

The **HEX-PRESS**

YOUR FREE HEXTHORPE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER No. 80 Oct-Nov 2006

Sponsored by HEXQOL, the Hexthorpe Quality of Life Initiative.

A CHEMIST AT LAST LONG WAIT IS OVER

September 1st 2006 was a red-letter day for the community of Hexthorpe. After many years of waiting, a chemist shop was opened at last. The Hexthorpe Pharmacy opened its doors to the public on the first Friday morning of September.

The Pharmacy is run by J.M. McGill Ltd, who have a shop on Warmsworth Road and who advertise regularly in the Hexpress.

A spokesman for the chemist says, 'We are delighted that at last we able to open a pharmacy in Hexthorpe. We have been extremely pleased with the response so far; it has exceeded our expectations. I have worked in a similar shop in city centres and I cannot get over of how friendly people are in this community. It hit me from the very moment we opened.'

Local residents are able to take advantage of a free prescription collection and delivery service from home or surgery. The number to ring is 638104 for further information.

HEXPRESS COMMENT

We understand that permission was at last granted for a shop to open because of the proposed new development on the old Bombardier site. This will mean that eventually hundreds of new houses will be built, thus creating a greater potential client area. However, it seems that it will be some years before any significant number of new houses will appear.

Ten years ago the Health Authority said that there was no need for a chemist in Hexthorpe, despite

the petition of more than 600 signatures. We print a copy of the edition of the Hexpress from 1996 that highlighted the issue.

We are delighted that we now have a chemist shop alongside the New Hexthorpe Post Office, the latter being so ably run by Yusaf Jogee and family. We must make sure that both establishments continue to be well used by local residents. They are both essential parts of the continued regeneration of the Hexthorpe Community.

The **HEX-PRESS**

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

No Need for Chemist says Health Authority

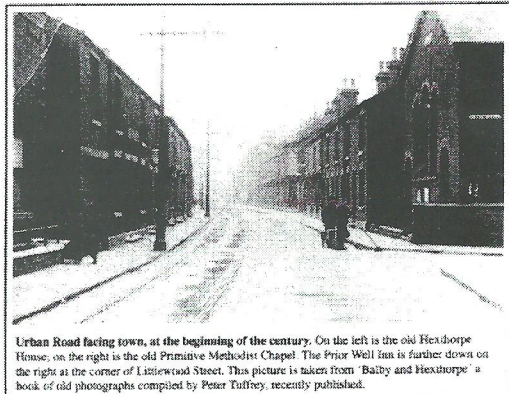
There is no need for a chemist shop in Hexthorpe. That is the verdict of the Health Authority. Local people have asked for one. There is a chemist who is wanting to establish a shop here. The authority says no. That is the position which was revealed at the recently held Tenants and Residents Association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

WHO'S WHO

Local Councillors

Stuart Exelby 70 Carr View Avenue, Tel 329521
Glyn Jones 20 Lister Avenue, Balby DN4 8AR
Tel. 816881
John McHale Tel. 326350

Methodist Minister

John Hartley 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. Tyrone Ali 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.

The Editor, Donald Reasbeck is hoping to produce a booklet about the history of the schools in Hexthorpe. If any one would like to send any memories they have of their schooldays then he would be pleased to hear from you. He would be happy to visit you to talk about it, if you prefer. Also, if you have any photographs he would love to see them.

WEEKLY EVENTS

Methodist Church Hall

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

Mums and Tots Group Thursday 9.45 - 11.45 am

Mega-cruz

7 — 11 year olds Tuesday 5.30 - 7.00pm

Rock Solid Club

11 — 14 year olds Tuesday 7.30 - 9.00 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.

News of an old Hexthorpe family and of a favourite teacher

The following letter was received at Hexthorpe School. It is from Ivor Ambrose, who now lives in Athens. He is the son of Mr Edgar Ambrose, who many will remember as a teacher at the old Hexthorpe Junior School, just after the 2nd World War. It is a fascinating letter, as not only does it tell us about the school but about life in Hexthorpe.

Dear children and teachers at Hexthorpe Primary School,

I have collected some photographs from our family album and I will try to tell you something of the people on them. (we will show some more in future issues – Editor)

The oldest picture shows the shop-floor inside the Plant (1916), with some women working at the machines. My Grandad, Tom Bickerton, was a foreman at the Plant, but I do not think that he can be seen on the photograph. Perhaps he took the photo;

he was very interested in photography, film and radio and in his spare time he used to show political films (from the Soviet Union!) in the cellar at home.

Tom Bickerton and his wife Nellie (nee Allen) lived at 15 Lindum Street, Hexthorpe. I think that Nellie's parents had the fish and chip shop, which was at the corner of Lindum Street.

Tom and Nellie had 3 children, Dorothy, Sheila and Peter. Dorothy died of meningitis, aged 13, in about 1933. Sheila was born in 1926 and Peter in 1930.



Women working in the Plant 1916

The family went on holidays to the seaside, usually Bridlington, Scarborough or Whitby. Tom and Nellie got cheap rail tickets, perhaps because they worked at the Plant or maybe through a relative who worked for London North Eastern Railways. I'm not sure.

Sheila (my mum) must have gone to Hexthorpe School as a girl. She finished school at 16. She took a secretarial course and went to work as a secretary/typist at the Plant. She learned to take shorthand, which she used for writing notes, even many years later when she was no longer working!

During the war, in about 1942, Sheila met my dad, Edgar Ambrose, at a dance in a local Church Hall. Edgar was a couple of years older than Sheila and he had passed his final exams at Doncaster Grammar School. They became sweethearts. Edgar started a teacher-training course at Cheltenham College, but was soon called up to join the Royal Navy. He started as an 'Able Seaman' and went on to become a 'Petty Officer'. He was a P.T. Instructor (P.T. – Physical Training) and he always kept fit and was

very athletic. After the war he played for Doncaster Rugby Union team and was known as a very fast left-winger.

In the Navy, Edgar was on the destroyer H.M.S. Brabham. His postings were first to the North Atlantic (1944) and later to the Mediterranean, where his ship gave cover to convoys that were taking ammunition to the allied forces in North Africa. Sometimes they even sailed with ammunition stacked on the decks of their own ship, and it was on one of those missions that German 'Stuka' dive-bombers hit their ship. The ship was badly damaged from the exploding ammunition and many sailors died. The captain sailed into shallow waters off the coast of Tangiers, where my dad and other sailors swam ashore.

When the war was over, Edgar came back and finished his teaching training. Edgar and Sheila got married on 22nd April 1946. They went to live with an aunt-I think it was in Laburnam Avenue, where they had the front room. In April 1947 their first



Hexthorpe Junior Football Team 1946-47

child arrived, Tommy. Then Mary was born in 1949.

Edgar Ambrose's first teaching post was at Hexthorpe School. He can be seen in the photograph with the school football team of 1946-47. He is the one on the left of the photograph. I do not know who the other teachers are or any of the boys. (I know that there are those of you who can name them. Any offers? Editor.)

He organised school trips for the children in the top class once a year. They usually stayed in a Youth Hostel for a week, visiting local sites of interest. Whitby was one of the places they went to.

In 1953, the Ambrose family moved to Greysouthen, a little village on the north-western edge of the Lake District, where Edgar had the position of Headmaster at the village school. There in 1955, Ivor (that's me) was born, and in 1959, Edgar (junior), the last of the children.

My grandmother, Nellie Bickerton was widowed in the early 60's. She stayed in Hexthorpe at 15, Lindum Street until 1968, when her health became poor. I remember visiting her when I was little, maybe just 5 years old. We used to run down the back street and our footsteps made a funny echo sound-boink-boink-boink against the narrow brick walls. We went to the railway footbridge and looked down on the steam trains passing underneath. It was very scary, smoky and smelly! We also visited the Dell, where we

went on the slide and the swings and walked by the River Don. That was very beautiful place. Grandma Bickerton came to live with us in 1968 at our new home in Fulwood, near Preston.

Edgar was Headmaster at Longbridge Church of England Primary School until the age of 60, when he took 'early retirement' in 1984. But he had trained in his time to be an Anglican priest and he was ordained by the Bishop of Blackburn and became curate of his local church, St John the Baptist, Broughton. Edgar and Sheila had many happy years in the community and as part of the church in Fulwood.

Sheila died in 1994, aged 69 years. Edgar continued his work as a curate, visiting the sick, conducting weddings, baptisms and funerals and participating in the life of the church. He died in May 2004, almost 82 years old.

Sheila's 'little' brother, Peter Bickerton trained as an engineer and worked as Chief Engineer on the liner, the Queen Mary (the first one of course). He sailed all over the world and enjoys nothing better than telling stories about '...when I was at sea...'. He then got a job with the British Oxygen Company as a Production Engineer and worked in Glasgow, later moving to Head Office in London.

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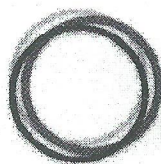
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WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?

The front page of the last edition brought one of the biggest responses that we have ever had from our readers. It is really pleasing to know that people out there actually read what we publish!

A number made enquiries on how to access information regarding family and school friends. Others were able to dig out fascinating old school photographs and even a school report from 1924. The report was one page containing very scanty information- nothing like the books that make up a report today! We hope to be able to use some of this material in future editions. The editor is still keen to hear of any stories, information or photographs about school days in the Hexthorpe schools.



By far the biggest interest was created by the photograph on the front page of the last Hexpress.. It is produced again here. As many of you pointed out, it is of course the building at the end of Kirk Street, at the entrance to the old Plant Works. It is not exactly a beautiful building or one of any architectural merit! It was the canteen for the Plant workers.

On several occasions during the First World War the canteen was used by the Junior School. Here is an extract from the School Log Book of 1916:

‘October 10th – The school is being used as a billet for the military and therefore the school is closed for removal to temporary premises.

1. Great Northern Railway Mess Room: Boys, Classes 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11
2. Primitive Methodist Sunday School: Girls, Class 2
3. Wesleyan Methodist Sunday School: Girls, Classes 4, 6, 8

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LOCAL DELIVERIES

Continued overleaf

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4. Baker Street Warehouse: Girls, Classes 10, 12

The separation of boys and girls has necessitated the formation of new classes.'

What happened to the workers at break times? Were there no refreshments?

The Primitive Methodist Sunday School was opposite Hexthorpe House Pub and the Wesleyan one was in what is now the Methodist Church Hall.

It is interesting to note that the infants held their lessons in 'the Church Institute'. That was on an old part of Shadyside, somewhere near to where the bungalows are in the walkthrough.

Another time the canteen was used by children was when the St Jude's Sunday School was held there for a short time. It is thought that was when the old Church Hall or Institute on Shadyside was knocked down and there was not a church hall ready for the Sunday School to meet in.

It is said that on at least one occasion the old radio programme 'Workers Playtime' was broadcast from there. This was a live broadcast transmitted during the lunch time break.

Margaret Wall from Barnby Dun received a copy of the last Hexpress and has sent us the following extract from a booklet 'Tales from the Plant':

'On April 8th 1967 at 7.30 a.m. I walked into Kirk Street Canteen to be a Canteen Assistant.. I wondered whatever I was walking into. It was

Margaret's Golden Touch

Margaret Wall, Canteen Manageress at Doncaster, has just scooped her second major catering award in under three years.

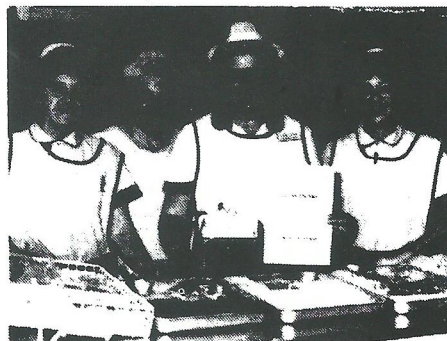
She has received Compass Catering's Gold Award for Excellence to add to an earlier honour already bestowed upon her by the Milk Marketing Board.

Margaret, now employed by Compass Catering, has been Manageress since the canteen opened, twenty-three years ago.

The Gold Award for Excellence is her reward for providing hot, nutritious, home-cooked food for daily customers and all presented with service and a smile. In fact, it has been her devotion and caring attitude to customers and clients that has been as much a part in obtaining the 'Gold' certificate as her array of excellent fruit pies, flans and home-made scones. Modestly, she attributes her success to her colleagues as much as herself and says, "We are a nice little team here. We all help each other out and try our best to make sure two hundred or so hungry people receive daily satisfaction."

Along with the certificate, Margaret received two Royal Doulton crystal glasses from Compass in appreciation of her efforts.

(Having sampled her cooking, I can readily see why the awards and recognition keep pouring in. The diet starts tomorrow!! - the Editor)



Surrounded by her work colleagues is Margaret Wall (centre) shown with award-certificate and presentation crystal.

On her left are Lillian Cronshaw & Pearl Worley with Elsie Anderson on her extreme right.

such a big canteen and all was new to me. I had never worked in a canteen before.

The first job I had was washing all the pans in what was called the pan sink. There were never-ending large pans and baking trays. Then I was moved to the vegetable preparation side of things. I worked with Jean Newall, we got on very well together. We did 6 bags of potatoes which had to be rumbled, then quite a few put through the chipper machine, 2 bags of carrots and 2 bags of cabbage. These were put into big coppers to boil for dinner. At 12.30 you would hear the works buzzer go and the lunches had to be plated up in a hot plate just to pass over the counter to the hungry men.

After a few weeks I got a job serving the apprentices upstairs, they had a dinner and a sweet for 1/6 in old money. After a little while, I became the 3rd Cook, making custard, gravy, rice pudding, running after the Cook and Assistant Cook. I learned a lot. Then the Assistant Cook left and to my surprise I got her job. I was thrown in at the deep end. The Cook was off ill for quite a while, so I took over. That is when I really got into the canteen work, feeding all the hungry workers.

.....Time passed on, before I knew it I had done 25 years service and Management and men had not forgotten what I had done for them. In the morning break it was very moving as four Management staff came in with a large bouquet of flowers to thank me for service given.'

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Praise for P.C. Pete

With regard to the letter from Mrs M Drake that was published in the last edition of the Hexpress Newspaper. I was born in Hexthorpe in the early 1930s and started my education by attending Hexthorpe Infant and Junior Schools. I am very proud to have been born, brought up and educated in Hexthorpe. I am also still proud today to be involved in a small way with the Hexthorpe Primary School.

Schools today are very different places to when I was a boy. For instance these days schools are encouraged to be very involved in their local communities. At the primary school they have good relationships with parents and members of the community who are invited into the school at any time for meetings, events and all kinds of exciting activities. The school makes good links with members of the community by taking children out and using many aspects of it as a valuable resource.

P.C. Pete has been Community Police Officer since 1998, but he is now the Children and Young Persons Officer. He comes into school regularly in his professional capacity hoping that he can in some way prevent the pupils of Hexthorpe Primary School from becoming the future children that Mrs Drake spoke about so disparagingly. He

builds positive relationships with pupils, works on citizenship programmes through helping children to understand what it means to be a respectful and good citizen. He encourages positive attitudes, moral code of conduct and addresses issues related to personal safety and security.

At other times he helps to run the school allotments and has worked with the children to win numerous awards. His work on the allotment is mainly done on a voluntary basis in his off-duty time. This is a time when he could be at home with his family, but he chooses to adopt his 'Percy Thrower' role and support the children of Hexthorpe. They are learning not only about gardening, but also about the environment, ecology, team work, respect for each other and the members of the Allotment Society.

Finally, I help at the school on a voluntary basis and also at the allotment. I know that the headteacher, Mrs Lawson, would be delighted to welcome Mrs Drake and anyone else who would like to visit the school, to see the excellent work that is being done there. Perhaps this would also give them an opportunity to discuss the issues about youngsters that concern them and see if they can find a way forward.

K. Green

Recipe

Molly Cake

Far from being 'naughty' and more than 'nice' this moist, fruity, eggless, fatless, sugarless loaf cake is ideal for diabetics, vegans and weight watchers etc but hard to keep away from the 'eat anything' brigade.

You need: 250g stoned dates, 300ml water, 85g plain flour, 85g whole wheat flour (wholemeal is fine), 3 tsp baking powder, 1 tsp mixed spice, 500g mixed dried fruit (any), some apricots are good, 50g ground almonds, 80ml orange juice.

- 1 Preheat oven to 170c/Gas 3 and line two loaf tins.
- 2 Put dates and water in pan, bring to boil and set aside to cool.
- 3 Sieve flours, spice and baking powder into a bowl and fruit and nuts and stir in the wet date mixture and orange juice. Mix well.
- 4 Spoon into tins, 1x2lb or 2x1lb. Bake about 50 mins or until skewer comes out clean.
- 5 Turn out onto wire rack to cool.

Don't worry if you don't like dates. This cake has been tried on someone who 'hates' dates and he came for more!

Local News in Brief

Friends of Hexthorpe School

It was reported at the Community Liaison Meeting held at the school that the Friends of the School had raised £1,200 at the summer fair they organised at the end of the summer term. This was a phenomenal amount of money and the hard work of those involved is much to be applauded, as is also the contribution of all those who supported the event.

New Community Policeman

We understand that Hexthorpe now has a new Community Police Officer. He is Tyrone Ali. We welcome him and hope that he soon develops a good rapport with the Hexthorpe Community. P.C. Pete Hartshorn is now the Children's and Young People's Officer and so we will still see him in our community. We welcome and fully endorse the comments made so ably by Mr. K Green in the letter on page 11 and wish P.C. Pete well in his new role.

No 'Cold Call' Area

Travis Gardens has been made a no 'cold call' area. Notices are being displayed publicising this. It means that no one must just knock on doors selling or offering services without an appointment. This has worked well in other areas and if successful here could well be extended. It will be of particular help to the elderly, some of whom can feel very vulnerable.

Hexthorpe in Bloom

Just hot of the press is news of successes by local people and organisations in the Doncaster in Bloom Competitions.

St. Judes Church was commended for the quality of their gardens. They were awarded a Silver Gilt Award in Category 4 (group effort). They were given a tree of their choice to plant in the church grounds. Those involved are to be praised. It is good to see local people doing their best to improve the local environment. This can be hard work as there are still a few who would undermine these positive efforts.

Hexthorpe School again was among the top award winners with their allotment. The School won first prize from the Hexthorpe Allotment Society for the best allotment on site and therefore was entered into the Doncaster in Bloom 2006 Competition. It was awarded the Gold Standard for the Best Allotment in the Borough and Gold Standard for the best Young Persons Project. The Gardening Club at the school involves Year 6 pupils, P.C. Pete and other allotment holders. This is excellent news and again all involved are to be congratulated.

Big Ideas for your Local Park?

Over the years you will have seen the steady decline in the condition of Hexthorpe Flatts, but a small group, known simply as the "Friends of Hexthorpe Flatts", has been established with the aim of bringing this well used area back to its former glory.

Chairman Charles Harrison explained that this dedicated group of "activists" meet about once a month with partners such as Doncaster Council and the rowing club to discuss the best way to improve the park.

Charles said that "We are in the process of making a bid for funding from the Heritage Lottery to help pay for vital renovation works and although we have plenty of ideas about what we would like to see the money spent on we would also value input from the rest of the community. We are a friendly bunch with a sole aim, meetings are very informal and there is a chance of winning a small prize in our regular raffle"

If you are interested in joining the group it meets at the Manor House Old Hexthorpe on a Tuesday evening at 7pm. If you could spare the time they only last about one and a half hours and details of dates can be found on the notice board near the bowling green in the Flatts or email for details to:

friendsofhexthorpeflatts@hotmail.co.uk