

# ***THE HEXPRESS***

**YOUR FREE HEXTHORPE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER**

**No. 108 March 2020**

**thehexpress.co.uk**

## **Good Community Spirit People Look Out for One Another**

**That was the main thing that local residents valued most about living in Hexthorpe when the Doncaster Council made a Doncaster Talks Survey. Here is a summary of what people said about living here.**

### **What People Like about living in Hexthorpe**

- Good community spirit – People look out for one another and local groups help.
- Good access to town centre and facilities
- Good areas of greenspace – Hexthorpe Park

### **What People want to see improve**

- Cleaner streets and less fly-tipping – the alleyways are awful, and people don't care anymore it has ruined the place.
- Anti-Social Behaviour in the local area – especially at night lots of groups of people hang around
- Local community services and more stuff for people to do that bring together local people

### **What People want to Focus on in the future**

- More activities to bring people together especially around leisure and culture
- Cleaner streets and less fly-tipping – we need to educate local people to change the future.
- Better access to job opportunities – there are too many young people that simply don't have good quality work opportunities
- Invest in the town centre – it is right on our doorstep and there are too many problems and too many empty shops.



## ***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

# Local News in Brief

## Mam Tor Conquered for Charity

Well done to Liz Boardman for raising £1,810 for The Children's Hospital Charity. How did she do it? 75year old Liz was sponsored to climb Mam Tor (the shivering mountain) at Castleton in the Peak District. This was a great achievement and we give her our congratulations. In the picture are Lucy from the charity, Kenzie a granddaughter and Liz herself.



## The Latest News on the old Plant Works

People still ask, *“When will we see any houses on the old Plant Works site? It is many years ago since the development was first announced. Will we see it in our life times?!”*

The application that is still in with the Council is for the *“Erection of 671 dwellings, new access road, landscaping and public open space.”* This is a major application and therefore is not approved overnight. We understand that supporting documents have been submitted and that they and other matters will now be under consideration. The next step in the process is that it will go to committee. One day.....who knows!

## Friends of the Hexthorpe Flatts Park

A real accolade was given to the group recently. It was not an official award but comments made by a visiting group. To quote from a message from the Doncaster Rowing Club, based by the river in the park, *“This morning we held an indoor rowing session as part of an 'away day' for the Doncaster Council public health team. A number of attendees commented on how impressed they were with the park and its maintenance. This was nice to hear and a credit to the friends of the Flatts Park.”*

This is encouraging for the group who have worked tirelessly in their efforts to make improvements.

A couple from Salisbury in Wiltshire recently visited the Dell cafe and once more favourable comments were made. They thoroughly enjoyed their lunch in the cafe, and were impressed by its location overlooking the park. *“You have a real asset here.”*

The friends meet monthly usually on the third Monday of the month at the Travis Garden Centre. If you are keen to see further improvements and want to help, then you are most welcome to join this friendly group.

The group has been busy with the expert help of the Council in preparing a management plan. This is an impressive document and will soon be adopted and already planned timed objectives are being pursued.

## The South Yorkshire Head of the River Race

This was hosted by the Doncaster Rowing Club. It took place on Saturday 8th February 2020. Because of river conditions it has had to be cancelled in previous years, but they were fortunate this year, because the very next day saw the arrival of storm Ciara. Crews were arriving at 7.00am. and racing continued until late afternoon. There were hundreds of different crews taking part. It was quite an event and to think that Hexthorpe was the venue. Congratulations to the Rowing Club for organising such a large event in such an efficient manner.

*Continued on page 4*

Continued from page 3

## Christmas Eve

On Christmas Eve an event took place that has happened in Hexthorpe every year since the 1870's. Some 50 people from The King's Cross Church sang carols around the streets on the night of Christmas Eve. The carol singers of the 19th and early 20<sup>th</sup> century began their singing at midnight on Christmas Eve! In 2019 they began at 6 o'clock and sang for three hours. It was supported as strongly as ever. Also a group from the church were invited to sing carols in the Balby Tesco store in the week before Christmas. See photograph page 12.

The comments made by one of the members of the group to The Hexpress last year still stands true,

*"We have four good reasons for maintaining this tradition. We enjoy it! Some residents look forward every year to joining us outside their homes to sing along with us. We call on older people, some of who cannot even get to their doors; nevertheless they hear us through the window and we know that they do appreciate it –for some it makes their Christmas. We collect money for a Christian Relief Fund –TEAR FUND (This year £340 was given). Also we want to sing and tell people of the meaning of Christmas, that Jesus, the Saviour of the world was born."*

## The Junction



We are looking forward to Shrove Tuesday when we have our annual Pancake and Praise at 6.30 p.m. Keep looking out for the date of our Easter celebration with prayer, praise and supper. We would like to have you join us for this event.

Our knit and natter group is flourishing and we are now busy knitting hats, scarfs and mittens to go in to Christmas shoeboxes. We are always on the look-out for another project, so please give us any ideas. Even better, come and join us on Tuesdays at 10.15am. We are also grateful to Chloe, the Family Worker at The King's Cross Church, for continuing our board games afternoons

on Wednesdays and craft afternoons on Fridays – again, all are welcome. We shall miss her when she leaves at the end of March.

We are now kept busy with Settled Status applications and queries from EU Nationals and our usual appointments for help with benefit applications and other such queries are as much in demand as ever. Do feel free to call for an appointment should you need help in this way.

We are sorry to say goodbye to Beena and her husband Ben, who ran the monthly foot clinic; sadly Beena has had to give this up due to a bad back. We know that many of you benefitted from this and we miss your monthly visits to the Junction. Don't forget where we are, we would love to see you again for a coffee and a chat.

Our local Councillors continue to hold a surgery once a month and the Stronger Community Officers hold a fortnightly drop-in with the local PCSO, Emma, coming once every three weeks to be available for help and advice. Her colleague, Danny, left us to work elsewhere in the police and the police officer, James, who was attached to Hexthorpe, has also moved to pastures new, to be replaced by another Emma – confusing or what!

If you have never been to the Junction, why not come in and see what we are about. We are, we hope, a friendly bunch and you will be made welcome and offered a drink. We look forward to meeting more of you soon.

Lynn Petersen

# Community Comments

Deep concerns about the unacceptable state of our back alleys and some streets are expressed not only in the Doncaster Talks Survey (page 1) but also in the comments made to the Hexpress (see this page). Therefore, we wrote to the Mayor. In the letter we expressed these concerns but also some of the positives. The Hexpress has a policy of highlighting good news rather than filling its pages with a negative approach. We want us all to have a pride in our community.

However we wrote,

*“we can’t ignore this issue altogether, as the Doncaster Free Press and social media have been highlighting it. A statement from yourself or any information or news relating to all this would be very helpful.”*

We think that you would agree that the statement from the Council is somewhat robust, informative and revealing.

## Salisbury Road

In our last issue, the front page highlighted the excellent effort made by the residents of Salisbury Road to make their street so attractive through hanging baskets and troughs of flowers. Many people have commented favourably on this.

However, a resident of another area of Hexthorpe quite understandably wrote, ‘The idea of hanging baskets is to be applauded, but I’m afraid it would be a short lived one due to theft and vandalism in this area. Come and view the filth and rubbish that myself and other residents have to live amongst.’

## Questions to the Council

Sir

The Doncaster Free Press recently ran an article about the ongoing rubbish issues in Hexthorpe and the adverse impact this is having on the community. It included a statement that Doncaster Council has a “zero tolerance stance” on littering and fly-tipping and that they will take “enforcement action against offenders whenever possible”

This is evidently not correct. I know of several instances where reports have been made to the Council but no action has been taken. In some cases these reports have

been backed by witnesses, details of the offenders and CCTV recordings but the Council have not even asked for any of this evidence. within severe budget constraints the Council could and should be doing more to protect the community in Hexthorpe. It would be interesting to find out how many fines have been issued in the last 12 months in Hexthorpe as the current policy appears to be based on ad hoc clear ups with no active prosecution of offenders.

The problem is ongoing and we need a more vigorous enforcement approach from the Council. A real zero tolerance using all means possible – fines, covert patrols, CCTV, examination of rubbish and swift action on reports from the public.

Name and address supplied

## A Community Initiative

A group of 4 local residents regularly go out on to the streets to pick up litter. They have concentrated on Shadyside and Urban Road. They say that the message seems to be getting through, as there a little less litter to pick up.

If you would like to help it is suggested you might like to adopt a street (your own?). If so, please call Lynn at the Junction for details

# “We’ll get tough. Enough is enough.”

***This is the article from the Council sent to the Hexpress by Tom Biltcliffe, Communications & Engagement Officer (Economy & Environment), Corporate Resources, Doncaster Council.***

**Strong words from the council need strong actions. We understand that. What we say will count for next to nothing if we can’t show that, as a council, we can back them up with hard facts about the increasingly negative perception of waste in these streets.**

If, like most people, you present your black, green or blue bin on a weekly basis for your waste to be disposed of but then there’s still unsightly fly-tipping blighting this community, then you must wonder what is happening.

Hexthorpe, in this respect, has a problem and we can all see it. That’s why we issued 120 *Community Protection Warnings* for either fly-tipping offences or when bins were left out for longer than the allowed period of time. We also issued 10 *Community Protection Notices* for the same offences.

In the last 6 months we have issued 41 *Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs)* in total for fly tipping and 67 *FPNs* for litter in Hexthorpe alone! The legislation allows local authorities to set a level of fine of not less than £150 and not more than £400.

**Who is responsible for this mess?** The culprits for this come from a cross-section of the community who often live in the area. It is a social responsibility.

**Questions have been raised about how selective licencing in the area has had an impact.**

We’re unreservedly transparent enough to inform you that we have served 53 *Section 235 Housing Act 2004* notices on landlords regarding selective licence conditions as part of waste investigations for example not having a waste management agreement.

Five of the notices served have resulted in Civil Penalties being issued against the land owner. In addition to the above enforcement provisions 27 notices have been served under the provisions of *The Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949* and 7 *Abatement notices under The Environmental Protection Act 1990*.

All of this information – and more – is readily available on our regularly updated website page [www.doncaster.gov.uk/prosecutions](http://www.doncaster.gov.uk/prosecutions). All notices and actions are backed up by hard evidence that is gathered by DMBC.

**We have invested in new technologies** such as cameras, which have been successful in identifying fly-tipping offenders and has brought a return of nearly £3,000 in fines alone already! And there are more installations planned so we can eradicate this problem once and for all.

**Some of you may view cameras as quite reactive so we are also looking to recruit more staff to our Street Scene department** which means more feet on the ground which means that when the roads, streets and alley ways are tidy they will be kept tidy.

*Continued on page 7*

**Looking forward, our Waste and Recycling teams will be carrying out a full bin audit to ensure residents of Hexthorpe have the correct bins all bins will be stickered / marked up for the correct premise.**

**We will be looking to deliver the welcome booklets to residents to advise in multiple languages what bins are used for and are looking at having some stickers produced in several languages just to express the need to retrieve bins following collections from streets and alleys ensuring all language barriers are met.**

**You can report fly-tipping by calling 01302 736000 or online [www.doncaster.gov.uk/flytipping](http://www.doncaster.gov.uk/flytipping)**

---

**Here is another letter written to the Hexpress on the subject of rubbish and litter in our streets and back alleys.**

Dear Editor

As a resident, I view with dismay the amount of litter and scattered refuse in our area. It is too easy to blame other people for the mess, but as residents, shouldn't we all share the blame? Let us do all we can to make Hexthorpe as pleasant as possible! Let us vigilantly ensure our streets and access alleys are kept clean and free from our litter. An easy excuse is to blame the Council....they should clean more often....but an area the size of Doncaster, plus limited resources, means it can't be done every day. Prevention rather than cure! I implore everyone not to put out dustbins and rubbish sacks before collection day. It only encourages straying dogs and rats etc to scatter our rubbish far and wide. If we all could make greater efforts to use our bins and litter bins, and also encourage family and friends to do likewise, the majority of rubbish at present on our streets would not be there.

Name and address supplied.

**When was this letter written to the Hexpress?**

**1990 – 30 years ago!**

**There is much food for thought here.**

## **HEXPRESS COMMENT**

*Traditionally Hexthorpe has always been a close knit community. It is good to see, by the responses on page one, that people still value this most highly. However, the responses also show that all is not as it should be. The social media and the local press have highlighted some similar concerns.*

*The main one is the amount of fly-tipping. This was highlighted in the Hexpress exactly one year ago, but we make no apologies in returning to it.*

*We have received messages and comments from the community regarding this problem. We contacted the Mayor, Ross Jones, and the Deputy Mayor and local councillor, Glyn Jones and we publish a detailed reply that shows some strong measures that have been taken and some proposed future ones.*

*Also there is report from SEEP describing the Welcome Pack given to newcomers. It is clear that the Council do share our concern. In the end the solution has to come from within all of the Hexthorpe community itself and that could be a long haul. We all need to be on the same side.*

# Welcome Packs

## Essential Information for Newcomers to Hexthorpe

As part of the Support, Engagement & Education Project, Doncaster Council are currently delivering over 7000 Welcome Packs: A Guide to Your Life in Doncaster ) to households within our target areas within Balby & Hexthorpe, Hyde Park and Wheatley.

The Welcome Packs have been designed in conjunction with other agencies such as the Police and Fire & Rescue Service to provide essential information to anyone moving into the area about what mainstream services are available, when they are available and how to access them. It also highlights what Doncaster expects of the people who live here with regards to respecting others and help to keep the area is kept as clean as possible.

### Subjects covered include:

Housing, Living in your Area, Bins and Recycling Banks & Identification, Staying Safe, Health & Well Being, Transport & Travel, Education & Training, Caring for your Family

**The Welcome Pack is available in a number of languages and it is hoped that it will be available on the Council's website in the near future**

Vă rugăm să sunați la **01302 736000** pentru a comanda o copie a acestei broșuri în limba d-voastră maternă

Моля, позвънете на номер **01302 736000**, за да поръчате копие на тази брошура на своя език

Ak si chcete objednat' kópiu tejto brožúry vo svojom jazyku, zavolajte na číslo **01302 736000**

Zavolejte prosím na číslo **01302 736000** a objednejte si tento leták ve vašem jazyce

Jeżeli chcieliby Państwo zamówić egzemplarz niniejszej ulotki w Państwa języku ojczystym prosimy o kontakt telefoniczny pod numer **01302 736000**

Kérjük, hívja a **01302 736000** - as telefonszámot, hogy ennek a kiadványnak egy példányát megrendelje a saját nyelvén.

若想得到本手册您自己语言的版本请致电**01302 736000**

請撥打電話 **01302 736000**，以便預定壹份以您自己的語言印制的宣傳冊。

بالغتك الأصلية لصلح وول على نسخه من هذا الكتيب بالتالي م الاتصال على الرقم **01302736000**

تکایه تدهلفون بکاه بق **01302 736000** بق داواگردنی پروونووس ئکای ئم نامی لکاهه به زم انی خقت.

مهربانی برائے حاصل کرنے کے لیے نی زبان می گو اب نقل کی ای اس کتاب کے لیے کا  
نی **01302 736000** پر کال کار

Continued on page 9



### **LIVING IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD – includes *FLY TIPPING***

It is against the law to leave your waste on the street, on public land or council land, which is known as fly-tipping. You may face a fine or other legal action if you are found to be doing this. Find more information about correct ways of disposing of waste by visiting [www.doncaster.gov.uk/environment](http://www.doncaster.gov.uk/environment).

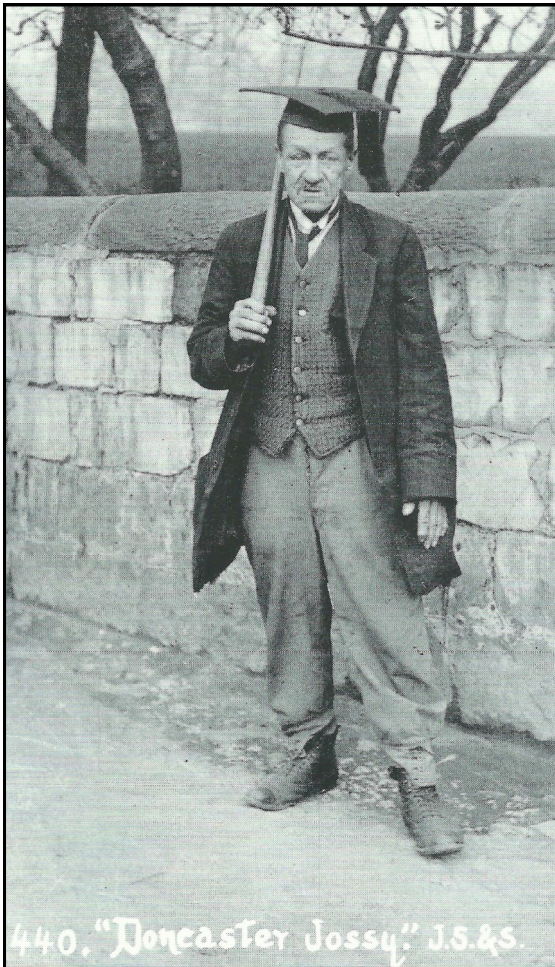
### **LITTER AND DOG FOULING**

It is against the law to leave litter, waste, cigarettes and dog poo in public areas, and you could be fined for doing so. Find more information about this at [www.doncaster.gov.uk/environment](http://www.doncaster.gov.uk/environment).

### **RESPECTING YOUR NEIGHBOURS**

It is important to avoid any disrespectful or anti-social behaviour such as drinking alcohol on the street, fighting and arguing, and excessive noise. Respecting your neighbours and their culture is an important part of living in a community.

## **The Doncaster Jossy**



The title given in Doncaster to these men was 'Knocker-up Jossy'. Doncaster Jossy pictured here was the town's most famous one. He lived in Bentley and it is believed that Jossey Lane received its name because he lived in a hut down the lane. There is some evidence that he worked for a time in the Balby and Hexthorpe area. He arose extremely early and with a drumstick, knocked on the doors or windows of workers to ensure they were not late for work.

This was before alarm clocks were in common use. They were employed in the 19th century and some were known up to the Second World War. Some knocker-ups used a long pole with wires, or spokes from an umbrella so that the upstairs windows were not damaged. They were paid a small amount for their services.

Doncaster Jossy sometimes dressed rather eccentrically. He charged double if there were two workers in the house.

A question you might be asking is - who woke up the knocker-uppers? They had a tongue twister addressing this problem.

*We had a knocker-up and our knocker-up had a knocker-up  
And our knocker-up's knocker-up didn't knock our knocker-up up  
So our knocker-up didn't knock us up.  
'Cos he's not up.*

# Her Family Knew Her as Nellie but to Everyone Else it was Miss Robinson (1906-1996)

**We have told the stories of some of our senior residents in recent editions. Here is part 1 of the story of one of Hexthorpe's former residents who born in 1906.**

*Miss Nellie Robinson was known as Nellie by her own brothers and sisters and a few close friends and as Auntie Nellie by her nieces and nephews. To everyone else she was Miss Robinson – that is how she wanted it. Even on the day when she was finally taken to hospital, when asked what her first name was by the medical people, she said, 'Nellie, but I prefer Miss Robinson.'*

**Miss Robinson was born in the little village of Levitt Hagg, on the banks of the River Don, just beyond Sprotbrough. She was the second of nine children. Some years before she died she gave us this fascinating account of her life.**

"I was born in the little hamlet of Levitt Hagg in 1906. Nowadays only the lime works remain and there is nothing to indicate that once there were more than thirty families living there. Most of the men were employed by the firm Lockwood, Blagden and Crawshaw. There was a blacksmith's shop, a joiner's shop and a stable for the carthorses. These all provided interest to the children, as did the sight of the men wheeling the stone from the quarry to the river to be loaded on to barges. We also saw other barges being pulled along by horses and sometimes, to our disgust, by women.



There was also a small church no longer in use. A room known as the reading room was attached and used for recreation.

Living conditions were of course primitive. Drinking water was fetched from the village pump, for other purposes from the rain-water barrel. and, failing that, from the river. Milk was fetched in cans from the farm at lower Sprotbrough. For lighting we had candles and

*Continued on page 11*

*Continued from page 10*

paraffin lamps. Our nearest shops were at Warmsworth, though men came down with fruit and vegetables, also fish. There was also the paraffin man. Shopping in Doncaster meant walking to the tram terminus at Oswin Avenue. The bus route was later extended to Warmsworth but I still remember the long walk to Balby. The highlight of a visit to town was to go to the market where there was a stall with slogan, "All a penny on the stall. Pick what you like". I guess we had to do some serious thinking. When we were 5 years old we started school this meant walking along the river bank through the wood, over the river and canal bridge, up the hill to the end of the village street at Sprotbrough. It was a Church of England school and the rector gave religious instruction. Prizes were awarded by the Bewick-Copley family living at Sprotbrough Hall.

We had a happy childhood and I shall always appreciate that my early days were lived in the country, learning to love the beauties of nature. In summer, of course, much of our time was spent out of doors. We saw a lot of strange faces, as Levitt Hagg was a popular place for picnics. Some of the cottages provided jugs of tea and minerals. Our mother sometimes took us for picnics, to Butterbuck Green (*near Conisbrough*) or Edlington Wood, or we would walk through the cliffs to visit relatives in Conisbrough.

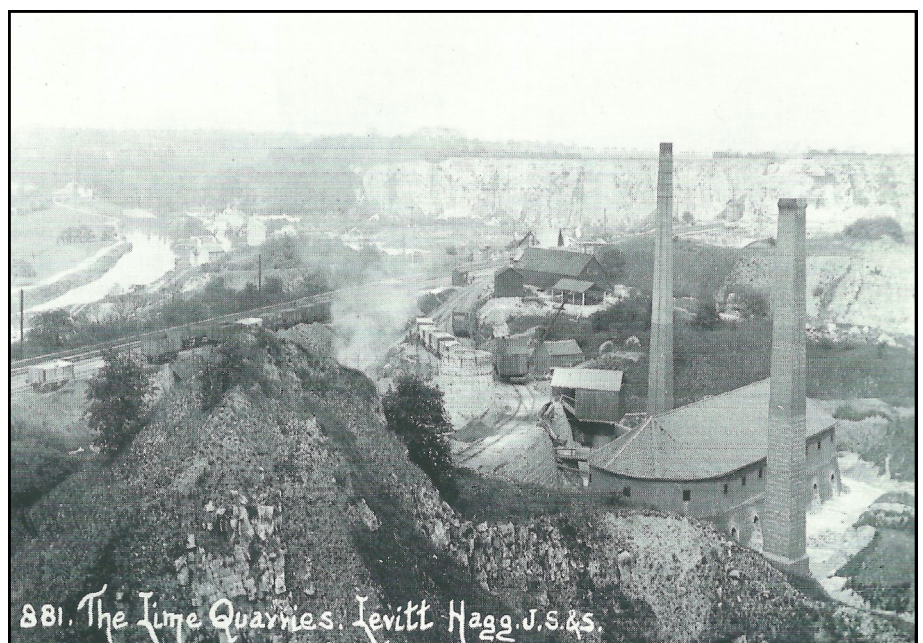
Several well-known Doncaster families camped in tents and one family owned a disused railway carriage that was used for holidays. We children were made welcome and thought that living in a tent was very romantic. The long winter evenings were spent in reading our books and playing games of ludo, snakes and ladders etc.

When my mother first went to live in Levitt Hagg her biggest trial was that there was no place of worship. She used to say that Sunday evenings she would walk up and down the road carrying her child and listening to the church bells from Sprotbrough and feeling heart-broken that she had no chapel to go to.

We couldn't have lived there long when preachers from the Spring Gardens Primitive Methodist Chapel came down and had open air services by the riverbank. These soon became house meetings. Sometimes they were in our home or one of the other cottages, but mostly in the home of Mr and Mrs Kellett, probably because they had an organ. The small children sat in front of the fire on a piece of wood placed on top of two biscuit tins.

We loved to sing about the future life, probably partly because people had so little in material goods. If they had sufficient for their needs they were thankful. I don't think there was the greed and envy that there is now. We accepted there was rich and poor and showed respect to employers and those in different circumstances.

In 1920 we moved to Hexthorpe."



***Part 2 of Miss Robinson's story will be in the next issue. It describes life in a Hexthorpe household in the 1920's***

# Hexthorpe Local History Group

The group meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 7.00pm at The King's Cross Church. All are welcome. We are looking in detail at all the old shops of Hexthorpe. Here are the memories of two members.

“There were two grocer’s shops on Shadyside; both were owned by the Davis family. One was next to the school - the house is still there – and the other was at the corner of Shadyside and Eden Grove. The latter was knocked down when the old houses in Eden Grove gave way to the present bungalows. The main shop at Eden Grove was a grocer’s shop and was managed by John’s father Alf. Alf was a very popular man. His shop was used as an unofficial ‘bookies’! My mother described him as a very generous and decent man. He brought goods to the local bonfire. He gave us yesterday’s bread to go and feed the horses on the Crimpsall. Alf owned a chalet at Filey and he allowed our family to go there on our annual holidays.”

“As young girls Mr Davis allowed us to go and help him on his old van, when he took groceries out to former customers who had moved to live in the new houses at Clay Lane and Cantley. We were thrilled when he gave us 6 pennies for helping him. Some lads used to climb into his back yard and help themselves to a few empty milk bottles. Then they took them into the shop and claimed the deposits on them. I am sure he knew what they were up to!”

## The Christmas Carol Singers



**HEXFEST 2020**  
**1st – 4th JULY**  
**BOOK THE DATE NOW**