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-Press

**LATE NEWS
POST OFFICE SAVED**

COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER No. 83 December 2007
the Hexthorpe Quality of Life Initiative

POST OFFICE UNDER THREAT OF CLOSURE

The Hexthorpe Post Office is once more in danger. This time the situation looks to be terminal. There has been a 6 weeks consultation period up to 12th November and the Post Office Ltd says, 'If the decision is taken to permanently close this branch then we expect that this would take place in January 2008 at the earliest.'

The background to it is that the Government held a consultation to reshape the Post Office 'against the backdrop of falling customer numbers, decline in traditional services, changing customer behaviour and rising losses.'

Unfortunately the news about the possible closure came just after our last edition and the decision will probably have been made by the time that you receive this one.

However, we can report that there has been a lively debate within the Hexthorpe community about the issue. Some have sent in their views to contribute to the consultation, others have expressed their concerns in the local press, some have made statements without possibly knowing all the relevant facts. There was a lively and informed discussion at the November Tenants and Residents Association Meeting.

The Hexthorpe Post Office was relieved some years ago and the feeling persists that if it has survived this time, then it will be next time for certain.

HEXPRESS COMMENT

The loss of the Post Office would be a big blow to the Hexthorpe community. It is at the heart of local life.

Many would be inconvenienced and would find it difficult to access the alternative suggestions –the central town Post Office and believe it or not the one on Netherhall Road! Other local shops and businesses could suffer as money drawn from the post office would no longer be spent there. We lost the library some years ago, when one of the arguments used then is used now - that it was underused. The Hexthorpe community needs such facilities.

There seems to have been a deliberate policy of removing business from the local Post Office and now one of the arguments used in defence of closure is that it is underused! It is true that many people now use other electronic means of transacting business, resulting in a loss of customers. This means that the post- masters running our post offices are finding it increasingly hard to make them pay. We need to remember this, as the argument that the Post Office is vital to the life of the community does not pay the wages. There is a strong case to be argued that the government should heavily subsidise some post offices in communities like Hexthorpe.

We are sure that we speak for all our community when we say that Yousuf has been put into an impossible position. We recognise the hard work he has put in to attempt to make the business viable. Yousuf, his wife and delightful family have been an asset to our community. They will continue to have the support and best wishes of all in whatever the future holds for them.

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
£10.00 per issue to £40.00 according to size.

Special Offer! - for all Doncaster Rovers fans and railway enthusiasts:

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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

Key Stage 1 children Tuesday 3.30 p.m.

Mega Cruz

School Years 3-6 Tuesday 5.30 p.m.

The Group with No Name

School Year 7 and upwards Tuesday 7.15 p.m.

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

10.30 am and 6.00 pm

The Parish Church of St Jude

Sunday Service times

9.00 a.m. Morning Prayer
10.30 am Parish Mass and Sunday School

Hexthorpe Parish Hall, Laughton Road, Hexthorpe

Monday	1.45-3.15 pm	Yoga
	7.00-10.00 pm	Line Dancing
Tuesday	5.45-7.15 pm	Tae Kwon Do
Wednesday	6.45-8.30 pm	Yoga
Thursday	5.45-8.30 pm	Tae Kwon Do
Friday 2nd & 4th in the month	7.00-9.00 pm	Prize Bingo
Saturday	8.45-10.15 a.m.	Tae Kwon Do

Hire of hall - phone 321569

Up to 5.30 pm £15 per hour
After 5.30 pm £20 per hour

**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 7.00pm in
Hexthorpe School Hall.

It costs £1 a household per year to join.

LOCAL YOUNG MEN WALK FOR CHARITY

Recently two Hexthorpe young men, Wayne Potter and Andrew Murray, took part in a gruelling 25 miles hike across the Pennines. The hike was held to raise money for the National Society for the Protection of Cruelty of Children. Between them they raised £500.

The walk over very rough terrain started at 6 o' clock in the morning on the first of September at the town of Holmfirth. Over 500 people took part in the exhausting day, men and women of all ages. Wayne says, 'We went along rocky paths and steep hills. The beautiful picturesque landscapes, the long clear running rivers and the thought of what the walk was in aid of made it all the more worth while.'

Wayne originally planned to do the walk on his own but when another walker dropped out, he invited his best friend Andrew, who had shown interest, to take part. The two local lads have been best friends since the age of three.

Thanks to good weather both men finished the hike in nine hours and 20 minutes, returning back to the

Holmfirth base camp where they enjoyed a well earned rest, with food and drink. 'We walked a full circle over the Pennines, with only Andrew sporting blisters on his feet. In the end it was worth it as we raised £500 for the charity. We feel like better men for the experience.'

HEXPRESS COMMENT

We love to receive news of achievements like that of Wayne and Andrew. They are to be congratulated for their support of a worthwhile charity. They remind us all at this time of year to think of those who are less fortunate than ourselves and to give them our support as we able.

The Hexpress is delivered free to every door in Hexthorpe. If we are to continue this then we must seek funding within the next year or else there will be a real danger of no more Hexpresses. Any ideas out there? Adverts help us. We want to help local traders and we appreciate their support, but they by no means cover the costs. We don't want the paper to be full of adverts with little news. We want to have the right balance.

STARBUYS

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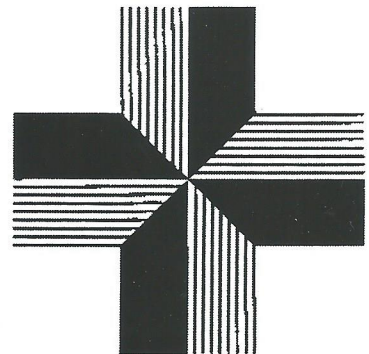
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We would like to help, please do ask

Letters

We love to receive your letters. Some people prefer to ring the editor and he then puts down their comments in the form of a letter. We do not publish anonymous letters, but are happy not to name you, as long as we have your name and address.

Nuisance from the Allotments

Dear Editor

I am writing to bring to the attention of some of the allotment holders the nuisance they are causing to the residents of Old Hexthorpe. The nuisance comes from the constant lighting of fires, especially in the mornings. At times there is little point hanging out the washing, as the dirt from the smoke that is blown across ruins the clothes. Could I ask that fires, if they must be lit, are lit in the late afternoon or evening. Is it too much to ask?

Yours

Concerned Old Hexthorpe Resident

Praise for Angies

Dear Editor

I wonder how many people in Hexthorpe have visited our corner café – ‘Angies’. It is bang in the middle of the village and open from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. and on Saturday 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. It is spotlessly clean and the staff are friendly and quick to serve. When I asked for a small cup of tea I got it with a smile. My meal was freshly made and piping hot.

I’m going again. – often. It is also useful with the bus stop on Urban Road only a dozen steps away. Meet you there! OK?

Yours faithfully

J Smith

Litter

Dear Editor

Am I alone in thinking that the litter in our streets is on the increase? Take a walk down Urban Road and you are wading through discarded rubbish – paper, chocolate and sweet wrappers, drink bottles and cans etc. Does anyone notice? Does any one care?

The problem is with those who just throw down rubbish without a thought. Who dare complain to an offender without getting a mouthful of abuse? Are the children told about it in school? Not that it is only children at fault – adults can be just as bad.

How often are our streets, pavements and alley ways cleaned?

Years ago one man was employed to sweep the gutters and pavements. His only area was Hexthorpe and all he had was a brush, shovel and barrow. Five days a week, every week, he went round our streets. Now a big contraption comes round with several men. It seems to be less than once a fortnight.

Am I missing something, but wasn’t the old method better? Perhaps it is too simple for our modern age. But it worked.

Yours

TOH

Junction Garden

Dear Editor

I want to thank the Junction for the wonderful effort they have made with the back yard. For years it has been an eyesore. Now it is a pleasure to pass by. During the summer there has been a lovely display of different kinds of flowers. I have enjoyed passing by each day and stopping to have a look. It has brought some colour into the area.

Thank you.

Yours

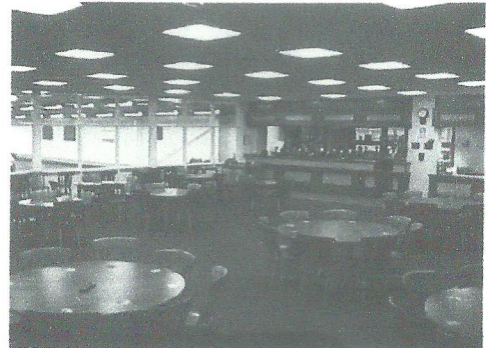
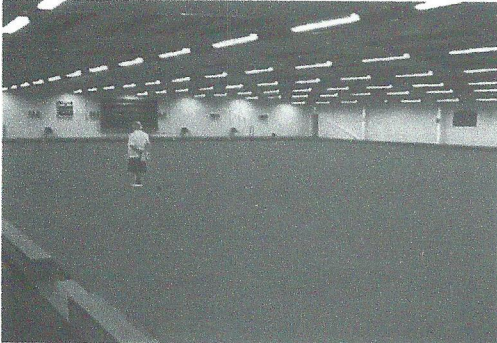
Ramsden Road Resident

A Big Thank You

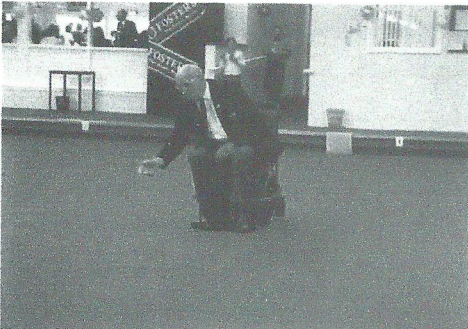
Have you ever wondered how the Hexpress is put together and how it reaches you in your home? We are indebted to many people. Nick Edgar does wonders with the text the editor sends to him. He first of all has to make sense of it and then lays it out in the form that you see it. He then sends the copy to the printers and when the finished Hexpress is received an army of volunteers distribute it to your door. We want to give a big thank you to all who are involved. Their work is much appreciated by us all. Please read the Hexpress Comment concerning the costs of the Hexpress.

DONCASTER INDOOR BOWLING CLUB
URBAN ROAD, HEXTHORPE, DONCASTER
01302 361600

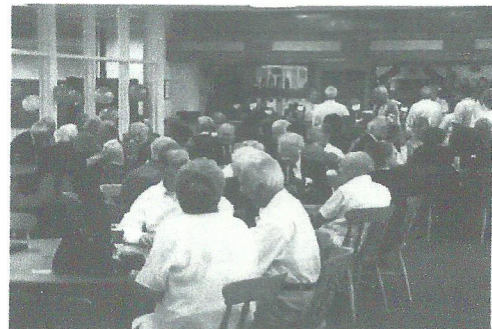
The Club opened on 4th September 2001 provides the only National Standard indoor bowling green within a 17miles radius of Doncaster.



The six rink green is complimented by a large lounge serving bar meals, tea coffee, and bar, changing rooms, toilets, and facilities for the disabled which include electrically operated entrance doors and bowling buggies for the wheelchair bound. One of the entrances to the green for wheelchairs can be seen in the bottom left hand corner of the photograph of the green (above left). The facilities are excellent and the Club has already hosted a number of notable National events. The ability to obtain a meal and a drink virtually at any time of the day has proved to be attractive.

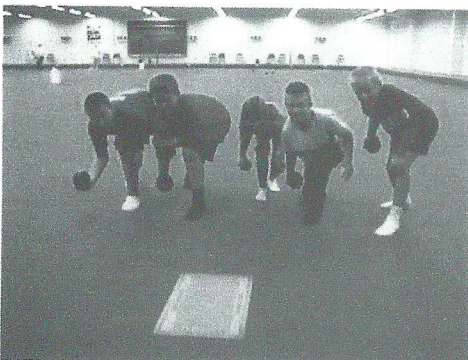


A bowling buggy available for disabled

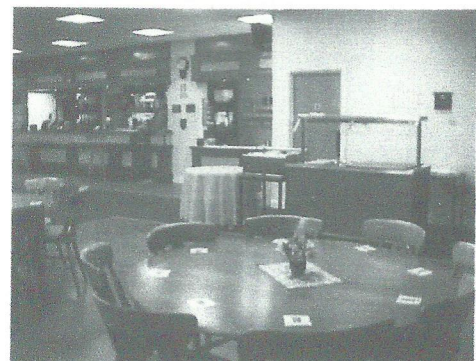


Members enjoying a social occasion

The Club provides a full range of coaching activities and works hand in hand with the local school and police in offering coaching to young people. Doncaster IBC has been blessed with some good young people who are acquitting themselves very well both as bowlers and good citizens.



Local school children trying their hand



Carvery for Sunday lunches etc

The Club runs a number of Leagues in winter and summer but always welcomes visitors

COME AND HAVE A TRY – YOU MIGHT LIKE IT!!

Eco Warriors at large!

Did you know that Hexthorpe Primary School has a new after school club? The club is part of the Eco Schools programme designed to make pupils think seriously about the world they live in today and the world of the future.

The club are looking at the issues of recycling, energy conservation and other environmental issues. Already the school have gained the bronze award from the Eco Schools Programme to recognise their contribution towards sustainability. These are just a few of the steps taken in school towards looking after the future of the planet.

Members of the Eco Warrior Club have their say:

Jason Hodges "We've looked at the serious issues caused by plastic carrier bags. We worked with Dawn Environmental to decorate our own environmental friendly cotton bags."

Courtney Murray "We have a mini beast area and a sensory garden in school with logs and bricks where we can study insects in our Science lessons."

Liam Murray "Our Eco Warrior Club has worked with the RSPB to make bird feeders."

Frances Murray "All classes have recycling boxes for paper. It is the job of the Eco Warrior in school to make sure that all paper in school is recycled to help the environment."

The group meets on Monday evenings 3.15-4.15pm in school. The action plan of the group are as follows:

1. To work with the local community to improve the local environment in Hexthorpe.

2. To reduce the energy used in school.
3. To promote recycling.
4. To develop pupil awareness of global issues in school.

The school meanwhile has gained a head start on sustainable issues by winning the prestigious pyramid **Technology Challenge** where pupils from Year 6 had to design a sustainable village of the future.

Pupils from Year 6 worked incredibly hard to add wind turbines, water butts, recycling centres and bike lanes to their village.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE TEAM WHO REPRESENTED HEXTHORPE PRIMARY AT THE FINAL.

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Local News

Millie King

We are sad to report that Millie King has died since our last issue. Millie was a well known character throughout the community. Her funeral service was held in Hexthorpe Methodist Church and there was a large number of people who attended. We show a photograph of Millie and her son Ian. Millie was taken to Old Trafford to celebrate her 75th birthday. She is proudly showing her number 75 shirt of her favourite team!

Harvest at the School

On Thursday 18th October Hexthorpe School entertained 84 senior citizens from the local community at their annual Harvest Tea which was prepared by the school's year 6 pupils. This year's event was a record year, with more visitors attending than in previous years. In fact many of the visitors had travelled to be there – from Cantley, Mexborough and even South Africa. There was entertainment of singing, Irish dancing, and African drumming, followed by



bingo and a raffle. Every senior citizen left the tea laden with harvest gifts.



Hexthorpe Pupils meet Secretary of State

Some children from Hexthorpe Primary School attended a very special meeting with the Secretary of State for children, schools and families at Altofts Primary School, Normanton, to celebrate the launch of the children's personal safety programme 'missdorothy' throughout West Yorkshire. Mrs Lawson was praised by the founder of 'misdorothy' programme, Sharon Doughty, for the work already achieved on personal safety at Hexthorpe Primary School and said that it was an inspiration to other schools.

In the summer term 2007, Hexthorpe School received a special accolade for being one only three schools in the country to be nominated as a 'flagship school'

Hanging Baskets

Once again there was a good display of hanging baskets around Hexthorpe. The photo is of one that was on show in Eden Grove outside the home of Mrs Drake.

Considering the summer weather we had, it is quite a remarkable display. It would be great if we had hundreds of them next year!



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A Christmas Message from the Vicar of Hexthorpe

Dear Friends,

There is no doubt that Santa's most popular reindeer by far is Rudolf, the 'red-nosed reindeer.' Johnny Marks wrote the now famous song about Rudolf, which tells us that not only did all the other reindeer laugh at him and called him names because of his bright red nose, but they never let poor Rudolf play in their reindeer games. The song goes on, 'Then one foggy Christmas Eve Santa came to say, "Rudolf with your nose so bright, won't you guide my sleigh tonight?" Then all the reindeer loved him as they shouted out with glee, "Rudolf the red-nosed reindeer, you'll go down in history!"'

The story of Rudolf is, in a way, the story of salvation. It is our story both as individuals and as the human family, but in our case it is not Santa who comes to save us, but the Child Jesus. To begin with, Rudolf was a misfit. Compared with the image of the ideal reindeer, we can say that something was definitely wrong with him. What is more, he was not in any position to help himself. In the same way, in one sense we are all misfits, because as we read in St. Paul's Letter to the Romans, "...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God". And in the prophecy of Isaiah, "All we like sheep have gone astray". Like sheep that are lost, we are not in a position to help ourselves. Rudolf could not help himself and all his fellow reindeer could do was to make things worse for him. Only one person could help him - Santa, the messenger from heaven.

At Christmas we celebrate the birth of the *real* Messenger from heaven. As we read in church on Christmas Morning, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us." Jesus comes to liberate us from the human predicament, namely our sinfulness, for it is sin that mars and disfigures the beautiful image of God we all have within us. Rudolf's red nose was a defect, but that is precisely why Santa chose him. Likewise, Jesus, the heavenly Messenger, has the ability to turn the defects and red noses of our tainted humanity into assets for the service of God.

What makes the reindeer story so poignant is that Santa does not use a magic wand to rid Rudolf of his funny red nose. He let him go on *with* the red nose, as his chosen reindeer, even when Rudolf himself would have wanted nothing more than to be a normal reindeer like all the others. Similarly, Jesus does not simply make us good men and women, rather he makes us into people who can use both their strengths and defects to the service and the glory of God. This is the proof to us that it is not by our own will power that we are able to become children of God: it is by God's grace alone, by God's unmerited and unconditional love for us, just as we are, warts and all: "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

So how does the grace of God achieve this transformation in us? God's grace works two things in us: enlightenment and empowerment. St. John tells us, "...the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ". God's truth enlightens us and God grace empowers us. God's truth opens our eyes to see ourselves and our world in a new light. It is a word that brings reassurance, affirmation and hope - which is why we call it the 'Gospel', which means 'Good News.' It is news that is liberating and empowering. It empowers us by changing our former disposition of insecurity, despair and hopelessness into that of affirmation, assurance, new hope and enthusiasm in God's service. This is why the Christmas message is such a wonderful one and it is what Christmas is all about.

So this Christmas, as we enjoy all the festivities, fun and celebrations, let us not forget to take time to listen to the Good News of the birth of Christ. Let us commit ourselves afresh in his service, even though we do not know where the journey will lead us, but knowing one thing for sure - that the grace of God will supply the strength we need for the long journey of faith ahead. "For to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God."

I wish you all a happy, holy and blessed Christmas.

Fr John.

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Ladies and gents welcome

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voucher. (You must attend one appointment a
week for six weeks)

- If you are ready to work, you need to talk to
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Adviser, is ready to listen to your concerns and
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job that's not right for you.

**Call us or come and see us at
Reed in Partnership, Single Parent Team,
Unit 4 and 5, Hallgate, Doncaster DN1 3NX
Telephone: 0800 258 5117**

Christmas at the Churches

Hexthorpe Methodist Church

Urban Road, Hexthorpe

Friday 14th December 6.30 p.m.
Christmas Celebration for all the family.

Sunday 23rd December 10.30 a.m.
Christmas Family Service.
6.00 p.m. Christmas Carol Service

Christmas Eve
Carol singing around Hexthorpe in support of
Tear Fund, meet at **7.00 p.m.**

Christmas Day Service at 10.30 a.m.

Sunday 30th December
Services at **10.00 a.m.** and **6.00 p.m.**

St. Jude's Parish Church

Shadyside, Hexthorpe

SUNDAY 23 DECEMBER 2007
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
10 a.m. Parish Mass and Junior Church
3 p.m. Christingle Service for children followed by
mince pies and mulled wine

MONDAY 24 DECEMBER 2007
CHRISTMAS EVE
8 p.m. Blessing of the Crib and First Mass of
Christmas

TUESDAY 25 DECEMBER 2007
CHRISTMAS DAY
10 a.m. Parish Mass with carols

SUNDAY 30 DECEMBER 2007
THE FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS
10 a.m. Parish Mass and Junior Church