

# THE HEXPRESS

YOUR FREE HEXTHORPE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

No. 109 June 2020

thehexpress.co.uk

## Festival of Kindness



With families in lockdown and a community social distancing, Hexthorpe Primary have been trying to spread some good news and support whilst celebrating with their Festival of Kindness. The children still in school and those

children working from home took part in different activities to help spread the kindness message including making pictures or messages out of natural objects whilst out on their walk or making their own compliments jar.



Children and staff who have still been on site have been busy making a rainbow paper chain. The chain has over 600 links with a link to represent every child and every member of staff who works at the school. It took two weeks to complete and when the children measured it, it was longer than the school playground! Once the chain was complete, the staff hung it along the Urban Road school fence as part of the school's kindness display for all to see.



Continued on page 5

## ***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 From Lockdown

## Letter from Glyn Jones, Councillor and Deputy Mayor Glyn Jones



The past 10 weeks have been incredibly hard for the people of Hexthorpe, Doncaster and the World. The global Coronavirus pandemic has sadly taken a significant toll in terms of life, health, well-being and wealth. For some, working from home has presented huge challenges; those socially isolating because of age or pre-existing conditions of themselves or a family member has been problematic and provided tough decisions for many and created issues over self-sufficiency, personal pride, mental-health and physical health.

It is difficult to offer face-to-face, direct contact, when social distancing rules apply for everyone in most, if not all, situations. However, despite relaxation of some hastily introduced Covid-19 legislation the original advice of 'Stay Safe' still applies, we must observe the 2-metre distancing regular handwashing and self-isolation if Covid-19 symptoms occur, the last thing we need is another spike in transmission rates leading to increased suffering and ultimately further loss of life.

**Balby and Hexthorpe are among areas where breaching of the Covid-19 laws has been at its highest in Doncaster. Despite significant interventions by the Council, Police and other agencies behaviours such as fly-tipping and Anti-Social Behaviour remain (ASB), but the war on ASB, litter and fly-tipping continues, if evidence is found, there are consequences to face and offenders will be penalised.**

**Hexthorpe, has been greatly affected in many ways, but it is important to pay credit to the individuals and organisations that have engaged in reducing personal difficulties and hardship for residents within the Hexthorpe area.**

A snapshot of some of the organisations that have helped in varied ways are:

- The Kings Cross Church
- Alder Grove Church
- St Judes Church
- St Johns Church
- Dominion DN4 Neighbourhood Watch
- Balby South Engagement Group
- Pioneer Social Enterprise Ltd
- Doncaster Council

Some have provided direct support to individuals and families, by way of Food parcels, Prescription delivery, Pastoral Support, general practical Help, Advice & Guidance. I would like to personally thank all who have supported our local community.

We also need to acknowledge unsung heroes that have selflessly helped Family, Friends, Neighbours and Strangers when they have needed assistance, who often go un-noticed. We should also thank the NHS Staff and Carers who have placed their health and lives in potential danger whilst helping others.

Finally, I will offer and re-iterate the advice of Public Health England regarding Social Distancing 2-metres and regular Hand washing.

Stay Safe  
*Glyn Jones*

Cllr Glyn Jones  
Hexthorpe & Balby North Councillor  
Deputy Mayor & Portfoliholder for Housing & Equalities

## A Message from Hannah McWilliams - Public Health Officer



I am a public health officer and a part of the Well Doncaster team leading on the response to covid-19 for Central Doncaster. I am in touch with all the community groups in Hexthorpe currently offering support to anyone in need. I have included some information below for community groups that may want some more help and what support is currently on offer to Hexthorpe residents below. If you want to keep up to date with what Well Doncaster has to offer and anything covid-19 related follow @WellDoncaster or visit Well Doncaster's facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/WellDoncaster/>.

- Voluntary Action Doncaster has been set up to support the third sector and their response to Covid-19. Visit <http://www.voluntaryactiondoncaster.org.uk/> for information on how to access support services.
- Newly formed group 'Balby and Hexthorpe Resilience Food Relief Project' are here to help those that are vulnerable. If you currently find yourself in a vulnerable position and would like some help sourcing a good parcel please get in contact. They are here to help!
- St John's church have maintained a regular food bank over the last 11 weeks.

**Stay safe, stay well and remember to social distance!**

*Thanks Hannah McWilliam*

---

## A Hexthorpe Scrubs Workshop

**Co-ordinated from a workshop in Hexthorpe, hundreds of items including complete sets of scrubs are being sent out to nurses, care workers and dentists, all created by an industrious army of voluntary textile workers.**

The hub in Hexthorpe takes in material, dishes out patterns to the team of volunteers. The volunteers then get to work either cutting out from the patterns or sewing them together.

At the centre of this is Doncaster charity worker Kerry Burton.

"I would estimate that we have 150-200 sewing," said Kerry. "It's not just scrubs they're making. They're making washing bags that people can put their items in, scrub hats like surgeons wear, and head bands with buttons on them that they use to stop their ears getting sore from straps going around them."

Among the volunteers are Michelle Boardman and Mary Elks from Hexthorpe

---

## Hexthorpe Volunteers

Since the outbreak of the pandemic it has been wonderful to see how people have come together to support one another and to offer help when needed. In late March The King's Cross Church took the decision to offer a service to people in our local neighbourhoods. Many of the most vulnerable people in the Hexthorpe and Balby area received a leaflet from the church through their letter boxes offering a range of support.

To date we have helped thirty different individuals, most of whom we did not know before. For some of these we collect their shopping on a weekly basis; others need an occasional purchase, a letter posting or a prescription collecting. For others, receiving a friendly phone call on a regular basis is helping them to cope.

We are registered with the Council for food provision, and have also received a generous donation from the local councillors to help us with this work.

If you feel that we could be of use to you, then please do not hesitate to get in touch - 07814 899658.





*Hanging on the fence and the tree at the school's main entrance were the children's Kind Heart Messages. Each child wrote a message or painted a picture on one of the hearts for people to read as they went on their daily walk.*



*Messages included: 'Be Happy', 'Stay Safe', 'Be Kind' and words of support to the NHS and all of our other key workers. Inside the plastic wallet were more hearts for the community to join in with the festival and spread the kindness further. Along with the rainbow chain, the display attracted lots of attention and positive comments from member of the public who passed school - spreading the smiles, the support and the messages of kindness*



Continued from page 5

To continue with the theme, school has also been making a joke book to make people smile. A request for jokes was put on the school's blogs and Twitter. Some of the jokes included:

*What's a pirate's favourite shop? ..... Aaaaargos!!  
I used to be addicted to soap, but I'm now clean!  
Someone stole my mood ring ... I don't know how I feel about that!*

The jokes are being put together into a book and this will be shared on the school Blogs, Twitter and copies available in school for the children to enjoy. Hopefully it will spread lots of laughs and smiles.

Spreading the message further: To show their support for the staff and to help boost morale, pupils at Hexthorpe sent some pictures and art work to Doncaster Royal Infirmary.

As well as drawing and painting pictures, the children had great fun completing some large scale art on the school playground. They then posed for photos with their painted balloons making it look like they were being blown away by the wind. A member of staff's family member took the pictures into their work to Ward S12 at DRI. This is a message we have received from Ward S12: "This is fantastic. Please see attached a certificate for everyone involved." The children were so proud to receive their certificate and are proudly displaying it in their classroom.



Continued on page 7



## Helping Families in the Community



Part of the way that Hexthorpe School continues to support their families is by providing food and support with the help of deliveries from FareShare and Magic Breakfast. The school continues to support families with food and clothing as well as mental health support. Every week, school staff put together food packages for families in need to make sure that all of our families have access to healthy, nutritious food - and the odd treat too.



### **HEXPRESS COMMENT**

*We have highlighted the Hexthorpe School in this issue. As the country rightly has applauded those on the frontline in the NHS and other services, we hope that our local school teachers have not been forgotten. The Principal, Mrs Parker-Watts, and her staff have done an amazing job during this lockdown. The proof of that is seen in the pages we have devoted to the school.*

*The staff have really put themselves on the front line. The children attending school during lockdown are either vulnerable or those of critical workers. They are all Hexthorpe children from different age groups from FS2 up to year 6.*

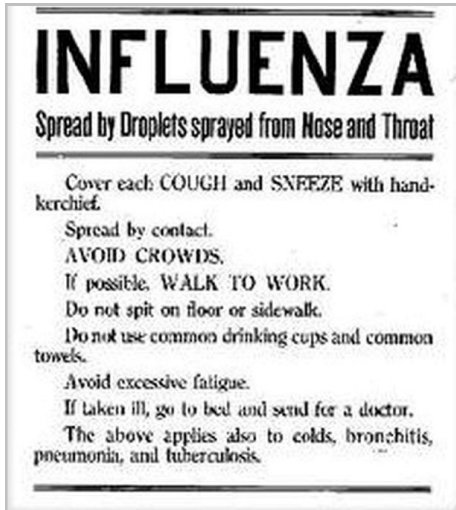
*We are sure that the whole of the Hexthorpe community awards them a 'big clap' - thank you!*

*Do you remember the headline of the last Hexpress, issued just before the lockdown? 'Good Community Spirit - People look out for one another.' That has been put to the test over the last few months and has not been found wanting!*

# Pandemic Closes Hexthorpe School - 1918

*'School is now closed this afternoon, by order of the Medical Officer'*

That was the entry for the 8 November 1918 in the log book of the Hexthorpe Infant School. The entry in the Junior School log book states that it was closed for 8 weeks because of a flu outbreak. The schools reopened on 6 January 1919. During that time the first of several pupils died.



Having had to leave the school buildings on several occasions to make way for the military, the staff must have thought that they could now settle down. However, the order to close came just 3 days before the Armistice was signed. This was because of what became known as 'The Spanish Flu'.

The flu did not originate in Spain, but Spain was the first country to report deaths from it, leading to the assumption that it must have started there. Spain's newspapers were not subject to wartime censorship, because it was a neutral country. News of the epidemic was initially suppressed in other countries to avoid damaging morale.

By the end of the pandemic, the death toll in Britain was 228,000, and a quarter of the population are thought to have been infected - what a way to end a war. Families who had already lost loved ones were now to experience it again. Mortality was particularly high

among the 20-40 years old.

With no vaccine to protect against influenza, control efforts against infection were limited to isolation, quarantine, good personal hygiene, use of disinfectants, and limitations of public gatherings.

**Interestingly many pupils of the school during the 40's and 50's speak of going on the annual school journey to Derbyshire. They always mention the plague village of Eyam. The bubonic plague, rampant in London in 1665, was carried to this small village in some cloth delivered to the village tailor.**

By November 1666, 260 villagers had died. Their fate had been sealed four months earlier when the entire village led by the vicar the Rev Mompesson, made the remarkable decision to quarantine itself in an attempt to halt the spread of the Great Plague.

Without the restraint of the villagers many more people, especially from neighbouring villages, would have more than likely died. The isolation was very effective.

It is quite remarkable that experts today still examine and learn from both terrible outbreaks of these deadly diseases.



*The second instalment of the Hexthorpe life of Miss Robinson, promised for this issue, will now appear in our next Hexpress.*

*Thank you to the dozen volunteers who deliver your Hexpress faithfully through your door, to George who designs the paper, to Print Services and to the officers of SEEP who have been so helpful and funded the Hexpress over the last 18 months.*



## The Junction Latest Report

Looking back on my last report, from February of this year, it seems like a world away, with reminders of the many activities taking place at and through The Junction, and no hint that these would so soon be coming to a standstill. We had to close on a temporary basis towards the end of March due to restrictions in place to prevent the spread of Covid-19, and are currently unsure when we will be in a position to open again - although we all hope that day will not be too far away. In the meantime, the Management Committee are using the opportunity to review our activities and decide if there is anything further we can and should be offering.

We were sorry not to be able to say a proper "goodbye and thank you" (not that we wanted to see her go!) to the Family Worker from The King's Cross Church, Chloe Craven, who has worked so faithfully and enthusiastically with us for the last three years, and look forward in due course to welcoming the next Family Worker, Jessica Dienst, to the work at The Junction.



Once we are open again, we would love to see you at The Junction for a cuppa, a chat, or any of our activities.

*Lynn Petersen*

## The Plans for 671 Homes in Hexthorpe Given the go Ahead by the Planners

**The plan to build hundreds of homes on the old Plant Works site has been recommended for approval by the Doncaster Council planning officers. The final approval will have to come from elected councillors. There have been many false dawns but it does seem that this time it is for real.**

The development will include 671 homes, a new drainage scheme, open spaces and pedestrian links along the River Don to a large open space. This space is to be located on the former Eden Grove Sports Ground.

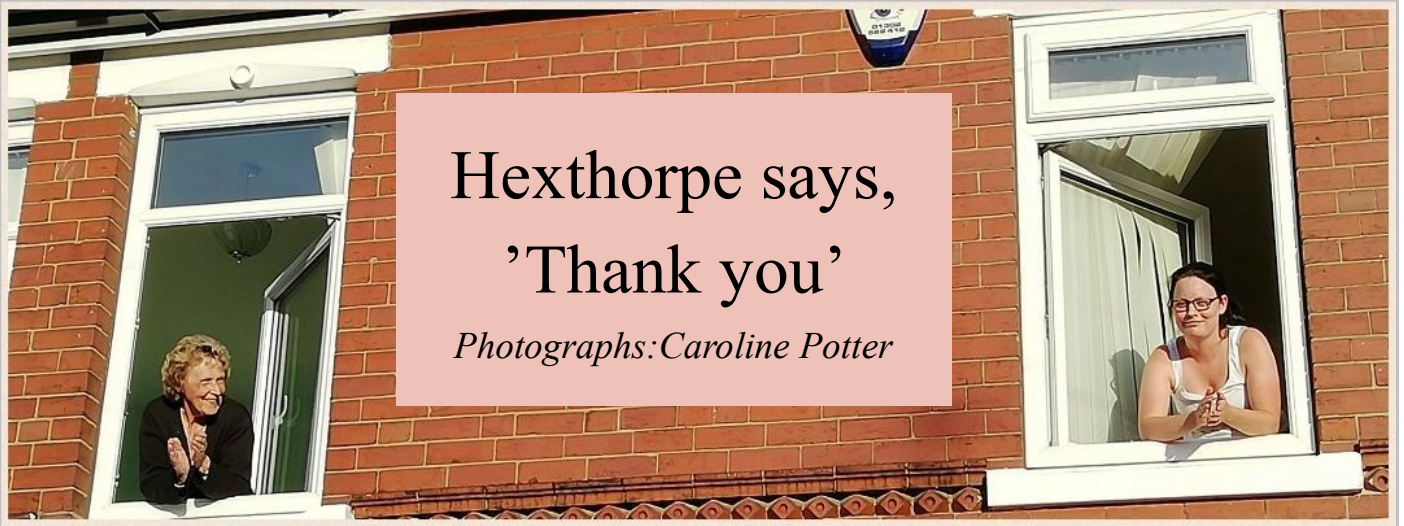
There are 7 registered objections to the scheme. They included concern about the unattractive approach from town, a fear of more anti-social behaviour, a lack of shops and a pub and a fear of Eden Grove being turned into a busy thoroughfare.

The Free Press said that the plans are controversial. However, only seven objections to such a major scheme is thought to be light and many local people welcome the development - 'The situation can only get better' is a common theme. The Council members will have to weigh up the pros and cons and come to a final decision. The Bombardier site was first put up for sale 12 years ago in 2008!

Planning officer Andrea Suddes said:

"The proposal will redevelop a vacant, brownfield site for housing. Officers have identified no adverse economic, environmental or social harm that would significantly or demonstrably outweigh the benefits identified when considered against the policies in the Framework taken as a whole.

The proposal for housing is in line with the development plan, the forward direction of Doncaster's Local Plan and on a site that already benefits from a housing permission. The proposal will ensure Doncaster continues to deliver much needed housing in a sustainable location."









# Well Done Windle Road!

*'The residents of Windle Road have really pulled together during lockdown.'*

*A competition was held to find the best display of appreciation to those who are on the frontline. Congratulations to everyone!'*

## First place: Maria Bevan



## Second place: Michele Boardman



## Third place: Katie Leanne



*Donald is writing the story of the schools in Hexthorpe. If you have any stories or memories to tell of your time there as a pupil, he would love to hear from you.*

*Any photographs are most welcome.  
Copies can be made.  
Contact details are on page 2.*

*The King's Cross Church has been closed during lockdown.*

*However, you can access a morning service online every Sunday. The service begins at 10.30am or can be accessed afterwards.*

*It is found by looking for the King's Cross Church on YouTube  
[https://youtu.be/foEvJmS\\_vSU](https://youtu.be/foEvJmS_vSU).*