

THE HEXPRESS

YOUR FREE HEXTHORPE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER No. 102 MARCH 2018

thehexpress.co.uk

“Pupils are proud to talk of their learning and their school.”



This is what the inspectors reported in a recent Ofsted visit to the school. The inspection took place on the 15th - 16th November 2017.

We list here the strengths of the school that the inspectors highlighted. The ‘early years provision’ is described as good. There is room for improvement in other areas, but it is recognised that the school faces special challenges. However, the underlying message of the report is that the school is moving in the right direction.

The school has the following strengths:

- The school is improving after a period of significant change. Leaders enlisted the support of a multi-academy trust and improvements are picking up pace. Current pupils are beginning to make better progress.
- Children make strong progress in early years from often very low starting points.
- Achievement in phonics by Year 2 is very close to the national average.
- Staff receive effective support and training. Consequently, the quality of teaching, learning and assessment is improving.
- Leaders have created a vigilant safeguarding culture.
- Leaders’ actions are resulting in rapidly improving attendance and behaviour. Pupils are proud of their school and are interested in their learning.

Continued on page 12

WHO'S WHO

Local Councillors

Sue Wilkinson Tel. 01302 817206

Glyn Jones Tel. 01302 816881

Methodist Minister

Rev Jon Bellfield Tel. 07766397708

Parish Priest

Fr Stephen Edmonds Tel. 01709 858358

Hexthorpe Community Constable

Contact Sergeant Butler Tel: 01302 385339

Stronger Community Officers

Contact: Tel. 01302 736930

PACT MEETINGS

These are held every four weeks at 2.00pm at St Jude's Parish Hall. All residents are invited to meet and ask questions of the local police officers. Contact E Coyne on 01302 328626 for dates of meetings.

The Junction

The Junction is open to all from 10.00am-4.00pm 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 01302 349341.

Any letters, articles, adverts contact:

thehexpress.co.uk or Donald 01302 852521

WEEKLY EVENTS

The King's Cross Church Hall (Methodist)

Tuesday

9.15-11.00am **S.A.R.A Group**
(Stay and Rest Awhile)
Mums and Tots Group

5.30pm **Mega Cruz School Years 3-6**

Wednesday

12.45pm **Luncheon Club**(first of each month)

1.30-2.30pm **Line Dancing**

Saturday

4.00-6.00pm **The Engine Room**(third of each month)

You are invited on any Sunday to the Worship Services at The King's Cross Church
10.30am and 6.00pm

At Hexthorpe Parish Hall (St Jude's) Laughton Road, Hexthorpe

Monday

1.30-2.30pm Yoga

Wednesday

10.00-11.00am Keep Fit

11.00-11.30am Coffee Morning

4.30-5.30pm Pilates

Thursday

2.00-3.00pm PACT meeting (see opposite)

4.45-5.45pm Keep Fit

Friday

9.30-10.30am Play/Learn (Mums & Toddlers)

4.30-6.30pm Youth Club(4-13 years old)

Booking Manager: Fr Stephen Tel. 01709 858358
The Hall is available for hire for parties and other special events.

Sunday Services

10.00am Morning Prayer

11.00am Parish Mass

'THE BOY FROM NOWHERE'



Brian Shenton, a sprinter, came to public attention in 1950 when he represented Great Britain at the European Championships. He was described as the 'boy from nowhere'. However, we know differently, because he was one of our own boys. There must be old readers who remember seeing him run at one of the many athletics meetings held at Eden Grove.

Born in 1927 from a working class background, Brian was a member of The Doncaster Plant Works Athletic Club. The club was based at Eden Grove, Hexthorpe. He was just one of several international stars the club produced. During the 1940's he won the Yorkshire 100 yards title five times and the 220 yards title three times. He raced at the same time as the famous Macdonald Bailey and was often second best to him in the AAA Championships. However, he gained two AAA 220 yards titles in 1954 and 1956.

Shenton's crowning achievement was gaining the gold medal at the 1950 European Athletics Championship in Brussels in the men's 200 metres, in a time of 21.5 seconds. He was the first Briton to win a major sprint title. He was part of the British team that first topped the medal table with a medal count that would not be matched for a further 40 years.

Representing England he won the silver medal at the 1950 British Empire Games in Auckland, New Zealand in the 4x110 yard relay and won an individual silver medal in the 220 yard dash at the 1954 British Empire and Commonwealth Games in Vancouver, Canada.

He won the silver medal at the 1954 European Athletics Championships in Berne, Switzerland in the men's 4x100 metres relay. In 1957 Brian Shenton was timed as having set the English 100 yards native record in a time of 9.7 seconds. However, this was disallowed following a ruling that he had had a "flier".

Memorabilia from Brian Shenton's athletic career was included in an exhibition of Doncaster's local Olympians in celebration of the London 2012 Olympics. When he retired from Athletics Brian had a successful career in the city, reaching the position of Chairman of Noble Lowndes, a leading financial consultants. Soon after retirement he tragically died in a car crash in 1987.

Profiles



It is our intention to continue highlighting former Hexthorpe people. Also, in each issue we hope to interview a present Hexthorpe resident, to find out what they do, what they think of Hexthorpe and generally take a look into the lives behind the faces you meet on the street.

In this issue, page 7, the limelight is on Chloe Craven.

HEXPRESS COMMENT

Great interest shown in the park

In our last issue we highlighted The Flatts and the Dell. This provoked one of the largest number of comments and responses that we have ever had. Therefore we suggest that now is the time to move forward to attempt to bring new life back to the park.

One group of Hexthorpe ladies have already taken action. Look at the article on page 9 to read of their initiative.

It is a fairly regular occurrence for visitors from considerable distances to call in the Dell Café. They have come back to revisit their old haunts. Only a few days ago a gentleman from Australia walked around the park. He lived here some 30 years ago and soon was lost in his memories. He stood gazing up at a tree, thinking of the number of times he and his friends had climbed it! He was so carried away that a passer-by

asked him if he was alright! However, he was so disappointed with the down-at-heel general state of the park and in particular the Dell. Being from Australia, he expressed himself quite forcibly.

A copy of our last issue was sent to the Mayor of Doncaster. Subsequently we have held a meeting with Neil Marshall, Stronger Community Coordinator - who is a very supportive. It was decided to make an appeal for anyone who has a real concern for the park to form a working group. The group will meet with Neil and discuss a possible way forward. If you are such a person and are willing to attend such a meeting then please let us know. Our contacts details are on page 2.

Here are two photographs that have come to us since our last issue.



The photograph of the slide on the Flatts appears to come from the earlier years of the 1930's. It shows an orderly queue of children waiting for their turn – a school party? The old Dell Café and the Sports Pavilion can be seen. In the background are the cottages behind the café and some old houses at the corner of Old Hexthorpe, replaced by the present bungalows in the 1930's.

This photograph shows the amazing production of 'Merrie England' in the Dell in 1939. Notice the large orchestra, the number of people on stage and the scenery on the cliff backcloth.



A production of "Merrie England" in The Dell at Hexthorpe in 1939

I Suppose We'll be Getting Billy Graham here now!!



Source: The Yorkshire Post

The death of Billy Graham, the American evangelist, has been announced recently. It was on all the news bulletins. When the Keepmoat Stadium had an open day before the Rovers first match there, a visitor was heard to say, "I suppose we'll be getting Billy Graham here now!"

Well he didn't manage that, but he did preach at Bramhall Lane, the home of Sheffield United, in 1985 for eight days. A full double decker bus went from Hexthorpe every night to the full stadium.

Although he didn't come to Doncaster in person, he was here by a satellite link in 1989 - high technology in those days! There was a live link-up for 6 days in June. This was held in The Odeon Cinema in Hallgate. Billy Graham was preaching from London.

Local News in Brief

Latest news on the old Plant works site

It was announced at the recent PACT meeting that it is hoped that the sale of the Woodford land – the old Plant Works site – is now going through. Construction of the new houses could possibly begin this year. We shall give more details of this as they are announced. We reported in the Hexpress of August 2015 that the bank held the land because the original owners had gone into administration and there was a legal dispute between them and the proposed builders.

The land already has planning permission for 230 houses. This is somewhat less than the original 700 plus.

The following number and types of dwelling have been approved:

- 17 four bedroom detached houses
- 2 four bedroom town
- 7 four bedrooms semi/detached houses
- 15 three bedroom detached houses
- 10 three bedroom town
- 13 three bedroom semi/detached houses
- 19 three bedroom semi/town houses
- 42 three bedroom town houses
- 57 two bedroom town houses
- 48 two bedroom flats.

Of Mice and Men

Recently there was an excellent production of John Steinbeck's 'Of Mice and Men' at the Cast Theatre. The company performing it was JKL Productions, which is Doncaster based. It is a regular visitor to Cast. Jan Townend, the producer, used the theatre's Second Space to good effect. The Second Space is a large open area, surrounded by the audience on three sides. The part of Crooks was played by Levi Payne of Old Hexthorpe. One reviewer stated that Levi gave a three dimensional performance. Levi was well supported by a good number of Hexthorpe people in the audience. We profiled Levi in the November 2016 issue of the Hexpress and are delighted to see him being successful in his acting career.

The Dell Café

The Dell Café is now registered as a Community Interest Company (CIC).

What does this mean?

A community interest company is a business with primary social objectives whose surpluses are principally reinvested for that purpose in the business or in the community, rather than being driven by the need to maximise profit for shareholders and owners.

Hexfest

Make a note in your diaries for **Saturday, 7 July 2018**. That is the date for **Hexfest 2018**.

After two successful ones, we hope that this year there will be a larger programme of musical events. There will be something to suit all tastes.

Details of events will appear in the next Hexpress and will also be on the Hexpress website, www.thehexpress.co.uk.



A Profile of Chloe Craven

I met Chloe just as she was clearing up after a hectic session with the Sara group, the weekly mums and toddler group which is held in The King's Cross Church. Sarah stands for "Sit and Rest Awhile", so the Mums and Dads can have a cuppa and a bit of peace whilst the playgroup team supervise the children playing with toys and making craft projects. This week Chloe explains they have been making gifts for Mother's Day.

Chloe is a vibrant young lady in her early twenties. She moved with her family into Hexthorpe in 2002, but her Grandad had been born here so there have been generations of her family here for a long time. Chloe lives with her Mum and Dad and two brothers. The only girl in the family, her mother says she was more trouble than any of her brothers and had no qualms in punching anyone who bullied her brothers!

Chloe went to Sheffield university to get her degree, and then, being unsure of her career path, went to live in Italy for a while with some friends. It was while she was away (in a house overlooking a lake and picturesque mountain ranges!) that Chloe began to feel homesick for her family and Hexthorpe again and she returned home sooner than she planned. She was lucky enough to be offered the job as a Family Worker for the church which she describes as her dream job!



"I love it, it has so much going for it, the beautiful park, the lovely people, the amazing school."

I asked her to tell me what an average day in her job was like. Chloe laughed and said every day is different and that is why she loves it. Most days she is involved in working with groups within the church, or the Junction, a café/meeting place in Hexthorpe. She is also involved with a lot of work with young parents and children in the community, supporting them and helping them in whatever way she can.

When I asked her what she thought about Hexthorpe she enthusiastically said, "I love it, it has so much going for it, the beautiful park, the lovely people, the amazing school." She said it was a wonderfully close-knit community and it pains her to hear outsiders pulling the village down. It is not a rich area, it has got its problems like any other area, but it also has a lot of wonderful people here and great plans for improvement.

Any hobbies, I asked her? She laughed again and said she hadn't got a lot of time for hobbies, but she loved all water sports, and any form of outdoor sports. Her favourite hobby of all is travelling. She was excited about going on holiday to Thailand in a few days' time, and next year she is going to Kenya with another family from church to visit an orphanage the church support.

Before I left, she showed me the posters in the church hall that the various groups have done, and I could tell how proud and caring she is of the children she works with. Chloe says she has no long-term plans and is quite content just waiting to see whatever door opens for her in the future. One thing I am sure about, this lovely lass won't have a shortage of opportunities in the years to come.

Chloe was interviewed by Chris Branton who has joined the Hexpress team.

Councillors' Column

Councillor Surgeries

Surgeries are now held at the Junction on Hexthorpe Road every 4th Friday of each month at 10.00am until 10.45am. We previously held the surgery at Travis Gardens Community Centre, but there was very little take up from the Community at that location. We hope this will be a success, however, we will review how effective this move proves and will monitor opinion.

Community meetings

We regularly attend the monthly Community meeting (formerly the PACT – Police & Communities Together meeting) and welcome contributions from local residents. Hexthorpe is the only area of Doncaster that has a dedicated meeting of this type. Meetings are held at St Jude's Community Hall, alternate afternoon and evening:

- 4 April 6.00pm
- 10 May 12noon
- 6 June 6.00pm
- 12 July 2.00pm
- 8 August 6.00pm and
- 13 September 2.00pm.

Environment & Selective Licensing

Doncaster Council are currently taking a prosecution case against a local resident for fly tipping of waste on the Woodford land to the rear of Ramsden Road, which has recently been cleared again by the Street Scene Team at considerable cost to the Woodford Land Company.

We have returned one house back into occupation utilising joint working with the Empty Property Grants Team and the Enforcement Team. We have also brought about major works to renovate the external envelope of a long-term empty property on Hexthorpe Road, back into a tidy, sound and safe condition. Further works are scheduled for the near future with the aim of bringing this property back into use.

Councillors Glyn Jones and Sue Wilkinson

Letter from The Junction

Dear Readers

New year, new developments at The Junction. I am delighted to be able to host our two councillors, Sue Wilkinson and Glyn Jones for their surgery, 10.00am - 10.45am on the fourth Friday of each month. Latterly, we have also benefited from (ongoing) Community Led Support sessions, led by the Council's Stronger Communities Team, on alternate Monday afternoons as well as a couple of Crime Prevention sessions and other drop-ins from our neighbourhood police. We are well served by all the able and committed people mentioned above, and I am grateful to them for all that they do to maintain the quality of life in Hexthorpe.

What else? Our day-to-day activities continue unabated, and we often seem to be welcoming new people through our doors, either for specific help or to participate more generally in the social atmosphere of the drop-in. It is also good to see some familiar faces returning among us after some absence.

Half term brought our annual Pool Tournament - congratulations to David Wood and Peter Kramarovic, Senior and Junior winners respectively. We also had a daily 'Time with Jesus' for the children. On the Tuesday we had Pancake Praise, with over 50 people attending - standing room only!

Easter is coming soon, and we will again be having 'Time with Jesus', Monday 26 - Thursday 29 March, and Tuesday 3 - Friday 6 April (The Junction will be shut on Good Friday and Easter Monday). The Junction is also privileged to host one of the 'Easter Hope' events - a guest speaker and supper at 6.30pm on Good Friday, 30 March. Whether you are a Junction "regular", or have never visited us before, do come and join us for that - all are most welcome.

Lynn Petersen (The Junction Manager)

His Majesty's Government Expects Staycation in 1942

"Staycation

A holiday spent in one's home country rather than abroad, or one spent at home and involving day trips to local attractions."

DONCASTER
CORPORATION



PARKS
DEPARTMENT

HOLIDAYS AT HOME

— 1942 —

JUNE 22nd to AUGUST 31st

PROGRAMME of EVENTS - Price 1d.

His Majesty's Government expects you to spend your Holiday in Doncaster and District.

Visit the following Gardens and Parks, where you should be able to find something of interest during the above period:—

BEECHFIELD GARDENS—In Waterdale, at rear of Art Gallery and Museum.

ELMFIELD PARK —Racecourse and Hyde Park Trolley Bus Services. 24 acres. Tennis, Bowls, Children's Paddling Pool and Playing Equipment. Suitable for picnics.

GROVE GARDENS —Armthorpe Road, 300 yards from Royal Infirmary. Wheatley Hills Trolley Bus and Armthorpe Bus Service.

HEXTHORPE FLATTS —Terminus of Hexthorpe Trolley Bus Service. 30 acres. Tennis, Bowls, Putting Green, Children's Playing Equipment. Suitable for picnics.

SANDALL PARK —Thorne Road. 500 yards beyond terminus of Wheatley Hills Trolley Bus Service. 14 acres, including 4-acre Boating Lake. Ideal for picnics.

WESTFIELD PARK —Balby Trolley Bus Service. 14 acres Children's Playground.

Don't leave your litter—Waste paper salvaged is a valuable War Weapon.

This programme is subject to amendment. Alterations and additions will be published in the Lccal Press.

The Parks Committee wish to thank the Co-opted Members, Officials of the Corporation, Artists and all who have assisted in an endeavour to provide entertainment and recreation for the Doncaster Public.

PARKS COMMITTEE.

G. H. RANYARD, Chairman.

Well Done to the Dell Volunteer Gardeners

A group of ladies, Pauline Hobson, Sheila Johnson, Pam Murray, Eileen Parsons, Sue Pierrepont, Maureen Pritchett and Angela Swann, were disturbed by the neglected state of the Dell. Instead of just sitting and grumbling they were determined to do something about it.

With the support of Council Officers they were given permission to look after a small area of land. It is situated at the far end of the main lawn in front of the bandstand. They were provided with gardening tools and some plants by the Council.

At Christmas a small bush was festooned with Christmas decorations. Winter has intervened, but they are now looking forward to a full year's gardening. All power to their elbows!

News and Advice from the Police

Here are some of the messages recently posted on the police neighbourhood alert site. At times some of us ask "where are the police?" The messages below show that they are active and also there is some sound advice.

"Due to the recent Burglaries in the Hexthorpe area PCSOs (Police Community Officers) are on patrol this evening, patrolling the alleyways. If you see anyone acting suspiciously please contact 101."

"Please be aware that over the last week several empty properties have been broken in to in the Balby and Hexthorpe area. If you see anyone acting suspiciously, especially in the rear alleyways, please call 101."

"A number of properties are being monitored in the central Doncaster area in relation to dealing of illegal substances, intelligence has been submitted leading towards future warrants."

"Please be aware when leaving cycles tethered up in the Town Centre. Please ensure you use a sturdy lock preferably a D lock at least and remove any accessories before leaving the cycle."

"Please be aware that there have been some burglaries in the Balby area, at various times through the day. Remember to keep your doors locked at all times, even when you're at home, and use your house alarm when leaving the property and at night. If you see or hear something suspicious please do not hesitate to contact us."

"School parking patrols were carried out by Doncaster Central PCSOs at Mallard Primary school this week and 3 tickets were issued. This is an ongoing initiative and we will be visiting other schools in the area over the coming weeks."

Residents were advised at the latest PACT meeting to report any illegal incidents or suspicious activity to the police - no matter how minor it is thought to be.

Hexthorpe Anti-Social Behaviour Hotline

A message from Doncaster Council:

In addition to the Police non-emergency 101 number to report anti-social behaviour, we have set up a dedicated hotline for residents to report anti-social behaviour in Hexthorpe.

If you ring this number, the Council's Neighbourhood Response Team will respond. The hotline is open every day including Saturday and Sunday between the hours of 8.00am until 5.00am the following morning.

Hotline number: 07917 234 672

You can still ring 101, but this new number is available as an interim measure and we hope you find it helpful.

Please report anti-social behaviour and we will respond. If your call is an emergency you should contact the emergency services using the existing 999 service.



Useful Numbers to Call:

| | |
|---|--|
| South Yorkshire Police – <i>(emergencies)</i> | 999 |
| South Yorkshire Police – <i>(non-emergencies)</i> | 101 |
| South Yorkshire Police report it online – <i>(non-emergencies)</i> | www.reportingcrime.uk/ |
| Doncaster Council Customer Services - <i>(Anti Social Behaviour, Litter, Abandoned Vehicles, Graffiti, Motorcycle Nuisance etc)</i> 7 Days a week 24 hours a day | 01302 736000 www.doncaster.gov.uk/services/crime-anti-social-behaviour-nuisance/antisocial-behaviour |
| Noise Nuisance Team | 01302 737573 |
| Party Patrol - <i>(Friday and Saturday night 9pm – 3am)</i> | 07917 234660 |
| Neighbourhood Response Team – <i>(Daily 8am – 6am)</i> | 01302 736000 (after 5pm press option 1) |
| Re-furnish <i>(unwanted furniture to be recycled)</i> | 01302 736000 |
| Environment Agency Flood Line | 0345 988 1188 |
| Trading Standards | 01302 737552 |
| St Leger Homes | 01302 736338 |
| St Leger Homes Repair Line | 01302 862862 |
| Changing Lives | 01302 309800 |
| Doncaster Drug and Alcohol Services | 01302 303900 |
| Victim Support <i>(Monday to Friday 9am – 8pm and Saturday 9am – 1pm)</i> | 0300 303 1976 |
| Crimestoppers <i>(Contact anonymously 24 hours)</i> | 0800 555 111 www.crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information/give-information-online |

“Hexthorpe Primary School converted to become an academy as part of the Astrea Multi-Academy Trust in September 2016. When its predecessor school of the same name was last inspected by Ofsted, it was judged to be outstanding. Since the last inspection of the predecessor school in 2007, there have been significant changes to staffing and leadership. There has also been an increase in the pupil admission number for the school and the number of pupils on roll is now substantially higher (509). The school takes a growing proportion of pupils who do not speak English as their first language, many of whom have little or no English when joining the school. Some pupils have not experienced an educational setting before and begin school at times other than the start of Nursery or Reception.”

Extract from the Ofsted Report

A link to the full Ofsted Report can be found on the school’s website,
www.hexthorpe.doncaster.sch.uk/

Hexpress Comment

Hexthorpe is justifiably proud of its school. Many of our readers have attended the school - some from the 1920’s! The log books tell the story of a continuous thriving school. It is still very much part of community life. The Ofsted Report shows where there is room for improvements. However, it shows that the school is moving in the right direction. The information above shows some of the challenges now facing the school staff some of which have never been faced before in our school.

Here is a significant, encouraging paragraph in the report:

‘Staff create a nurturing atmosphere and relationships between staff and pupils are strong. Pupils are polite and well mannered. They are proud to talk about their learning and their school.’

The community owe much to the school staff, both teaching and non-teaching, to those local people on the management body and to the head teacher Mrs Nicola Parker-Watts. We need to continue to give them our full support. They play an important part in the development of our children and in the life of our community.

Easter Events 2018

| Date | St Jude’s Church | The King’s Cross Church |
|--------------------------------|---|---|
| Tuesday 27 - Thursday 29 March | | 10.00am to 12noon - Holiday Club |
| Maundy Thursday 29 March | 5.30pm - Solemn Mass of the Lord's Supper and the Watch of the Passion until night prayer at 8.00pm | 6.30pm - Service |
| Good Friday 30 March | 3.00pm - Celebration of the Lord's Passion | 10.30am - Service |
| | | 6.30pm - Junction Supper |
| Saturday 31 March | 3.00pm - Easter Egg Hunt | 10.15am - Men’s Brunch |
| | 7.30pm - Easter Vigil Solemn Mass | 2.00pm - Family Fun Event 6.30pm - Family Buffet |
| Easter Sunday 1 April | 11.00am - Sung Mass | 10.30 am - Easter Sunday Celebration |