

THE HEXPRESS

YOUR FREE HEXTHORPE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

No. 107 October 2019

thehexpress.co.uk

The Most Attractive Street in Hexthorpe



Have you taken a walk down Salisbury Road this summer? It has been a sight to behold! Hanging baskets and troughs of flowers have been everywhere. Congratulations to the residents for showing such a pride in their street.

We understand that the initiative and drive came from Vivienne Neale who has encouraged and enabled willing residents to participate in the scheme. We all appreciate that not only did she have the vision for what could be done but also that Vivienne has acted upon it.

Two Hexthorpe residents have contacted us to give their thanks to the Salisbury Road residents. They both urge other streets to follow this example. Could you be the one to make it happen in your street?

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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

Thursday

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

11.45-12.45pm Keep Fit

2.00-3.00pm PACT meeting (see opposite)

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 Junction Celebrates Its 25th Birthday



We had a wonderful time of celebration on the first weekend of September, when we recognised that The Junction had been serving the community of Hexthorpe for twenty five years. It was a delight to see the previous manager, John Crawford, and his wife Sue, back with us for the Saturday afternoon.

We were grateful to have our MP, Dame Rosie Winterton, present, and to hear her kind words in support of the work here, and to welcome also Councillor Glyn Jones and the Deputy Civic Mayor and Mayoress, Paul Wray and Elizabeth Marsden.

On the Saturday evening we had an open-air service led by the current Minister of The King's Cross Church, Revd Jon Bellfield, at which one of our previous Ministers, Revd John Wiltshire spoke. He and his wife Judy had travelled all the way from Devon to be with us, and stayed for the whole weekend, leading services at The King's Cross Church throughout the whole of the Sunday.



We were indebted to Doncaster Council for funding the buffet and the gazebo we used, and for loaning us the chairs. Thank you too to all from the local community who came to support us on that occasion.

The work of The Junction continues. We are shortly to be able to process Settled Status applications for EU nationals, on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons from 1 - 4pm (Hexthorpe Primary Academy are holding similar sessions on Monday and Tuesday mornings). A recently started Knit and Natter group is proving a success, with people knitting 8" squares to sew into blankets for others in need - if you can join us, please do, Tuesdays at 10.15am; if not, please drop your completed squares into The Junction or else contact me for me to collect them from you. And, last but not least, we had a Slipper Swap for over 50s on Friday 4 October (no foot clinic that day).

A final date for your diary: Thursday 19 December 2019 - we are having a Christmas Celebration evening, with your favourite carols, at 6.30pm, with a meal together.

We would love to see you at any of our activities or else just for a cuppa at any time you are passing or at a loose end.

Lynn Petersen

Hexpress Letter

Dear Hexpress Readers

Save our Hexthorpe Railway Heritage

For many years, visitors to Doncaster Museum have had the privilege of seeing one of Doncaster's finest examples of railway memorabilia. Taking pride of place in a themed cabinet was the original nameplate from one of the world's most famous trains, namely "Kingfisher", proudly mounted on a wooden baseplate - Kingfisher Steam Locomotive Nameplate 60024.



Kingfisher was one of only 35 "Gresley Streamlined A4 Class" locomotives built at Doncaster - Mallard being the most famous example. It was built here in 1936 and was the last British Rail A4 locomotive to remain in service until it was eventually scrapped in 1966. The nameplate was rescued and presented to Kingfisher School in Wheatley on 17th March 1967 and the school became the proud and trusted custodian of this unique artefact for over 50 years.

As one of the most collectable nameplates in the world, the commercial value of the nameplate began to escalate with enthusiasts offering large sums of money. In order to both protect the nameplate and to share it with Doncaster residents, the school arranged for it to be passed on to the stewardship of Doncaster Museum in the 1990's where it remained - until recently. (The Museum kindly commissioned an exact copy to replace it at the school as a gesture of thanks).

It came as a terrible shock to read that the nameplate had been sold by the school on July 13th this year, with the money raised (£52,000) to "go towards the renovation of a currently unused building at the school".

This nameplate was a valuable and significant part of Doncaster's railway heritage and, much as the school technically "owned" the object, it was generally accepted that its role was one of stewardship, especially as an exact copy was on display in its corridors.

It is well known that Hall Cross School has an extensive and valuable collection of heritage railwayana amassed over nearly a century and there must have been times of austerity in the past when the school could have made some quick cash by selling off some or all of this collection. It chose not to.

This famous Doncaster nameplate is now lost to our town and generations to come will no longer be able to gaze at it in the Museum and listen to stories about its history and its place in the cultural and industrial heritage of Doncaster.

Doncaster Resident (Name and Address supplied)

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HEXPRESS COMMENT

We have a very special interest here in Hexthorpe concerning the saving of our rich Railway Heritage. We must share in the deep concern of our correspondent that part of that heritage is being lost to the highest bidder.

It is good news that the lower ground floor of the new library/ museum being built in Waterdale is to be given over to our Railway heritage. In the last edition of the Hexpress we suggested that the old Plant Works site being developed for housing should reflect this heritage, - street names of railway engineers and of engines, and perhaps a new site for the Stirling Memorial. We have contacted the developers and made them aware of this.

If you are interested at all in our local history then please come to the next Hexthorpe Local History Group meeting on Wednesday 20 November 2019 at 7.00pm in the foyer of the King's Cross Church.

The Hexthorpe Monarchs



After years of Hexthorpe not having a junior football team The Hexthorpe Monarchs have been reborn! After parents decided to set up their own grassroots football team which focussed on the kids' development but also kept that community and family feel about it, the team was granted a base in Hexthorpe Flatts.

The 2019/2020 season is the first season and the club has an under 9's 7 aside team entered in the Doncaster and District League. (The photograph is taken from the club's facebook page.)

We all wish the team every success.

Jean Tait - a Very Special Hexthorpe Lady



An interview that our reporter Chris Branton held with Jean Tait.

I had the privilege of meeting this very special lady, Mrs Tait, last week. She was born in Hexthorpe, in a room her parents rented above a Cobbler's shop on the corner of Scarll and Urban Road, in 1932. Her sisters, Shirley and Barbara, were born there also. The room must have been very crowded as the family grew and so they moved to her Grandmother's house in Ramsden Road, where her three single uncles and aunty lived. They all spoiled the three little girls.

Jean says she had a wonderful childhood and her favourite memories were of going to Hexthorpe flats for the day, with just a bottle of water and a few sandwiches. She also talks of going off to the Crimpsall with jars and fishing nets. This was a swampy area inhabited by loads of tadpoles, newts and tiddlers. This was before my time, but I'm sure some of our older inhabitants can tell me more about the Crimpsall and where it was located.

One sad memory stands out for Jean - the day news of the breakout of war was announced on their old radio. She was about seven at the time and didn't understand what war meant, but her Mum burst into tears, so she realised it must be something bad. Her Grandfather had been killed in the first world war so her Mum realised what was ahead for all their menfolk. Luckily her uncles all escaped serious injury but came back changed men, which was so frequently the case when men returned from war. Like most little girls she and her sisters loved nice clothes and they were fortunate to have an Aunty who was a professional dressmaker and loved making pretty dresses for her nieces.

Jean attended both Hexthorpe Infant and Junior schools and made many friends there. I would imagine there could be no comparison between the schools she attended and the

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Hexthorpe school of today. She remembers desks all in a row, with ink wells, and strict teachers, sandbags and Anderson shelters being built in people's garden, and having to carry your gas mask everywhere. Some people grew flowers on top of the Anderson shelter to try to prettify the ugly structure, and perhaps make the danger of having to hide in there not such a frightening and alien prospect. Being so young she had no idea of the seriousness of war and just enjoyed being a child in the close, friendly safety of Hexthorpe Village.

In December 1940 there was a terrible fire started in the paint room at the Plant works. It spread very quickly through the building. You could see the flames for miles around. Many villages near were evacuated. Apart from the obvious fire hazard, the flames presented a huge target for the German bombers flying over with their deadly load. It wasn't until the flames were out and embers dowsed that the folk of Hexthorpe and surrounding villages were able to breathe again.

When she left school, like many of her peers, she found work at Pegler's in the office as a wage clerk. She married William at St Jude's church in 1954. He worked as a joiner foreman on the bypass over the River Don. Jean used to walk down with her three children, Robert, Ian and Joanne to meet him when he finished work.

As her children grew up she changed to another job as a care assistant at the Marshalls Care home on Greenfield Lane, Balby and enjoyed working there with the elderly residents until she retired at sixty.

She is very family oriented and sees her children and grandchildren regularly. She showed me photographs of her grandchildren and great grandchildren on her iPad and her face glowed with pride. They went on a cruise for her eightieth birthday, which she loved every moment of.

After a full working life, Jean is still kept very busy. She is still a member of the University of the Third Age, a group that meets at the Trades club every month, and learns new things, or meets up with others who enjoy doing the same kind of hobbies. She tells me that there is always a lot going on there and it is a great opportunity for older people to keep their brains working! She admits she doesn't get there as often as she did but is still very active in all the social events taking part in the village. She also loves going to watch the horse racing at Doncaster and having a modest little flutter on a favourite! She loved going to exotic places and has travelled widely. She has always been very keen on quizzes, but admits these days it's easier for her to set the quizzes than to answer them.

It's so good to see Jean still active and enjoying her life. I left her wishing I had as much energy and clarity of thought that she has!

It was such a pleasure meeting you, Jean! Thank you

Friends of Hexthorpe Flatts Park

Report of the Chair given at the 2019 Annual General Meeting

- We have been formed for just over 1 year now and have had a very successful start.
- We have formalised a constitution and adopted policies in respect of Health & Safety, Child Protection and Equal Opportunities. We have indemnity insurance in place.
- We have active social media - Twitter and Facebook - **@hexthorpepark**
- We have secured grant funding from the National Lottery for just under £10,000 for gardening activities in The Dell. We have also secured other grant assistance (such as the SEED and Anticipate funds) for the purchase of equipment/plants and event support.
- We have established links with the local school who, for example, sent two classes for bulb planting session last year and who ran a competition to design our logo. Also, most recently the XP School who sent around 30 students for 3 days to volunteer in the park. This week we are meeting with a team from Doncaster College who support adults with learning difficulties and will be using some of the funds we have secured for that purpose.
- We attend the quarterly Green Space Network meetings.
- We ran weekly Tea in the Park sessions with a variety of activities taking place. Of particular success with young children and with support from the Family Hub and Yorkshire Wildlife Trust. Events provided included circus skills, crazy golf, bowling, football, kite flying, rowing, face painting and bug hunting. The weather was a big disappointment with 3 weeks cancelled due to rain.
- We secured and planted new trees donated from Octopus Energy.
- We ran gardening sessions in The Dell.
- We have supported the setting up of a new football club which will play this season in the park and is already using the Pavilion.
- We worked with XPO Logistics who sent 4 volunteers each day for one week to work in the park.
- We have planted, cleared, swept and litter picked individually and in groups.
- We supported the very successful Fireworks Event in 2018 - it was attended by around 1,800 people. We plan to run it this year on 4th November.
- We have supported the Dell Café, an important community asset, which now offers equipment for tennis, crazy-golf and bowling.
- Other events take place in the park which are not organised by our



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group but which have been very successful, notably Hexfest. The annual Head of the River rowing regatta was cancelled due to adverse conditions.

- Anti-social behaviour and similar is an ongoing concern but we take positive measures to address this including rapid damage rectification and an active crime reporting rate. We need to remain vigilant - if you see anything, no matter how small, then report it to the Police on 101 or online - in an emergency it is 999.
- We continue to lobby for improvements and have regular meetings with the Council and others. We recently met with Countryside Properties, the developer of the former Plant Works to establish if they could offer support and consider how that scheme might impact on the use of the park.
- I would thank everyone who attends these meetings and contributes in any way. My particular thanks go to Vivienne who works tirelessly, both in the park and with the Council and other organisations. Even a broken ankle failed to stop her. Also thanks to Vince, our Treasurer, for stepping up and taking on that role.

One disappointment for the year is that we remain in acute need of more volunteers and for assistance for specific events. It is my view that we will, unfortunately, need to scale our activities to the level of support received.

Nevertheless, we have had a very successful year and have made the park a safer, more attractive and animated environment for everyone in this community. We now urgently need to complete the Management Plan with the Council so that we have a clear short, medium and long term strategy and then press ahead with Green Flag recognition if and when possible.

**The next meeting is at 6pm on Monday 21 October 2019
at Travis Gardens Community Hall - all are welcome.**



See The Support Education and Engagement Project News item on page 11

HEXTHORPE FLATTS PARK

FIREWORK DISPLAY & Children's Fun Fair

Monday 4th November

**Fun Fair Opens at 5pm
Firework Display Approx 7.30pm
Entry £1**

(includes a donation towards fireworks and the Friends of Hexthorpe Flatts Park)



Local News in Brief

Another Successful Hexfest

The 4th annual **Hexfest** - 4 days of music - was held in July 2019. There were good audiences at all the events. The standard of the performers has always been high, but this year they excelled. There was a whole range of music - at the Luncheon club, a special celebration at the Junction; Barnburgh Male Voice Choir, a duo (oboe and piano) from Leeds and 4 hours of music at the Dell Café, including folk, instrumental, gypsy, jazz, classical, light. The youngest musician was Noah (13years) and the oldest Peter (86 years). If you missed it this year, then be sure to look out for the 5th **Hexfest** in July 2020.

Hexthorpe Local History Group



The group had a display table at the Doncaster and District Family History Society's Family and Local History Fair held recently at the Doncaster Deaf Trust. A very useful day was enjoyed. Numerous visitors stopped to talk and almost without exception they had links with Hexthorpe. They told of how they had happy memories of their time here. The main topics raised were the Plant works, the community life

and of course the Dell - so many had held their wedding receptions in the Dell Café.

Archives and Family History

The Doncaster Council reports (15/08/2019),

“Doncaster Archives on King Edward Road, Balby, is now closed on health and safety grounds until further notice following the identification of structural failings in the building's reading room. The building is being assessed and we are currently awaiting further information on its status before archival collections can be relocated and an alternative interim enquiry service can be made available. The records stored at Doncaster Archives are secured within the building and are not at risk.”

For the same reasons the Doncaster and District Family History Society (D&DFHS) has relocated to the 2nd floor of the Doncaster Central Library

D&DFHS Opening Times

- Monday - 10.30am to 3.30pm
- Tuesday - 10.30am to 3.30pm
- Wednesday - Closed
- Thursday
 - 10.30am to 1.00pm (Computer Group)
 - 1.00pm to 3.30pm
- Friday - Closed
- Saturday - 11.00am to 2.00pm

Parking on Urban Road

We have had a number of comments saying that there still is a danger from parked cars on Urban Road. Councillor Glynn Jones says,

“The extension of the yellow lines and removal of the hatched central area has taken place on Urban Road close to the junction with Hexthorpe Road. We did this in consultation between the Highways department and Communities, we know that this has not taken away the problem but has relieved some of the issues.”

He adds that it is possible for a reassessment of the situation.

Local Solutions Group

Doncaster Council is committed to ensuring that all families receive the right support at the right time that is proportionate to their needs. Doncaster is comprised of

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a number of communities that are rooted in place. Community Help has been developed to strengthen these communities and to promote professional connectivity. Hexthorpe is one of the areas that will receive this dedicated support.

The Local Solution Group aims to promote meaningful connections between professionals within a community and to the community themselves, bring individuals into the heart of the community and developing their resilience. Doncaster is committed to whole family working, to help families achieve their goals and develop the strengths to tackle problems themselves.

The purpose of the Local Solution Group is to discuss community issues, develop community solutions and provide information, advice and guidance in response to family specific needs.

If you need help or know someone that does please get in touch.

- ◆ **When** - Every Tues & Thurs morning 9-11
- ◆ **Term Time** - Hexthorpe primary school
- ◆ **Out of Term Time** - The Family Hub, Welcome way, DN1 3QS
- ◆ **or - Telephone** - 01302 737995 during office hours
- ◆ **or - Email** - localsolutioncentral@doncaster.gov.uk

We are already working with and have helped many families and individuals in your local area!

The Support Education and Engagement Project News

As Stronger Communities Officers (SCO's) in Hexthorpe and Balby North, Hannah McWilliams and Ian Revell will be continuing the work of the Support Education and Engagement Project (SEEP) throughout the area.

As part of the project we will be carrying out door knocks asking residents If they would like to take part in a 5 to 10 minute survey where they can voice their views and opinions of the area and Doncaster. The survey is a chance for you to get across any concerns you may have or something you feel is working well and would continue to support. SCO's have already completed one round of door knocks for Hexthorpe and Balby North and we are now on the second and third rounds for anyone that may have missed us first time around.

There is also funding available through the SEEP that various voluntary and community groups have been awarded in the last twelve months. There is a grant of £250 available for anyone interested in starting a new group or continuing the work of an already established group. For those that can provide a sustainable activity can apply for funding up to £500.

Residents from Mutual Street and Salisbury Road have recently been awarded SEEP funding and will continue the upkeep of their local area with the use of hanging baskets, flowers and seeds that have been planted during spring time. The photograph, on page 9, shows the area in which Sharky's group will plant bulbs and flowers following the removal of shrubbery by volunteers and where they hope to commemorate the groups founding member Paul Sharp.

The Junction have also had several groups involved including a board game group, arts and crafts and more recently the 25th anniversary celebrations.

Please get in contact with your local stronger community officers if the funding is something you may be interested in applying for. The group should aim to promote community engagement and cohesion amongst residents and one that is available to all ethnic and cultural backgrounds.

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April Thomas says,

"How lovely to see all the hanging baskets and planters in Salisbury Road this year, what a transformation. I hope that this is a trend other streets will follow."

Jenny Barlow gives a special message to the Salisbury Road residents,

"Many thanks for making it such a pleasure to walk down your road this summer. The hanging baskets and flower troughs have been a delight to the eye and the lack of litter has been a treat to behold. It just shows what Hexthorpe could look like if every street could follow your example. Could we award you the 'the best street in Hexthorpe 2019' and encourage other streets to compete for this honour next summer? Here's hoping."

