

# ***THE HEXPRESS***

YOUR FREE HEXTHORPE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER No. 104 OCTOBER 2018

[thehexpress.co.uk](http://thehexpress.co.uk)

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## **Incredible Space Launch at Hexthorpe School**



Photo: [www.astreahexthorpe.org/cosmos-space-journey/](http://www.astreahexthorpe.org/cosmos-space-journey/)

**Believe it or not, but a teddy bear was launched into space recently from the playing field of Hexthorpe School. It was part of a project called Classtronauts that some of the pupils are taking part in. The teddy bear, named Cosmo by the children, went up into the stratosphere with a camera. This followed his journey until it landed on a site near Coventry. It was returned safely back to school.**

It was due to be launched in July, but the Civil Aviation Authority would not give permission because of the number of drones in the area at that time. They did not want a crash! A new date was set when the school returned after the summer holidays. It had taken months of preparation. A major fund raising effort had taken place. £1,300 was needed to engage the expertise of the organisation 'Sent into Space', who ran a scheme called Classtronaut.

The venture was at the suggestion of year one teachers Bethany Fox and Louise Budhi. The teachers began the fund raising by taking part in a fun run – dressed up as a banana and an elephant! £700 was raised. Then followed an astronaut training day, a film club and selling

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## 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

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toast at school. A teddy bear was bought and given the name Cosmo. So, all things were now ready to go ahead with the launch.

The launch was announced in a school assembly. The experts explained what was to happen. The balloon was fitted with a camera. Cosmo was strapped into his seat. The balloon was filled with helium. The countdown began. Cosmo, the teddy bear, was launched into space. The children were amazed.

“The children couldn’t wait. They’d been asking about it for months,” said Louise. Bethany said: “The children were really excited. We thought it was amazing that you could see the curvature of the Earth on the pictures. When we showed the children they were so excited that you could see the clouds so far below Cosmo.

I don’t think they believed it was possible that we could send something into space – I think some of them thought it was going to be imaginary. They were amazed when it really happened. The launch was amazing – we counted down from ten before the balloon went up at midday. The same evening, we got the message back that Cosmo had come back to earth and landed in a field near Coventry. The people who had arranged the mission tracked the landing and found him. They posted him back to us and he has arrived safely back in Hexthorpe. This has been about raising aspirations.”

We understand that Cosmo is to be given a place of honour in the school. However, he must not rest on his laurels. An adventure in a deep sea dive might be awaiting him!

We can hear our older readers saying, 'School was never like this!'

The school has class blogs for any of our more technical minded readers <https://hexthorpeprimaryacademy.net/our-blogs/> and also post on twitter too <https://twitter.com/hexthorpepri?lang=en>

## **An Apology and a Request**

In our last edition of the Hexpress there was an article entitled '**Hexthorpe Girls Meet the Beatles**'. The date of the concert was 1963 and Barbara was only 15 years old. We apologised to her, but Barbara says that there really is no need for apologies for making her younger!

Commenting on the last edition Barbara writes from Vancouver,

“I enjoyed the articles especially about the Dell. I hope it gets rejuvenated. The photo of the Balby/Hexthorpe football team was interesting because I noticed Peter Ward. He ended up in North Vancouver and we used to get together, but I lost track of him. I wonder if anyone in Hexthorpe knows? He had a sister Janice and they lived in Gladstone Road.”

## **Local History Group**

This group continues to meet monthly in the King's Cross Church. At our October meeting we looked at some of the old characters and heroes of our community here in Hexthorpe - an honoured miner, a famous footballer, two brave soldiers, a lighthouse keeper in the Red Sea! We shall look at some more at our next meeting on 21st November 2018 at 7.00pm.

All are welcome. You might have information on some of our former residents.



The King's Cross Church  
24th November from 11.00am

# John McHale

## 'The Man Who Gets things Done'



John became a well known and loved figure on the bus and around the streets of Hexthorpe. Numerous people have asked, 'Where is John? We don't see him as much now. We miss him.' John was elected as a councillor for the Central Ward in 2005, but for the last few years he was the elected member for the Town Ward. How typical it was of John, that despite having new people to represent, he still showed a concern for the people of Hexthorpe, often in a real practical way. This summer he has stepped down from the council.

John came over to England from Ireland in 1966. He was a student teacher at Edlington. He soon realised that he wanted a wider field to be involved in. He was a personnel manager for most of his working life. He became a union rep and secretary of the local TUC. He was involved in pay and conditions discussions at a national level.

John was heavily involved in fund raising for The Hospice and the Doncaster Cancer Detection Trust. He was a member of the Doncaster District Board of Health Authority. He was involved with the Community Forum 2 and as a resident of the Belle Vue area campaigned against the inappropriate plans for the building of high rise flats on the old football ground.

All these activities involved John acting on behalf of others. He cared – and still does - for people's quality of life. He always says that "I am a 'for the people' man." John was not into playing politics. He not only talked, but he walked the talk. Countless people have said, 'If you want to get things done, then John McHale is your man.' John went way beyond the call of duty. He visited the lonely, the sick and bereaved.

We wish you well John in your retirement. Although, let us be honest – who can think of John ever retiring!

### *One in a million (a poem written by a resident of Belle Vue)*

*A man with a wink  
Who could this be  
A man with a smile  
Who is willing to walk  
Many a mile*

*For all us to see  
Working so hard  
With little reward*

*He's so kind and gentle  
He's deserving a Bentley  
But beware when he's cross  
You know he's the boss*

*He's dear to us all  
He walks so tall  
He's got the gift of the gab  
But hey he's not bad*

*He gets things done  
You know when he's come  
He works on the estate  
He's always got dates.*

*With powers that be  
To let them all see  
That we are a community.*

*So keep up the support  
Don't give him retorts  
He's the man of the moment  
So please don't be dormant*

*Who's this we all hail  
Why it's the one and only  
**John McHale***

# Local News in Brief

## Another Successful Hexfest

The 3<sup>rd</sup> **Hexfest** was held in July. Again it was well attended and the quality of performance maintained the previous two years' high standard. There was a superb concert given by the Barnburgh Male Voice Choir. St Jude's organist Christopher Wren gave a brilliant organ recital. Concerts by musicians from Leeds - 'Aires and Gracenotes' and the Kenwood/ Reasbeck duo - were of the usual high standard. There was a variety of music during the day at The Dell Café, including folk, guitar, piano, jazz and gypsy. Two well attended celebrations were held in the Junction and in the Junction yard. It was good to see local people from different ethnic groups being involved during **Hexfest**.

## Another Parking Problem

There has much improvement on the parking situation on Hexthorpe Road and the area around the road junction. However, numerous readers have commented on a dangerous knock on effect.

The photograph shows clearly the problem there now is on the main road. Cars are parked along the road where it is already narrow. When travelling towards town it is almost impossible to see whether any traffic is coming the other way. On several occasions vehicles have been left facing each other. This has led to angry exchanges. The bus stop compounds the problem. On the day of the photograph, the car on the opposite side was parked on the pavement all day. Would an answer be double yellow lines along both sides of the road along that section?



## Hexthorpe Highlighted on Radio Sheffield



The Paulette Edwards Show - that is broadcast every week day at 10.00am on Radio Sheffield - visited Hexthorpe Flatts on a recent Friday. The programme was being broadcast live from a different park in South Yorkshire each week and it was our turn. Paulette walked around the park and interviewed people who were passing by. Most spoke very positively about the area. There were some 'pre-arranged' interviews with representatives from the Friends of Hexthorpe Flatts Park, the Junction, the Boxing Club and the Rowing Club. Also interviewed were a local councillor and a few people, young and old, who were resident and active in the community.

The main focus of the programme was the park and the opportunity was taken to say that we know of the Flatts's rich heritage, but that it is now time to give it new life. Those interviewed talked with enthusiasm not only of the progress being made in the park but also of the positive things within our community.

# Jono Lancaster

## When Jono Lancaster Visited Hexthorpe Primary Academy...



**Pupils said...**

"Jono has made me realise that I can change. I can become a good boy. He is my hero!" – Year 3 pupil.

"Jono has made me realise that it's not about how you look it's about what is inside and what you do that really matters." – Year 6 Pupil.

"Love yourself, words can really hurt so be kind. Stand up to bullies and together we can make a difference." – Year 5 Pupil.



We had the pleasure of welcoming Jono Lancaster to Hexthorpe Primary Academy on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> October, 2018. Jono is an ambassador for Jeans for Genes and co-founder of Love Me Love My Face, a charity that supports families with medical costs and emotional support.

The children welcomed Jono into their school by singing True Colours, This is Me, and all signed whilst singing A Thousand Words. Then the children and staff had the privilege of listening to the inspirational guest speaker during their morning assembly. Jono spoke to the children and staff about his life and his genetic condition Treacher Collins Syndrome. All the children had the opportunity to ask him questions throughout the remainder of the day whilst Jono spent time with every class.

Our children already know a lot about genetic disorders through our annual Jeans for Genes day and Jono's charity Love Me Love My Face Foundation, so it was really wonderful that the children and staff had the opportunity to meet Jono and hear his story first-hand whilst also having the opportunity to ask him questions.



**Staff said...**

"We were proud and privileged to welcome Jono in to our school. It was a brilliant experience for the children meeting Jono, participating in activities with him and being able to have their questions answered honestly."  
- Principal

"Jono was a true inspiration. The message that he delivered moved and empowered both staff and children."  
- Vice Principal

"Jono gave us a real insight in to the ups and downs of this life story and how he has become so body positive. Truly memorable day." – Teacher



**Parents said...**

"My daughter has not stopped talking about Jono to all of our family. He has had a huge impact on her. Thank you for arranging this visit. None of my friend's children have had these opportunities at schools. We are going to watch his documentary as a family this weekend."



**Jono said...**

"To day I visited Hexthorpe Primary Academy. As with every school visit I do, heading in I was a nervous wreck. But as always I came away feeling full of love and hope for all of us. As kindness and love are taking over our schools and that's going to flood into our world. I believe this!

They sang 'This is me'. Oscar wrote me a poem. Porcia drew me a stunning portrait. Sandra gave me 28 pence for the @love.myface foundation... And the whole school gave me hope for all our futures! spread love, love yourself, teachercollins, change"



**We raised for the Love Me Love My Face Foundation**

**£510.83**

# War Memorial Restored to Mark the Anniversary of the End of the First World War on 11th November 2018

*Steve Berry tells the story of the effort made to restore the Hexthorpe War Memorial. We are grateful to him for his work on behalf of the community.*

## **Where is the Hexthorpe War Memorial?**

It is passed by on a daily basis by those who walk to the local shops on Hexthorpe Road. It is located in St Jude's Churchyard and has been there since 1921. It has remained untouched for almost 98 years and has stood as tribute to all those who lost their lives in the two World Wars.

## **I discovered that the War Memorials Trust (WMT) was giving grants for the repair and maintenance of World War 1**

**Memorials**, so that they could be cleaned and renovated in time for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the First World War. This was brought to the attention of The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of St Jude's Church. It was agreed that I, as secretary of the PCC, should make investigations. I sought advice as to the way forward to obtain a grant.

**As part of WMT requirements I had to search out the history of the War Memorial. I spent some hours in the Archives Department.** This was an interesting time. I found out that there was a War Memorial Committee set up to oversee the Project. This consisted of 2 members representing various organisations – St Jude's Church, Trinity Wesleyan Methodist, Hexthorpe Primitive Methodist, the British Legion, the Working Men's Club, the NFS, the Civil Defence, the Home Guard, the local branches of the Labour and Progressive parties, the NUR, and the Aldermen and Town Councillors representing the Hexthorpe Ward. After long discussions, decisions were made on the design of the memorial.

**What were the costs? Where did the money come from? When was it unveiled?** It cost £250 to build the Memorial in late 1920. It was finished for the unveiling in May 1921. A request by letter was made to every household in the Parish for donations towards the building fund. The unveiling on May 5<sup>th</sup> 1921 was attended by huge crowds. Hexthorpe had 106 heroes who made the ultimate sacrifice during the Great War. The dedication of the Memorial was performed by Archdeacon Sandford.

After the Second World War a similar committee from the same organisations met and decided to make the necessary alterations to the existing memorial so that those who fell in that war could have their names inscribed. 40 names were added.

**The siting of the Memorial.** This was decided early on by the committee. It was to be in St Jude's Churchyard, being central in the Parish and visible by all who pass by on a regular basis. The Memorial itself belongs to the People of Hexthorpe, but its location in the Churchyard had to have permission. The permission documents are called a 'Faculty'. This



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was obtained from the Diocese of Sheffield. The first Faculty was issued on the 24<sup>th</sup> April 1920 to the 'Vicar and Churchwardens and all the Parishioners and inhabitants of and within the Parish of St Jude Hexthorpe in the County of York and the Diocese of Sheffield'. A further Faculty was obtained in the late 1940's to inscribe the names of those killed in the Second World War.

### **How much is the renovation costing? Where is the money coming from?**



After much research and receiving of quotations an application was made to the WMT for consideration of a grant, which if approved would be for 75% of the total cost. Also we have had to apply to the Diocese for a further faculty for carrying out the renovation - cleaning the stonework, regilding all the names on the memorial and laying a new base. The advice came back that we should not regild the names, as that would detract from the age of the Memorial. The PCC were not happy with this decision. It felt that the whole purpose was to ensure the name were legible for the foreseeable future as reminder of those who gave their lives. I wrote to the Chancellor of the Diocese to request permission to do the gilding and he approved our request.

The cost of the work is £2,275 and we have received a grant from WMT for which we are grateful. There will be a slight increase in costs for further stonework. As the Memorial belongs to the People of Hexthorpe and as it was built from public subscription the PCC are asking parishioners in Hexthorpe to make up the shortfall of £1,000. We are hoping to raise this by donations.

For this purpose the Vicar and Churchwardens and the PCC members held a gift day on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2018. If you missed this, then you can still donate by leaving your gift at the church.

*Steve Berry, Parochial Church Council Secretary*

**Editor:** *The finished work can now be seen in the churchyard. Congratulations to all concerned with the project, especially to Steve.*

## **Remembrance Sunday 11th November 2018**

100 years ago - the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month 1914

**St Jude's Church 10.50am**  
(In the churchyard)

commemoration and dedication  
of the renewed memorial.

**The King's Cross Church 10.30am**

Remembrance Service

Picture: Matteo Kutufa

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## Here are some details of four of the names on the memorial.

**Arthur B Laurence** - Private, Plymouth Battalion, Royal Naval Division, Royal Marine Light Infantry.

Missing presumed killed in action 'Y' Beach, Gallipoli, 25-26 April 1915. Aged 20. Son of Frank and Alice Mary Laurence, of 11, Lindum St., Hexthorpe. Ex-Private KOYLI, enlisted in 7th Battalion, at Doncaster 9 September 1914 aged 19 years 7 months and transferred to Plymouth Short-Service RMLI 16 September 1914. 6 February Discharged Dead. No known grave. Commemorated on Helles Memorial, Turkey.

**Charles H Kennington** - Lance Corporal, 13th Hussars.

Killed in action in Mesopotamia 5 March 1917. Born and enlisted Doncaster, resident Hexthorpe. Buried in BAGHDAD (NORTH GATE) WAR CEMETERY, Iraq.

**Charles Torr** - Lance Corporal, 6th Battalion, KOYLI.

Killed by the bursting of a shell on 29 June 1915. Aged 22. Born and enlisted Doncaster. Worked for GNR. Son of Charles and Eliza Torr, of 75, Urban Rd., Hexthorpe, Doncaster. Buried in BEDFORD HOUSE CEMETERY, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

**Henry(Harry) B Shimelds**

A report from the Doncaster Chronicle, November 1918

### 'Hexthorpe Footballer's Death in Action'



Mr and Mrs N Shimelds of 121 Urban Road, Hexthorpe have been informed that their third son, Driver Henry B Shimelds has died of pneumonia in France on the 10th November at the age of 24 years. A native of Hexthorpe, he was educated at the Council School there and before joining up was a wagon builder at the GNR shops. He enlisted in January 1916 and went to France in August of that year. A football enthusiast, he formerly played in the Doncaster Rovers reserve team and recently, while home on leave for the last time, he played in a match for the Plant Works Club. He was also a cricketer of parts playing for the Hexthorpe Primitive Methodists. Before joining up he was a member of the Duke Street Primitive Methodist Choir.'

Photo: [www.doncaster1914-18.org.uk](http://www.doncaster1914-18.org.uk)

For details of all the names see 'Missing', an Hexpress Publication

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,  
We will remember them.*

This is the fourth stanza from Laurence Binyon's poem **For the Fallen**.

# What a Turn Out – Successful Launch of Friends of Hexthorpe Flatts Park

**‘In the last issue of Hexpress we published a notice for volunteers to attend a meeting in the Dell Café. What a turn out! As a consequence we now have a thriving group committed to making a practical difference to the park.’ Vivian, the vice-chair, gives us this news.**

## **Volunteers started their renovation work**

You may have noticed some changes above the Dell where paths have been swept and ivy cut back. The group managed a few Monday evenings where they cut, pruned, weeded and swept. It was wonderful to finally make a start.

## **Radio Sheffield came to Hexthorpe in August**

In addition the group were lucky enough to be invited for interview when Radio Sheffield broadcast from just above The Dell in August. It was a real opportunity to show what an incredible space it still is. Yes, it’s very different from its heyday but it’s still beautifully landscaped and the trees are mature and graceful. It’s certainly a place for a walk especially during the warm autumn days we seem to be experiencing lately.



## **The Friends Group has lots of plans**

They are applying for funds, grants and bids to help undertake the ambitious vision that is being developed to see the park blossom once again. If you want to hear more about what may well happen then you are very welcome to join the meeting. They have been in consultation with the council and have been supplied with tools and litter pickers. One of the group has single handedly walked around the park every day and usually picks at least two black bags of rubbish a day from the footpaths. Please help by putting litter into the bins or taking it home.

## **The group is now looking for people to help with the following:**

- growing plants to improve the bedding schemes
- offering allotment space to bring plants on
- donating bulbs, plants, seeds etc.
- offering horticultural knowledge and experience
- helping oversee bulb planting with Hexthorpe primary school
- assisting in organising a food festival
- volunteering a couple of hours per month to help with the restoration work
- offering building/ carpentry experience and skills to assist with renovating the bandstand

## **They are also looking for:**

- Businesses that would be happy to offer small donations to assist with the work
- People with creative ideas to help transform Hexthorpe Park and give it a new exciting identity as a thriving community hub.

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- Groups who would like to play Crown Green bowls or other community groups who would like to be associated with the park.

The date of the next meeting of the Friends of the Flatts Park at the Dell Cafe is Monday 12th November at 6.00 pm. All are welcome.

### **The Dell Café is just the beginning**

Hexthorpe residents appreciate that we are incredibly lucky to have such a beautiful green space right on our doorstep. With a little care, attention and imagination we can really make a difference. The Dell Café has already become a much-loved meeting place. Anyone who has not dropped in for a cup of coffee and a slice of Rocky Road will not have sampled the very specific delights our community café has to offer. Sitting in the autumn sunshine is a lovely thing to do. More and more people are taking advantage of the peace and tranquility the verandah has to offer. Why don't you come and pay a visit and just what's happening in your local park?



### **Dell Café Winter Opening Hours**

Mon- Fri 10.00am to 3:30pm  
Sat - 10.00am to 2.00pm  
Sun - Closed

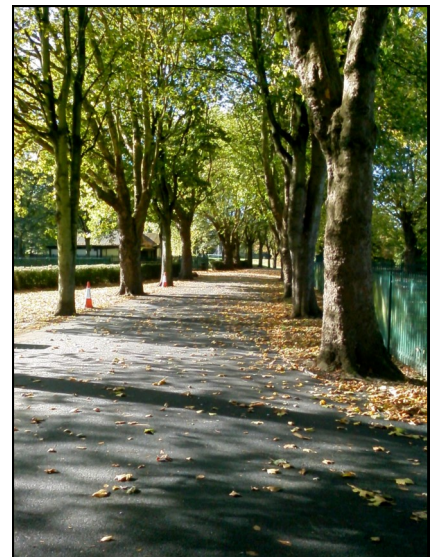
*A walk in the park takes away the strain,  
Of working, which we have to go back to again,  
But as long as we take just a little time out  
To relax, that to me is what life's all about.*

*Extract from: A Walk In The Park - Poem by Ernestine Northover*

### ***HEXPRESS COMMENT***

*This is exciting news. Already users of the park are seeing progress and are keen to be involved. Please look out for notices regarding future activities and meetings.*

*Our last edition highlighted the financial boost of £180,000 that was being given to the Flatts. The results of this can now be seen – the main drive and pathways have all been tarmacked. What an improvement! It is now safe for all to use and it has had an immediate visual impact.*



# More Like Blackpool Every Day!

## **Illuminations at the Dell a Great Success**

The illuminations were to be switched on and the musical and dancing programme commenced at 8 o'clock, but when the gates of the Dell were opened at half past six there was an enormous queue of people waiting for admission.

The supply of 5,000 programmes were exhausted shortly after the performance began but people continued to stream in, content to pay their twopences for entrance without programmes. Actually the last twopence was taken about ten minutes before the end of the entertainment.

**It is estimated that there were about 7,000 people in the Dell itself and at least as many more at various vantage points in the Flatts, catching what glimpses they could of the pretty scene below.**

And a pretty scene it certainly was. Although there was nothing ambitious in the scheme of illumination – a big expense on what was nothing more than an experiment

would hardly have been justified – the Dell, quite a charming little spot at any time, looked very attractive with multi-coloured strips of fairy-lights following the winding paths and framing the bandstand structure, and powerful floodlights here and there.

The Bentley Colliery Band gave an excellent selection of items, and on a specially illuminated dais, pupils of Esme Brae School of Dancing gave solo and concert songs and dances. The programme concluded with the hymn Abide with me and the National Anthem,

For some time after night began to fall bowls enthusiasts continued to play on the greens in the light of powerful lamps.

**The illuminations also provided a rare harvest for the Transport Department of the Corporation, who were running trackless buses every few minutes, and it is estimated that between twelve and fifteen thousand passengers were carried.**

*From the Archives – Doncaster Gazette September 1933*

*Here is a photograph of one of the trackless buses (often called trolley buses) that are referred to above. This one is probably from the 1950's. It was on a circular route from West Laithe Gate in town, through Hexthorpe Road and Urban Road and then turning outside the Flatts Gate and back down to town.*

