

# THE HEX-PRESS

YOUR FREE HEXTHORPE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER no.91 February 2013

## THE WILDLIFE OF HEXTHORPE!

There is an amazing variety of wildlife in the Hexthorpe region. Apologies to those who thought that the Hexpress had a front-page sensational scoop! The wildlife we are talking about is the real wildlife produced by nature. It is surprising how much can be seen around

An annual survey is made by the RSPB (The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds) of the bird population in England. All of the top-twenty in their list have been reported to us as being seen in Hexthorpe.

The twenty birds are:

House Sparrow, Starling, Blue Tit, Blackbird, Chaffinch, Woodpigeon, Goldfinch, Great Tit, Robin, Collared Dove, Dunnock, Magpie, Long Tailed Tit, Greenfinch, Feral Pigeon, Coal Tit, Jackdaw, Carrion Crow, Wren and Common Gull.

Other birds spotted include Pheasant, Barn Owl, Pied Wagtail, Thrush, Kestrel, Sparrowhawk, Bullfinch, Mallard and Great Spotted Woodpecker. It is quite exciting to report that the Grey Heron and the Kingfisher have been seen by the banks of the River Don. This shows how much the



quality of the water has improved over the years. Sadly, two birds that were commonly heard in our neighbourhood have not been reported as being seen or heard for some years. Spring was always greeted by the sound of a Cuckoo. The Skylark could be heard and seen singing its heart out over the Crimpsall. (article continues on page 5)

This edition of the Hexpress has been sponsored by our local councillors Glyn Jones, John McHale and Sue Wilkinson through the Doncaster Council's Flexible Budget.



# WHO'S WHO

## Local Councillors

Sue Wilkinson

Glyn Jones                    20 Lister Avenue, Balby DN4 8AR  
Tel. 816881

John McHale                Tel. 326350

## Parish Priest

Fr Stephen Edmonds    The Vicarage, 17 Heaton Gardens,  
Edlington Tel. 01709 858358

## Methodist Minister

John Hartley                27 Goosehill Court, Balby Tel: 852024

## Hexthorpe Community Constable

contact P.C. Wood            Tel: 0114 220 2020

## Hexthorpe Safer Neighbourhood Team

Contact:                      Tel. 385339  
Address:                      Balby Depot, Oswin Avenue, Balby

## 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 |

## The Junction

The Junction is open to all from 10.00-4.00 each weekday. There is a comfortable drop-in where you can spend as much or as little time as you like. You can have a tea or coffee and join in the friendly chat or just sit in peace.

Members of staff are happy to talk privately with you if you need to talk over something, or need some specific advice or help. There is a computer suite with free broadband access for all. Free computer courses are also available. For further information or help please call in or ring 349341.

# WEEKLY EVENTS

## Methodist Church Hall

S.A.R.A Group (Stay and Rest Awhile)  
Mums and Tots Group Thursday 9.15 - 11.15 am

Mini Cruz  
Key Stage 1 children Tuesday 3.30 p.m.

Mega Cruz  
School Years 3-6 Tuesday 5.30 p.m.

The Club with No Name  
School Year 7 and upwards Tuesday 7.25 p.m.

**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

|                  |   |                                 |
|------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| <b>Monday</b>    | 1.30-3.00pm                                 | Yoga                            |
|                  | 5.30-7.30pm                                 | Tae Kwon Do                     |
| <b>Tuesday</b>   | 6.00-7.00pm                                 | Keep Fit                        |
|                  | 7.00-8.30pm                                 | Prize Bingo                     |
|                  | <i>(alternate weeks - see notice board)</i> |                                 |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | 10.00-11.00am                               | Keep Fit                        |
|                  | 5.30-6.30pm                                 | Zumba                           |
|                  | 6.45-8.15pm                                 | Yoga                            |
| <b>Thursday</b>  | 2.00-3.00pm                                 | PACT meeting                    |
|                  |   | <i>(Last Thursday in month)</i> |
|                  | 6.00-7.00pm                                 | Tae Kwon Do                     |
| <b>Friday</b>    | 9.30-10.30pm                                | Stay & Play (Mums & Toddlers)   |
|                  | 5.00-6.45pm                                 | Youth Club                      |

Booking Manager: Sue Large - 07582 812440

Hire of hall - the Hall is also available for hire for parties and other special events. For further information please contact the Booking Manager.

### Sunday Services

|          |                |
|----------|----------------|
| 9.30am   | Morning Prayer |
| 10.30 am | Parish Mass    |

**Any letters, articles, adverts contact:**

Donald, 31 Old Hexthorpe, Tel: 852521



# The Old has Gone The New is Coming

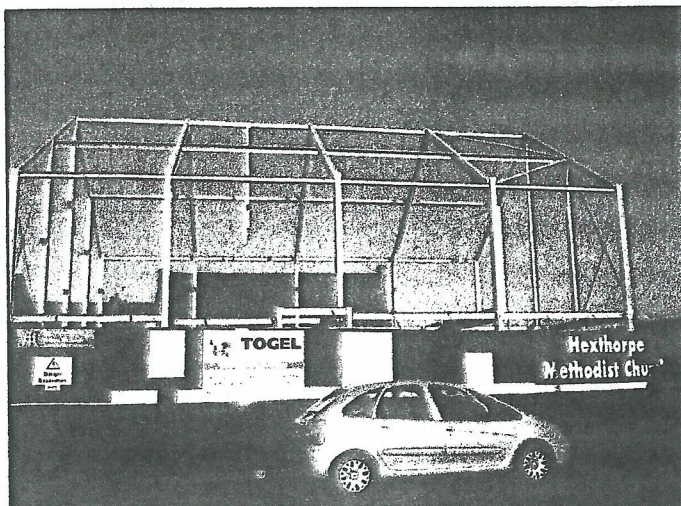
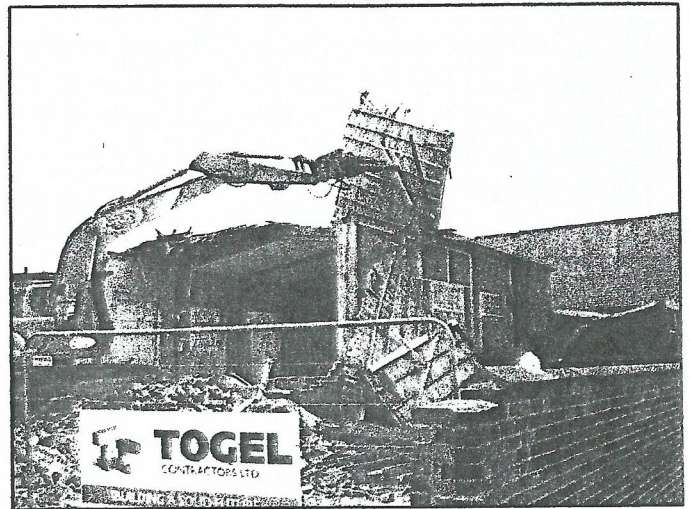
On a Monday morning late last year the Methodist Church building that has been on Urban Road since 1960 disappeared. Demolition took only a few hours. A new church building is emerging – it will take more than a morning to build! It is anticipated that by late spring –weather permitting - it should be nearing completion.

All church activities are continuing in the hall at the back, down the passageway. On a Sunday morning youngsters are meeting in the Hexthorpe School before joining the rest of the church in the hall.

## Why is a new building necessary?

The church pamphlet published when the scheme was launched says –

- The Methodist Church is in an exciting time of growth
- The present building is now dated and tired
- People, particularly young families, expect modern facilities
- An adaptable worship area is needed to accommodate an increasing number of families who are attending; modern approaches, particularly in all-age worship, need flexible space
- More than 80 youngsters use the premises during each week. Modern methods need appropriate facilities e.g. computers, crèche
- A modern kitchen needed e.g. for luncheon club and kids clubs
- Facilities needed to develop the work of the Farsi congregation
- Conferences and courses need suitable facilities



## What is to be included in the new building?

- \*adaptable worship area seating 175 people
- \*adaptable hall of similar size that can be made into smaller units
- \*modern equipped kitchen, with access to hall and foyer
- \*toilets, including disabled facilities
- \*a crèche
- \*large entrance foyer
- \*computer facilities
- \*office
- \*lift
- \*storage space
- \*economical heating
- \*car park.

The old hall is to remain; it is to be used for more robust physical activities!



# REPORT BY NEIL GITTOES

## *Hexthorpe Area Community Officer*



Hello, my name is Neil Gittoes and I am the Area Officer for the Hexthorpe area. I am the first point of contact for any enquiry from members of the public regarding services by Doncaster Council. I try to attend all the community meetings such as Neighbourhood Watch and PACT, and the activities such as the Hexthorpe Youth Drop In and the organised fun days. I can also be seen out in the community talking to residents and finding out their priorities, issues and suggested improvements for the neighbourhood. I tackle environmental issues including dog fouling, fly tipping, littering and ensuring the streets are clean. To contact me call 01302 736930 or [neil.gittoes@doncaster.gov.uk](mailto:neil.gittoes@doncaster.gov.uk) You can also find the Area Team on Facebook, search Communities Central DMBC

### Hexthorpe Youth Drop In

The Hexthorpe Youth Drop In has officially started. It was launched with a Family Party & Disco on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2012. Around 100 people attended for fun, games and competitions. The dancing competition was won by Vladimira Popikova, Bailey Ellis, Chloe Ross and Laila Diawne. These children won tickets for The Dome where they could swim and ice skate free all day.

Thank you to everyone who helped to organise the event, helped out on the day and also to Pam Blatherwick from the Central Children's Centre and Councillor McHale for judging the competition. It is now January and the Youth Drop In is still going strong with 50 young members. The group have since organised Halloween and Christmas parties which have been enjoyed by all.

*For more information about the Youth Drop In please 'Like' our Facebook page HEXTHORPE YOUTH DROP IN.*

### Consultations in Hexthorpe

Since the last Hexpress was delivered, there have been a further 4 consultations in Hexthorpe; Eden Grove, Nicolson Road, Glenfield Road and Crimpsall Road. All of these streets reported issues with dog fouling, littering and dumped rubbish. As a result the Area Team will be conducting targeted patrols in the area relating to these issues and fixed penalty notices will be issued to offenders as appropriate. The other issues mentioned were people leaving bins out all week and noise nuisance. Again, focused patrols and engagement will be carried out to encourage residents to take their bins back in.

### Drop In Sessions

Your Area Officer will be available to speak to every week at the following drop in sessions:  
Community Room at Hexthorpe Primary School, every Tuesday 2.30 – 3.30pm  
The Junction Office on Flowitt Street, every Wednesday 10am – 12noon.



# THE WILDLIFE OF HEXTHORPE!

*Continued from front page*

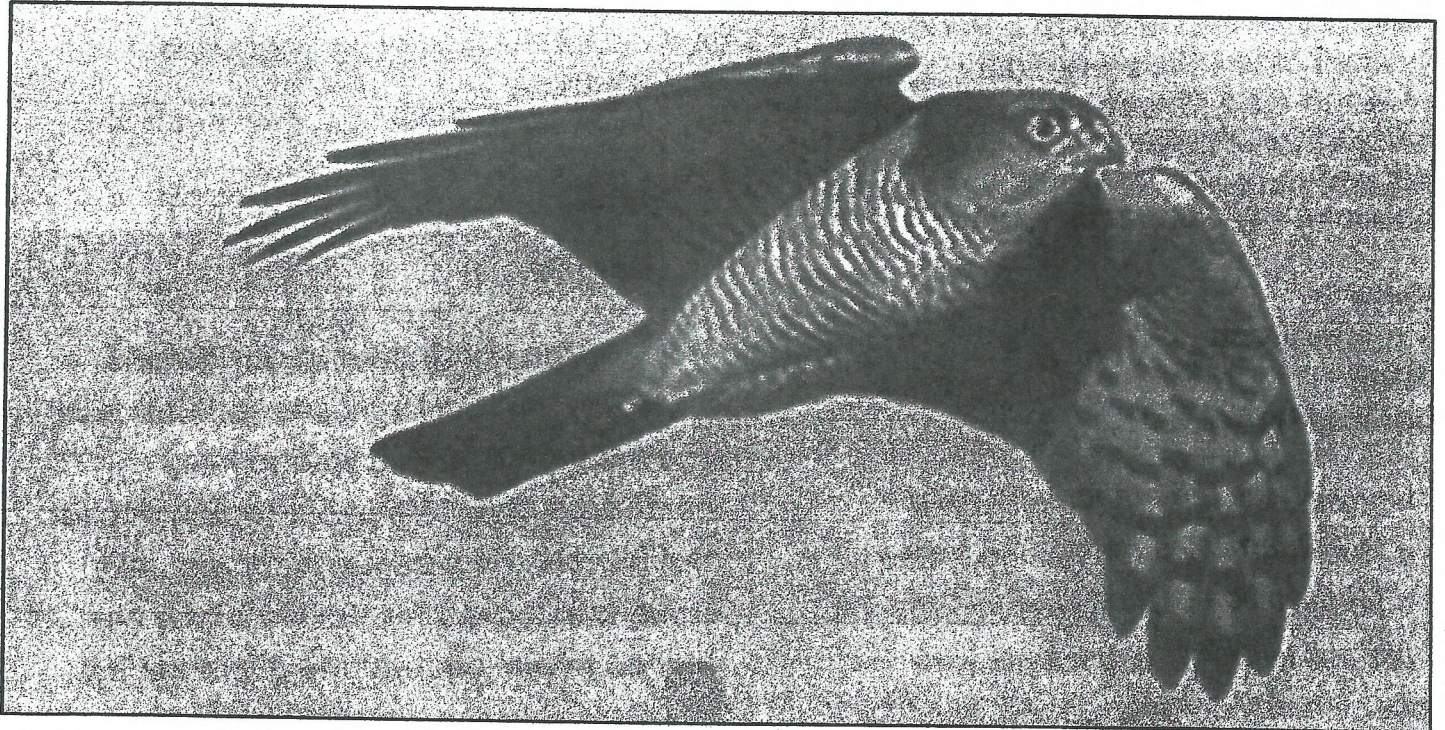
**Fishermen can be seen regularly making their way to the river to spend a day there. This is a sight that would have been extremely rare some twenty years ago.**

There are of course a number of animals, including unwelcome ones such as mice and rats. People have mixed feelings about others. Rabbits can seem cute to some but are not welcome by gardeners, as they can eat their way through cherished plants and vegetables. Squirrels too are regarded as friendly animals, but again can be a real nuisance in the garden and park. Red squirrels would be

welcome but the grey squirrel is seen by many to be a tree rat!

Foxes have run down Old Hexthorpe and Bramworth Road; they have attacked chickens and ducks.

One morning a deer was grazing at the bottom of a garden in Dell Crescent. Hedgehogs are regular visitors to some gardens. Frogs, toads, bats and newts are also present. The great crested newt is a protected species. Special provision had to be made for it when the old Plant Works site was being developed.



**If you have other sightings to report, please let us know. Photographs would be even better**



# Letters

## A letter from Scarborough

Dear Editor

A copy of the Hexpress was passed on to me recently and despite my change of address I retain memories of Doncaster, Hexthorpe and Brodsworth in particular. Your paper asked why the park was always referred to as the Flatts.

The term Flatts or Flats is still used to describe an area of flat or flattish land, such as the Cambridgeshire Flats (cf The Shorter Oxford Dictionary, 1983). Hexthorpe itself has many variations in spelling over the years. Before quarrying began in the Flatts area the Don banks would have been pretty flat.

The booklet, 'From Quarry to a Park, Hexthorpe Flatts Discovery Trail', includes the 1985 Dawson map showing the many strips or plots used mainly for agricultural purposes. The booklet was published by Doncaster Library in 1991.

Sincerely  
Frank Pearson  
Burnistan  
Scarborough

Ed. Frank was the author of the booklet 'From a Quarry to a Park'. We highlighted this in an edition of the Hexpress in 1991. There are still Hexthorpe residents who remember when the Flatts was far from flat. Small hills and numerous trees covered the area where the football pitch now is and on the other side of the main path. Children played there and climbed the trees, many of which were given names.

## The Coroner's Court

Dear Editor

I noticed that it was said in the Hexpress that the back of the coroner's court was disgraceful. It was an eyesore for those coming into Hexthorpe.

I am glad to say that the council must have been reading our paper because it has been put right. I must also congratulate those who have worked on the large flat blocks over Hexthorpe Bridge. I have heard many people say how great they look. We often complain, but credit where credit is due.

A Grateful Reader (name and address supplied)

## Litter

Dear Editor

There is too much litter in our streets and backs. When I was young there was one man whose job it was to keep Hexthorpe clean. He had a brush, shovel and barrow. He worked every day just doing that. I can't for the life of me see why someone couldn't be given such a job. Or is that too simple? Have I missed something? It would be even better if no litter was thrown down.

Anti-litter (name and address supplied)



# More News in Brief and Letters

## Neighbourhood Watch

Is there a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme in any street in Hexthorpe? There used to be a thriving one in Dell Crescent and Bramworth Road. They help to prevent and reduce crime, the fear of crime and antisocial behaviour. Many insurance companies give a discount on home contents insurance. You have access to advice, support and information on how to prevent and reduce the chances of being a victim of crime. Interested? If you are then visit the website at [www.synwa.com](http://www.synwa.com)

## Well Done!

Since our last issue many of our young people have begun a new chapter in their lives. Some have gone on to university or the local college. Some have returned to their school to follow further studies, some have found jobs, but some sadly are finding difficulty in finding jobs. Some have moved on from our Hexthorpe Primary School to secondary schools. We want to congratulate all of them. They are a credit to our community. Young people often get a bad press but the vast majority are hard working and have much to offer. They live in a different world to that of many of us who are older. We need to give them all the support we can.

## Keep Fit in the Park

Here is a short message from Annie Parker representing The Friends of Hexthorpe Flatts Park Group:

**'We have a Thursday walking group, meeting at 9.30 a.m. at Hexthorpe Primary School to take a walk in our Hexthorpe Flatts and the surrounding area. This is a comfortable walk for all ages and level of fitness; it lasts around 40 minutes. We have coffee and biscuits back at school;**

so come and join us for a stroll around our community.

**Also on another level we are hoping to start our BMX training programme - again for all ages. Please keep looking at our new message board near to the track. We have taken names of people interested in cycling on our track and forming a group. This we hope will help children and young adults to access much needed skills and give confidence to go on to further competition.**

**Our new playground is also a winner with the amount of children and parents visiting on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> October. All the equipment seemed to be in use and the children were enjoying the fresh air and activity.'**

## Activities at the Balby Library

**ART BUSTERS is back at Balby Community Library every Friday for only 50p a session. Come along and learn new things from how to make a snappy Crocodile to your own Punch and Judy. 3.30pm - 4.30pm**

**LITTLE SHAKERS - Learn and play with music. Come along with your child and have some fun with music singsongs and toys. This activity is for parents and their pre-school children; a small fee of 50p per child (0-4 years). Session starts at 10.30am.**

## Carols on Christmas Eve

**A group of more than 50 carol singers set off on Christmas Eve to sing carols around the Hexthorpe Streets. This continued a tradition that has gone on since the 19<sup>th</sup> century. More than £210 was collected and sent to the Christian relief fund called the TEAR Fund. A group had also sung carols at the town Tesco. Also on Sunday the 4<sup>th</sup> of November 229 shoeboxes were brought to the morning service at the Methodist Church. The boxes were full of gifts for children who have nothing at Christmas.**



# £7 Million Facelift

More than £7 million pounds is being spent to provide 900 houses in Hexthorpe with external wall insulation. This is being done with no cost to the house owners. Already work has been completed on many houses. The initial reaction of everyone is that the facelift is really impressive.

Richard Smith, the Doncaster MBC Energy Manager, said, 'Doncaster Council is working with energy companies and Westdale Services Ltd who have secured funding to provide you with a fantastic offer through a government backed scheme This scheme aims to reduce energy costs across the whole community; therefore the whole community's involvement is essential.

As with other areas receiving these works, your home can be transformed to look like a new home, it will be made warmer, save you money and is likely to increase the value of your home. External wall insulation can reduce your heating bills by up to 30%.'

The energy companies involved are RWE npower, EDF and Scottish and Southern Energy. They are providing the funding as part of their energy efficiency obligations to the government. A Doncaster Contractor – Westdale Services Ltd is delivering the scheme.

Areas targeted are Wheatley (200 houses), Askern (100), Duncroft (400), Mexborough (100) and of course Hexthorpe with 900 houses. As can be seen Hexthorpe is by far the biggest project so far. It is targeting houses that have no cavity walls because of their age.

Richard Smith says, 'We are helping create local jobs, develop local business, upgrading homes and regenerate communities at no cost to the Doncaster Council.'

## ***New Hexthorpe Post Office - Late News***

**The Post Office is likely to be moving in April to a new location – News Spot at 30 Hexthorpe Road. This is part of the plans of Post Office Ltd that will see 6,000 traditional branch offices converting to new style branches. The new branch will be open 7 days a week 7.00 – 20.00 (Sundays until 19.30) Residents are invited to make any comments about the change of location by 19<sup>th</sup> February. Details are in the present Post Office. This means that Jusuf and his wife will be giving up their role. Nobody can remember a time when 70, Hexthorpe Road was not a Post Office. In our next issue we will bring the latest news and show our appreciation of the invaluable contribution that Jusuf and family have made to the life of the Hexthorpe community.**