10.00 pm	Line Dancing
Tuesday	5.30-9.30 pm	Tae Kwon Do
Wednesday	7.00-8.30 pm	Yoga
Thursday	5.30-8.30 pm	Tae Kwon Do
Friday 2nd & 4th in the month	7.00-9.00 pm	Prize Bingo

Other events as advertised

Hire of hall - phone 321569

Up to 5.30 pm £12.50 per hour

After 5.30 pm £15.00 per hour

Sunday Services

10.00 am Parish Mass and Sunday School

**Regular meetings for you to attend and hear the
latest news concerning Hexthorpe and also for
you to ask questions.**

TARA

Hexthorpe Tenants and Residents Meeting

Every third Tuesday of the month at

7.00 pm. in Hexthorpe School hall

It costs £1 a household per year to join.

HEXQOL

Regular Forum Meetings are held along with the New
Deal for Communities.

See notices around Hexthorpe for the time and place.

Councillors' Column

John Hoare writes:

Residents have asked about the Council's arrangements for collection of large items of household rubbish. Application forms can be obtained from Council offices, further information through telephoning 734971 or 734990. There is a charge of £11.75 for a special collection but there is no charge for fridges and freezers, LPG gas bottles and asbestos. The service is free to anyone receiving one of these benefits - Council Tax Benefit, Housing Benefit, Income Support, Working Families Tax Credit or Job Seekers' Allowance.

I have also been asked about streetlights. Not being an engineer, I can only copy what I have been told! Mercury lights are the oldest type, white with a blue tinge; they gradually fade and are being phased out. Sodium lanterns (orange-yellow colour) form the majority of our street lights across the borough and are actually more effective than the mercury lights, although most people prefer white as more natural. All new installations are in white sodium lanterns, which are more efficient, and give a more natural, as well as brighter, light. How quickly we can get the oldest and least efficient streetlights replaced in Hexthorpe depends on how much money the Council is prepared to put into its highways budget - and, in real terms, it has been cut annually in recent years (as across the whole country!).

The most interesting development to report this month is the introduction of Community First. The aim is simple, to improve the delivery of key services by creating local

teams of officers who will be based and work in one of around 20 areas into which the borough is divided. The idea was tested in Edlington and has worked well as their team developed a real interest in and knowledge of the area where they work; they ended up calling themselves "Community Pride" because of the difference it made. Our team initially will cover Hexthorpe and Balby. They will deal with such issues as grass cutting, weed clearance, litter, and dog fouling, the everyday matters which affect every one of us; the Community Safety Wardens will also be part of the team. When this starts on 29 September, there will be a telephone number for residents to use - I don't know which as yet - but the officers will be conspicuous in red shirts or tops, which will be covered by yellow coats in bad weather; if they can't deal with something, they will be able to pass it on to someone who can. Those who attended the Community Forum meeting saw a preview of the uniforms and we are all keen to see just how much difference this new way of delivering services can make.

As usual, there are many smaller issues being taken up for you. For example, there should be a second handrail beside the steps to Travis Gardens (beside 156 Shadyside) to assist older residents by the time you read this edition.

And, of course, do contact any of us (details in Who's Who) with any problems, questions or suggestions. It sometimes takes a lot longer than we would like, but we do our best!

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DISABILITY ADVISORY SERVICE

Would the residents of your area be interested in a presentation on DIAL and its services?

These services are available to DONCASTER residents.

If so please contact John Burke on 01302 327800

WE are a DONCASTER charity for Doncaster residents.

AMONGST OUR SERVICES ARE:

Welfare Benefit Advice, Short Term Wheelchair

Hire, Photographic Service, Advice on Further

Education and Careers, Accessibility, Support

Groups and local organisations

School Gardeners Rewarded



Hexthorpe School's plot on the Crimpsall Allotments was entered into The Doncaster in Bloom Competition in the section for 'Best Educational Garden'. Some pupils and staff from the school and members of the Allotment Society attended the final at the Mansion House on the 5th September. The school was awarded First Prize. A silver cup was presented by the Mayor of Doncaster. The pupils are indebted to Mr Huteson for all the hard work he has put in on their behalf. The above photograph shows those involved with the project:

Back row: Mr Green, Mr Huteson, Mrs Bullock, Mrs Taylor, P.C. Pete

Middle row: Lauren Musson, Jasmine Beresford, Nicole Ashman, Dritan Tahiraj, Paul Crecy, Natalie Gelder

Front row: Emma Patterson, Becky Smith, Laura Peach, Emily Porritt, Arron Bevan, Joseph Telford

Here are some younger pupils on a visit to the allotment on a sunny summer's day.

Adam Duty, Sammy Cunneyworth, Emily Milner, Emma Reasbeck, Libby Proctor



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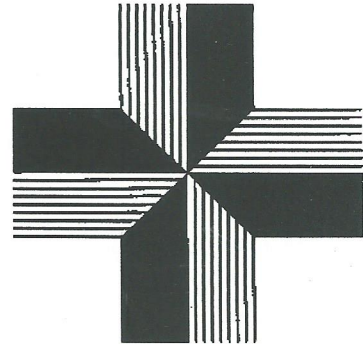
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We would like to help, Please do ask

Local News in Brief

Hexthorpe Manor House

Hexthorpe Manor House in Old Hexthorpe is now in full operation as a 'peaceful place for Retreats and Short Breaks, Quiet Days, Conferences and Training Days, Respite and Convalescent Care.' Groups are welcome to use the main lounge and dining room which seats about 18.



The programme of monthly meetings for 2003 include Quiet Days and Services of Healing and Wholeness. The programme for 2004 will soon be available. More details can be found by contacting the Warden on 818184.

More Local News on page 15

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LOCAL DELIVERIES

Pete's Patch

Young impressionist gets wikid!!

We have another talented youngster in Hexthorpe. Andy Grundy age 10 has entered a talent competition. I do hope that you don't mind me letting on Adam.

Adam entered and secured a place in the semi-final of the sweet firm Haribo's Young Impressionist Competition in Skegness, after calling the Hotline and giving a one minute performance of the outrageous comic Ali G. I am told that Adam is waiting, as I write, to see if he has won a place at the Grand Final in London. 'Booyakasha' Adam and the very best of luck from Hexthorpe. Would you please write and let the editor and tell us how you went on.

Home Computers and the Internet: Is it all safe?

Home computers have become a great aid to young people and are used both at home and at school. They are a brilliant tool for learning literacy skills, but they can be misused and this in itself is a threat. The Internet can provide a useful educational part in our lives but there is adult material contained in some websites which is unsuitable for young people. More recently in the media is the use of 'Chat rooms' where adults have posed as young people in order to deceive young children grooming them and eventually gaining their confidence and meeting them in person.

'Chat rooms' are often a fun way for children to gain their confidence, develop social skills and meet new friends but parents must always ensure and advise their children what information not to divulge i.e. personal details, telephone numbers and E - Mail address.

Your Internet provider (ISP) may be able to advise you on filters which prevent access to adult sites or sites with unsuitable material. Your child could use a 'moderated' chat room where someone acts as a referee. Here are some useful websites for more information:

www.wiseuptothenet.co.uk
www.thinkyouknow.co.uk

Computers are a popular item to steal particularly lap tops. Don't advertise them in your house windows or in your cars; keep them out of sight. Be very careful with financial information if ordering goods over the Internet, make sure the company has a secure server. If you wish your home computer equipment post coded contact the community wardens.

Another Bloomin' good effort by Hexthorpe

The Children's allotment project sited on the Crimpsall allotments is now in it's third season. The project is run in partnership between Hexthorpe Primary and the allotment society.

The aim of the project is for young people to learn citizenship and future life skills and by attending the after school club are diverted away from becoming involved in anti - social behaviour. Many of you have received vegetables, fruit and flowers from the site and we are grateful for the voluntary contributions received which go into the children's allotment funds for purchasing materials such as seeds, pots, soil, fertilisers etc.

The site has gone from strength to strength. So much so that the children's plot was entered into the Doncaster in Bloom Competition in the category of 'Best Educational Garden' and representatives from the school and allotment society were invited to the final at the Mansion House on 5th September. Guess what? They won first prize, receiving a handsome silver trophy from the Mayor of Doncaster. The guests were also invited to a buffet afterwards and a tour of the Mansion House.

The Crimpsall Allotment Society have also won the allotment of the year competition 2003. This was open to all allotment sites in the Doncaster District judging was very strict and involved many different subjects such as site presentation, soil quality, recycling techniques, crop variation and quality water storage etc.

One more First prize was for best all round display was at the Cusworth Country Show 2003 held on 17th August. I attended the show with my family and I have to say the Display put on by Crimpsall Allotment Society and friends was well worthy of First prize. Well Done Hexthorpe !!

A Big Thankyou!!

Many of you will have seen my face in various national and local press recently. I have won an award called the Brian Moseley Trophy. This is an annual award where police personnel are selected from each District in South Yorkshire for their work within the community. Brian Moseley was a senior officer in the South Yorkshire Police who died very suddenly. He spent most of career devoted to working to further community policing and public relations. The award is a tribute to him and many police officers in the past have been very proud to receive this award. As a result I am now being entered into the police national awards held in London in November. Each police force in England and Wales that's 43 in total have a similar in force competition and the winner like myself goes to the Nationals. I would like to say that I could not have won this award without you the public supporting the work that I do. I sincerely thank the numerous people, too many to name for the closer support and hard work they do behind the scenes which has helped me come up with the goods to win this award. I do hope our friendship and working relationship continues so we can make Hexthorpe a better place.

Very Important

One thing I must mention in relation to this award, there has been quite a lot of press and media coverage that has misrepresented and distorted the facts surrounding certain projects, one in particular being the school who are reported as printing and delivering the Hex-Press. To put things right, the school council send their input to the editor likewise my input of Pete's Patch which once checked for accuracy by the editor goes off to the printers. Once the printed version of the Hex-Press is returned, each one is distributed to your homes by a team of no less than fifteen volunteers who live within the Hexthorpe community. Without this team of unpaid volunteers you would not be able to read your copy of the Hex-Press come hail, snow or shine in the comfort of your homes. If you are interested in giving up your time distributing the Hex-Press please contact Bob Baker the Chairman of HEXQOL.

Where does the money come from to pay for the Hex-Press?

This again in itself is a feat of engineering. Again unpaid volunteers work tremendously hard in their own time applying to different funding organisations to meet the cost of each batch printed. I am certainly grateful to these people and

have expressed this in previous editions. So again give the people that count credit that is the unpaid volunteers and members from Hexthorpe community. Please keep it up !!

Quick Quiz

- 1 What field of study is Botany?
- 2 The Nile is the longest river in the world - which continent is it in?
- 3 What is the currency in India?
- 4 What is the emblem reinstated on British eggs in January 2000?
- 5 Which football team is nicknamed 'The Gunners'?

If you wish to enter the quiz put your answers on paper bearing your name, address and telephone number and **post it in the Red post bag in the foyer at Hexthorpe Primary School during opening hours.** The winner will receive a £5 voucher for W H Smiths.

Last issues quiz answers:

- 1 graphophobia
- 2 Three Brass Balls
3. Gregorian Calendar
4. Every four years
6. The Sunshine State

Bye for now....PC Pete

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A WONDERFUL DAY FOR HEXTHORPE

Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th July 2003 were proud days for our community. The whole world seemed to be here! It was of course the celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the Plant Works.

People came from far and near to witness some of the finest locomotives ever built, including the Flying Scotsman, the Mallard and Stirling Single No.1, together with coaches from the Flying Scotsman and Coronation.

Sunday was Veterans' Day. This saw the return of many former Plant employees. These were some of the people who helped make the Plant one of the leading centres of railway manufacture.

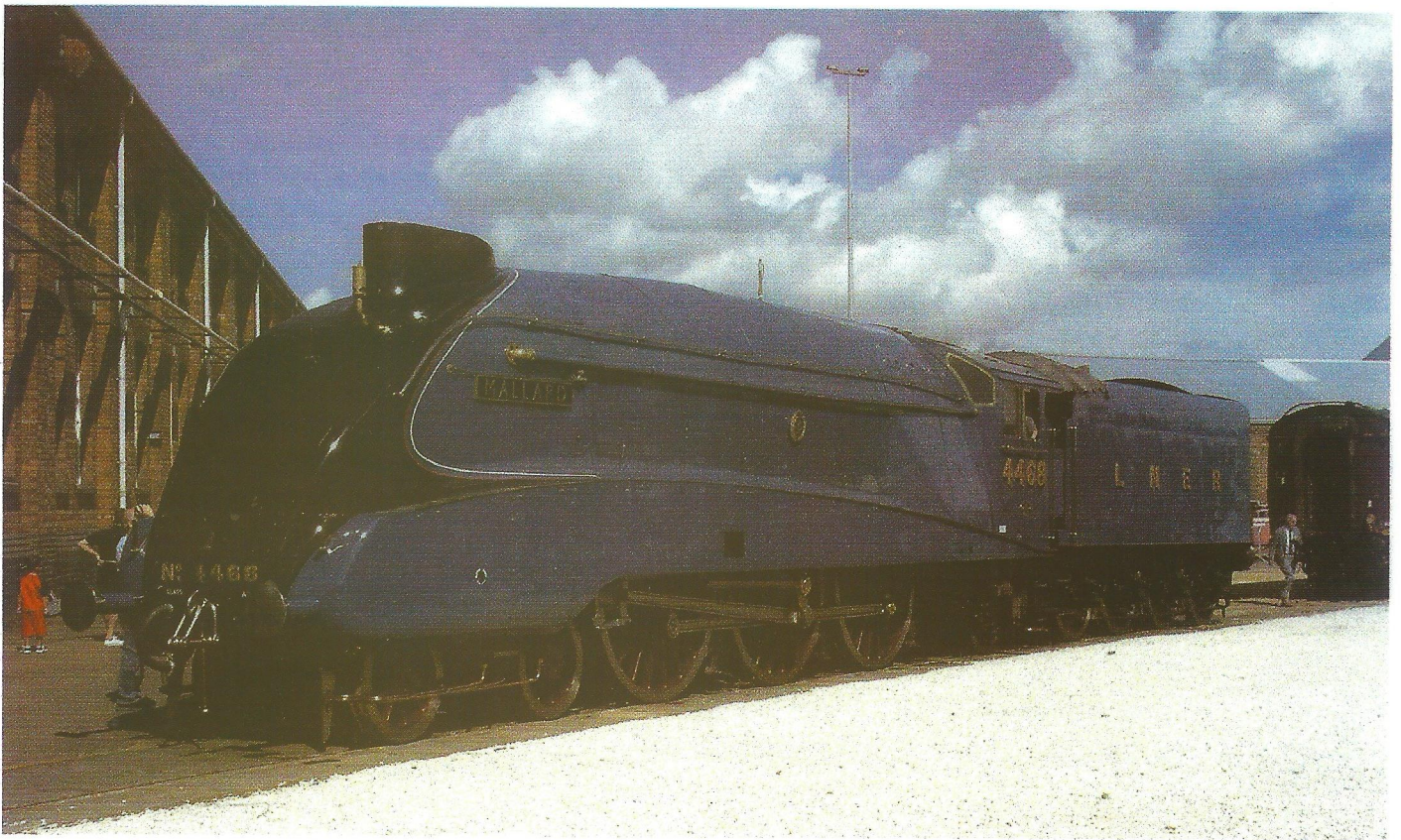
Hexthorpe itself grew from a small village into the size of our present community because of the coming of the Plant. Most of the people who lived here worked in the Plant. Therefore it was a very exciting day for many local residents.

One was overcome with emotion as he looked at the locomotives on display. He said, 'To think that they were made here in Hexthorpe by local people! Haven't we a right to be proud.'

We have deliberately given these two pages over to photographs of three of the locomotives on display. They were taken by our local photographer Mr. A Warnes. We believe that he has captured the sheer magnificence of them.



Stirling No. 1, this was one of the best known preserved locomotives to be seen at Plant150, built in 1870 it was so famous it even appeared on a postage stamp in Uruguay.



Mallard (*above*), Sir Nigel Gresley's revolutionary streamlined design of 1935, which on 3rd July 1938 attained the world record for steam traction of 126 miles per hour.

A diesel mechanical shunter (*below*), class 03, Number D2069, one of the Plant's smaller locomotive products built in 1959, withdrawn from service in 1983.



Introducing the Hexthorpe School Council

My name is Keelan Hinds, aged 9 and I am in Class 12 which is Mrs Smith's class in year 5. I am a School Council member.

The best place in Hexthorpe is Travis Gardens and the worst is Hexi Park and the BMX tracks. There is rubbish every where and when I see rubbish I put it in a bin.

Near the train tracks there is litter, but after the 150th Anniversary it was all cleaned up, and I hope it keeps like that.

If I am a councillor I have to be polite and honest.

Keelan Hinds

Hello my name is Holly and I am a School Councillor. I have blonde hair and blue eyes. I weigh 3 and a half stones and I am 49 inches tall.

Every Saturday I go horse riding. I can also play the violin and I go to First Aid classes at school. I also like swimming and the BMX tracks and I like football.

I am looking forward to organising the things that we need for outside or inside the school. I am also looking forward to our next council meeting.

In Hexthorpe, I don't want to get rid of the park because I go there to play and find conkers. I also do not want to get rid of the bowling club where older people go. I also like the Methodist Church because my friend goes to Mega Cruise. I definitely do not want to get rid of the allotment because my granddad Peter works there. It also wouldn't be fair on the children who go to the Allotment Club from school.

I would like to get rid of all the houses that are boarded up because they look horrid. I would also like to get rid of the graffiti in Hexthorpe.

Holly Hale

Hello my name is Amy. I am the Year 6 councillor. I'm looking forward to communicating with the people of the community.

In Hexthorpe where the Crown Green Bowling Centre is, people keep dropping rubbish, so it is up to you - please stop - you are spoiling our community.

We took some photos in the park where the pavilion is. On the side of the building there is graffiti. Now

whoever is doing this please can you stop! You are spoiling our environment.

Also in the park where the little bridge is in the centre, there is a lot of litter on the grass - please can you stop and put your litter in a bin.

Now the BMX track is still looking ship-shape and the play area is still looking good so can you help keep it that way? Thank you.

Amy Cunneyworth

Hello my name is Niki Lukey and I am a School Councillor in Hexthorpe Primary School.

I really like Hexthorpe but sometimes it is very messy. I wish there were more bins around. I think people only put rubbish on the floor because there are no bins.

I really like the new BMX track in the park. I also like how they are trying to improve Hexthorpe by trying to stop people throwing litter and fining them. In Hexthorpe we should have patrols so they can go round telling people off if they do things wrong.

Niki Lukey, Year 6

My name is Richard Winter. I am in Class 7. I am the new School Councillor for Class 7. I am looking forward to the work that the councillors do.

I like sketching, maths and literacy. I don't like science and geography.

There are two things I don't like about Balby. They are the graffiti on the walls and the litter in the subway. They should paint the wall and pick up all the rubbish. People who do this sort of thing should be stopped. I hate all the graffiti and rubbish. I think these should be improved by putting more bins around the area.

Richard Winter

My name is Joel. I am 8 years old and I like sports.

I think there should be a few changes in Hexthorpe, for example the boarded up houses and the litter that is chucked outside.

I used to go to the football club at Eden Grove, but there is a lot of vandals in Balby and Hexthorpe who

spoil the environment. They should have security guards checking the areas where there is most vandalism.

I am looking forward to being a councillor because you go to meetings and do good things for the school.

Joel O'Shea

My name is **Simon Orford**. I am 9 years old. I like being a school councillor at Hexthorpe Primary School.

The things that I like is the park and where I live and the corner shop. The park has things to play with like a roundabout in the summer. I like living on a dead end road because it is quiet, but sometimes we get motor bikes and cars on the back alleys. We don't have to walk a long way to buy milk and sweets from the corner shop.

Simon Orford

My name is **Abigale**. I am in Year 4. I am a school councillor at Hexthorpe Primary School. I live in Balby.

The best part of Hexthorpe is the park, except for the graffiti and litter. Balby is a bit like Hexthorpe with litter and graffiti. So I think people should take their litter home with them and not vandalise buildings with graffiti. Balby is very big and full of shops. They are sometimes vandalised and it makes them look horrible.

Abigale Ketteringham

My name is **Paul Cressey**. I am one of the new school councillors for Hexthorpe Primary School I am 11 years of age.

I like Hexthorpe because it is quiet and peaceful at the top end. There are some things I wish to change as a school councillor like the graffiti in the park and around Hexthorpe. There is one more thing I would like to change and that is all the boarded up houses. Apart from these things everything else is alright.

Paul Cressey

Hello my name is **Callum**. I am a school councillor for Hexthorpe Primary School. I think we should get some dustbins in the Dell and we should not let beggars in the subway. There are too many shops in Balby. There are some things I do not want to get rid of like the bowling alley, Methodist Church and the BMX track.

I am looking forward to being a school councillor and expressing my views about all kinds of things.

Callum

My name is **Melissa McFarlane**. I am one of the new school councillors at Hexthorpe Primary School.

I don't like the litter on the road when there is a bin right there. We need some more bins because there are not enough.

The things I do like about Balby are the shops and the parks. We could improve this with help from the community. I think the world would be a better place today if people worked together to make a nice community and did their best to keep the environment clean and tidy.

Melissa McFarlane

My name is **Evelyn** and I have been voted school councillor by my friends in Class 12.

Hexthorpe is a very nice place and in the park flowers grow in the summer. But in the autumn teenagers ride their bikes through the flowers and put the swings over the poles which spoils it for everyone. There is a fun play area and a large field where occasionally there is a fair. This is always a lovely day, however there is a lot of litter left afterwards.

I think there should be more bins all year round. I also think there should be bins in the Dell because after the band comes there is rubbish all over the place.

So I hope that soon there will be many more bins around the park and around Doncaster.

Evelyn Muir

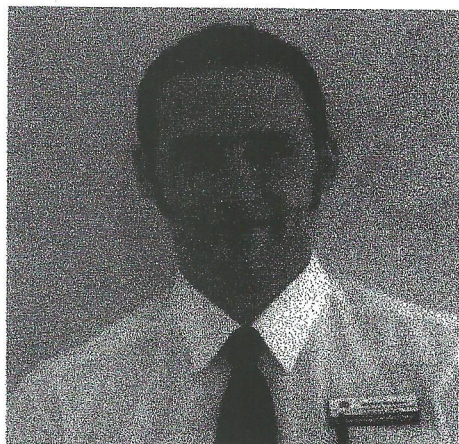
I am 8 years old. I live in a semi-detached house with my mum, dad and sister. I have two dogs. They are called Molly and Charlie. I go to Hexthorpe Primary School. I enjoy it very much. At weekends I like to go out to the parks, horse ride and go swimming. In the week I like to go Irish dancing. My hair is long and blonde, my eyes are green. I am quite pale in colour. My shoe size is 13. I am quite small for my age. I have 12 teeth at the bottom and 12 teeth at the top.

In Hexthorpe I would like to make Eden Grove better by putting a little play area where the big field is. In the park we need some dog dirt bins and some bins putting in the bandstand.

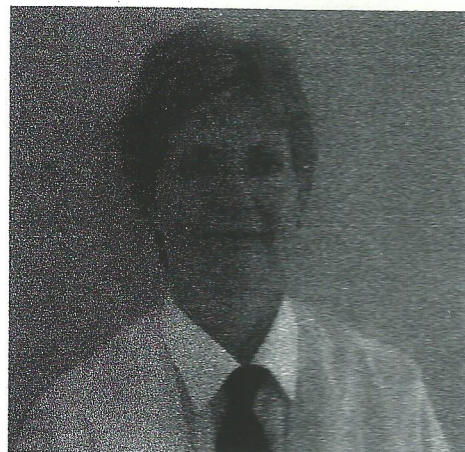
Katie McKie

Community Safety Wardens

Delivering Five Star Service



Martin Sanders



Anne Dalley

Some of you may have noticed a couple of new faces around the streets of Hexthorpe recently. New Community Safety Wardens Anne Dalley and Martin Sanders have been patrolling the area for the past two months and would like to take this opportunity to introduce themselves to the residents who haven't already met them. They are YOUR wardens, so if you have any problems with anti-social behaviour, criminal activity, housing or environmental issues such as fly tipping, litter, graffiti or abandoned vehicles call Anne or Martin on the number at the bottom of the page.

Five Star Service

Hi, we are Anne and Martin, we have been out and about delivering our five star service. This is a Crime Reduction/Home Safety initiative we have been running in the Hexthorpe area.

The service includes:

- * **Property Marking**

To help recover your goods should they be stolen.

- * **Domestic Survey**

We will check how secure your home is and give you useful advice.

- * **Bogus Caller Presentation**

An informative video, to help you stop the con men.

- * **Fire Safety Checks**

We will check your home for fire safety and give advice.

- * **Security Equipment Issue**

For elderly or vulnerable residents, we may issue smoke alarms and attack alarms, to help you feel more at ease in your homes and out on the street.

If you have any problems or would like to be considered for a five star service, just call Martin or Anne on:

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Letters to the Editor

Dear Hexpress

Let us make Hexthorpe the place everyone wants it to be

Life can be complicated and difficult at times, our ways of life sometimes differ considerably and sometimes emotions come to the front, particularly for residents who are unable to understand that everything they accept as normal behaviour is seen to be abused.

Perhaps the following will be helpful:

Do please keep front and rear of houses neat and tidy. Make sure you know when the wheelie Bins are emptied and use the facility.

Please don't use areas for tipping excess rubbish. Remember that bin men will only take rubbish that is in the bins. All other rubbish may be taken to designated sites, free of charge, or you can telephone the Council who will remove for a small fee.

Weeds growing out of doorsteps and under window sills are very easily removed and would make the area so much nicer to live in.

For those who like to sit on doorsteps all day, drinking, again this is not acceptable, especially when it is followed by takeaways and drink containers being discarded in the streets. There would be far less aggravation if thought could be given to those who live around you. So maybe instead of sitting on doorsteps, your back garden could be used for that purpose.

Perhaps thought could be given before litter is discarded. Who wants to be issued with a fine for litter abuse? Next it will be fines if you don't keep the outside of your homes in a respectable manner. Do we really want to go down that road?

Yes, life is unfair in many ways to all of us. Round and round in a circle life goes on, we must live together in relative harmony. There are plenty of wardens now to help and advice, but they can not do that if they are not told if there is a problem.

So stop moaning to each other and let us make Hexthorpe the place everyone wants it to be.

Hexthorpe Resident

(Name and Address supplied)

Dear Sir

An offer concerning the Eden Grove spare land

Once again, the residents of Hexthorpe are being asked to decide what should be built on a vacant piece of land, (the last time it was the old school site) and once again, no doubt, a decision will be made 'on high' (the Council) as to what the residents will have?

Can we please have a bottom up decision on the usage of this land and not a top-down one? Even if only one person has a bright idea about this land, that is what should be built there.

At present Doncaster has only one community garden in the borough, at the Glass Park in Kirk Sandall. Community gardens exist in many nations, both urban and rurally based. They are created for relaxation and healing, for fun and sensory exploration and are places where people can grow food. They vary in what they have to offer depending on local needs and are a public garden in terms of ownership, access and democratic control.

This piece of land should remain a public green space in our urban settlement and reflect the diverse interests of Hexthorpe. As the Director of the Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens, Jeremy Iles said in 2000, 'a community garden can provide opportunities for personal growth, training and sometimes employment. It provides a focus for other initiatives, be they urban regeneration, healthy eating or multi-cultural events. A well functioning community garden is often at the heart of a well functioning community.'

I am willing to design this community garden, depending on whether I receive the support of Hexthorpe residents.

Yours sincerely

Martin Towers

Avondale

Old Hexthorpe

Hexpress Comment

Martin has opened up an exciting idea; one that has great potential. If there are people who are interested in such a project, then please contact Martin. Not only has Martin had the vision of what could be, but he also is willing to put it into practice. He needs and deserves the support of the community.

Dear Sir

I know we could! But would we?

Hexthorpe does support two pubs, two clubs, two churches, one post office, a school, five grocery stores - three of them newsagents, two hairdressers, two garages, a flower/pet/vegetable/plants/cake shop, two fish and chip shops, two Chinese Takeaways, one bookie, two cafes, and one treasure trove of household needs - Spot. And I guess I've missed a good half dozen other shops.

But... but.... where is the Chemist? We need a local Chemist right in the heart of Hexthorpe, but does Hexthorpe have the heart to support one?

If you feel we do need one, then please let the Hexpress know – let the Council know – let your councillor know – mention it at the Junction when you pop in for a cuppa – mention it.....

I understand a dispensing chemist needs official approval before it can set up. So let them know we need one. Perhaps one of you lively people would run a petition?

Yours

Mrs Smith

Dear Hexpress

Fireworks!

I am writing this letter on the 6th November, the day after bonfire day when we were all bombarded by what are known as fireworks. From teatime until after midnight we were subjected to explosions and unbearable noise. This started as early as the beginning of October, but last night really was the last straw. It was like being in a war zone. Apart from the 'pretty colours' what was nice about it all or pleasurable?

Many of the residents on Old Hexthorpe, Urban Road, Eden Grove and Travis Gardens are Senior Citizens. I hope that the local Tenants and Residents Association will speak on behalf of all of us to the local Council. This problem affects us all. And what about our local Community Policeman? Where was he last night? I have lived in Hexthorpe for three years and have never seen him.

Apparently, the Government has announced tough new measures to crack down on firework terror, including limits on the times that fireworks can be used, as well as the amount of noise they make. New Year will be the next excuse for 'bombardment', we have enough to put with in this village; it's about time we all made a stand against such disturbances.

Let us not forget the poor animals in all this. Many of these are loving pets, they must have been terrified last night. I hope that 2004 will be a more peaceful year for all of us.

Sincerely

Mrs M. Drake

Local News in Brief

Reports on Developments

Many people still ask what is to happen on the spare land unused from the old school site. As has previously been announced, Hexqol has plans to build a Community Resource Centre. It has spent many hours consulting, planning, engaging professionals to draw up plans and attempting to access funding. This has not been easy and a great deal of patience and time has been evident.

Progress is slow, but those who have been involved deserve the full backing of the community. Negotiations are still in progress as regards funding. We will report any news as it becomes available.

A Police Bus will be on the site on the 6th December from 10.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. The latest plans will be on display and members of Hexqol will be available to answer questions. Please remember that they are all volunteers and are doing their best to improve facilities for the community.

As has also previously been reported, the Rising Sun has been acquired by the Junction. The activities of the Junction will be mainly transferred into the old pub and it is hoped that new facilities will

be available. Progress in renovation has been slow because of vandalism that had occurred while the pub was empty and also because of the long process involved in acquiring funding. The New Deal for Communities have made a substantial grant towards the renovation and work is now in progress. Again we will report on any news concerning its opening.

School Display at the Plant 150

This mural was on prominent display at the Plant 150 Celebration. It was a very impressive piece of work and the Hexthorpe School is to be congratulated.



Summer Colour in the Local Hanging Baskets



Mrs. Joan Paul working in her garden (*left*)

