

THE HEXPRESS

YOUR FREE HEXTHORPE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

No. 110 October 2020

thehexpress.co.uk

Pullman Green



Pullman Green is the name for a new area of Hexthorpe. It is the name that has been given to the old Plant Works site and the former Eden Grove Sports Ground.

‘Countryside’ has announced their latest Yorkshire development that is coming soon to Hexthorpe. They describe it as -

‘an exciting new development in the popular suburb of Hexthorpe, Pullman Green, on the outskirts of Doncaster city centre. Pullman Green will occupy prime land alongside the River Don, within walking distance to central Doncaster. You’ll find a great choice of our exclusive brand new homes to choose from, in a range of sizes and styles to suit all discerning buyers’

LONDON & NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY

HARROGATE

BY

THE PULLMAN

FROM KING'S CROSS
IN 4 HOURS

LEEDS IN 3½ HOURS — RIPON IN 4½ HOURS

ALSO
DARLINGTON AND NEWCASTLE

COMMENCING 9th JULY, 1925

WEEK-DAYS	
a.m.	p.m.
LONDON (KING'S CROSS) dep. 11.15	NEWCASTLE (CENTRAL) dep. 9.20
LEEDS (CENTRAL) 2.40	DARLINGTON 10.14
HARROGATE 3.15	RIPON 10.49
RIPON 3.35	HARROGATE 11.15
DARLINGTON 4.10	LEEDS (CENTRAL) 11.50
NEWCASTLE (CENTRAL) .. 5. 0	LONDON (KING'S CROSS) ar. 3.15

COMPOSED ENTIRELY OF NEW PULLMAN CARS

BOOKLET GIVING FULL INFORMATION FROM ANY L.N.E.R. ENQUIRY OFFICE

In our last issue we reported that permission had been granted by the DMBC Planners for 671 houses to be built on the site. Work has already begun.

Why the name Pullman?

Pullman trains in Great Britain were mainline luxury railway services that operated with first-class coaches and a steward service, provided by the British Pullman Car Company (PCC) from 1874 until 1962, and then by British Rail from 1962 until 1972. The Pullman concept was pioneered in the USA by the American railroader George Pullman. Pullman trains ran on the east coast mainline, including the White Rose Pullman and the Yorkshire Pullman.

In the June 2019 Hexpress we said the following -

The Plant must not be forgotten

Several people have commented that it would be

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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 above activities are of course subject to the restrictions imposed by the Covid regulations. Some are taking place with perhaps variations of timings. Please make enquiries to the organisers, if in any doubt.

Friends of the Flatts Park – Latest News

A Disappointment

Sadly, there will be no fireworks event in the park this year because of the pandemic. A shame as it is a fantastic and popular night with around 3,000 people attending last year. We hope to be back next year.

Some better and exciting news comes from the Council

We have had some really positive and exciting news regarding Doncaster's parks and wanted to update you; but perhaps more importantly, wanted to say a massive thank you for your contributions!



A successful bid has been made to Sport England by Doncaster Council and supported by Doncaster Green Space Network - a group of volunteers which includes Friends of Hexthorpe Flatts Park. It will result in a direct investment of £3.2M in 15 open spaces across Doncaster with a further £1.6M to support the Green Space Network and the Council's Future Parks Programme. It will be spent over the next 5 years to help people get fit and active.

The good news is that Hexthorpe Flatts Park will be included.

What would you like to see improved in the park? How can we encourage more people to use it? What activities would you like to see take place?



The Friends group are not currently meeting due to the pandemic but you can keep up to date online @hexthorpepark or contact hexthorpepark@gmail.com with any ideas or suggestions

Safer Streets in Hexthorpe

Doncaster Council, in conjunction with the Police and Crime Commissioners Office, has been successful in a bid for money from the Home Office to allow it to carry out work in the Town end of Hexthorpe to make people who live there feel safer and more secure.

The work will include replacing alley gates, upgrading street lighting, increasing the number of CCTV cameras and upgrading and increasing the number of bollards in the area. In addition the council will be looking to work with residents to improve the look of the area by removing or refurbishing planters and, where appropriate, replacing those removed with trees. It is hoped that this may encourage more local people to help those who are already active, to improve their area.

The scheme will also look to make the most vulnerable in the area and those who have been the victims of crime, feel safer in their homes by installing better locks and, possibly, CCTV.

It is hoped that the scheme will start in October and will be completed by April next year and we will be starting to consult with local people in the near future and get them involved in the process wherever we can.

We're all here to help

Officers from the council and partners are committed to making Hexthorpe a better place for us all to live, work and enjoy life but to do this we need to work together with you all as well.

As you may know we already meet with colleagues from the local voluntary sector and school to discuss and agree ways forward for families and individuals that need a bit of help as part of the Local Support Group (LSG) but we felt that more could be done.

Therefore we decided to meet very informally to share information and pool resources so we deal with what you see as priorities for the area. We do this every Tuesday and Friday morning in the car park at the town end of Hexthorpe Road at 10am and we are there for nearly 30 minutes dependant on issues. When the weather is not favourable, we will be in the Junction Advice Centre, which is just over the road – that is when the Junction is able to be open again. We appreciate not all of you can or want to discuss things in this place at this time so if you do want us to deal with any issues you can report things by phone on (01302) 736000 or on the Council's website at www.doncaster.gov.uk/report-it although a lot of people have welcomed officers being in the village and chatting; SOCIALLY DISTANCED of course!

Waste Carriers Licences

Anyone who handles waste must take all reasonable steps to ensure that it's managed properly.

If you're operating a waste carrier business, you must have a licence from the Environment Agency to do so.

The handling of waste includes the process of producing, importing, keeping, storing, transporting, treating or disposing of it.

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If, as a resident, you are arranging for your household waste to be collected it is strongly recommended that you follow the **S.C.R.A.P.** code to ensure you are employing the correct tradesmen. You retain responsibility for the waste, and therefore if it is found to have been fly-tipped you will also be fined.

- S** - Suspect all waste carriers; do not let them take your waste until they have proven themselves to be legitimate. A professional waste carrier should happily answer reasonable questions.
- C** - Check that a waste carrier is registered on the Environment Agency's website.
- R** - Refuse any unexpected offers to have your rubbish taken away. If you suspect that someone who you have spoken to will be disposing of waste illegally, report them to the Environment Agency.
- A** - Ask what will happen to your rubbish and seek evidence that it is going to be disposed of appropriately.
- P** - Paperwork must be obtained: a proper invoice, waste transfer note or receipt, including a description of the waste being removed and the waste carrier's contact details.

Tom Biltcliffe

Communications & Engagement Officer (Economy & Environment)

Corporate Resources

Doncaster Council



SPEED OPERATIONS

Speed operations have been completed on Urban Road and Old Hexthorpe. We do speeds op's every month, but this can be in Hexthorpe or Balby area when possible.

- 8th August* Urban Road – 28 Vehicles checked
 – 1 vehicle doing 37 mph stopped and ticket issued.
- 9th September* Urban Road – afternoon 39 Vehicles checked
 – No vehicles speeding.
- 2nd October* Old Hexthorpe 9 vehicles checked over a 40 min period
 – Average speed 18 – 22 mph.

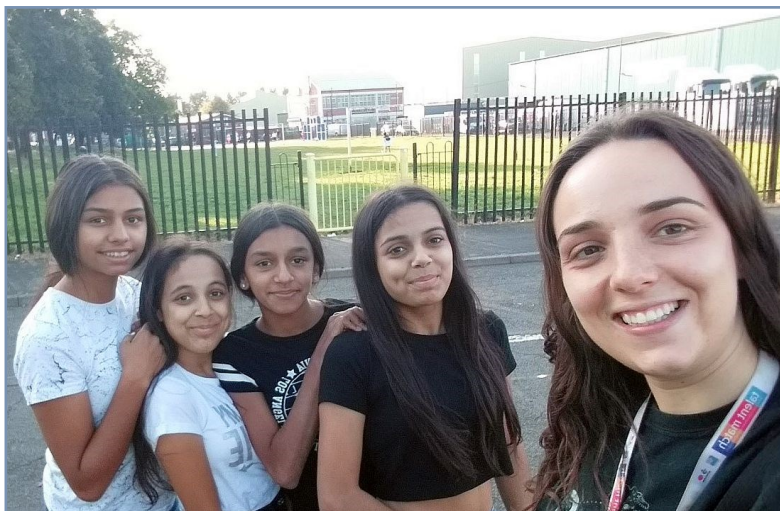
Emma

PCSO Emma Langstaff 8073

Central Neighbourhood Team

Street Youth Work in Hexthorpe

Youth Work is now counted as an essential service under the National Youth Agency's guidelines in relation to Covid-19. This means that The Youth Association's youth workers are back out on the streets of Hexthorpe, engaging with young people.



The Youth Association's work in Hexthorpe aims to make a positive impact on young people's lives by engaging them in street-based work and activities which can help them to develop their skills, build their self-confidence and encourage them to identify personal goals and aspirations and make progress in achieving them.

Since being back, youth workers have been doing a number of things in the area, including a consultation

with young people, looking at how they feel about their area and what they would want to do to improve it. Youth workers have also been giving out information to young people and families around how to apply for settlement status.

Finally, youth workers have been engaging in conversations with young people about Covid-19, reminding them of the new rules, asking how they feel about them and how this may impact them going forward.

We intend to keep our presence as much as possible in Hexthorpe, working in accordance with the National Youth Agencies guidelines. (For more information on these guidelines see <https://nya.org.uk/>

Ellie Rogers (Youth Worker)

The Story of the Hexthorpe Schools

The Editor is in the process of writing the story of the Hexthorpe Schools. There is still time if anyone has any memories of their schooldays that could be included.

Please make contact through the Hexpress Contact on page 2.

There are two extracts, in this issue, from the Junior School log book in the early 19th century when Mr Smith was the headmaster.

See pages 8 and 11

A Warning and Frustrations and Complaints

A helpful and important Warning: *A message sent by Andy Ireland (Police, PCSO, Central Doncaster)*

There have been a number of reported incidents especially within this area of Doncaster, whereby unknown males have been attending vulnerable persons' property (mainly elderly) and requesting money, in exchange for clearing guttering and or fixing roof tiles. The work is not being completed and in some cases, large amounts of money are being stolen from victims without their knowledge by these males.

If you are approached by any person at your home stating they can clear or fix your property for you and you have not prearranged this via a respectable company, please report this to police via 101 or online. DO NOT allow them to carry out work or give them money. If you are fearful or feel threatened at any time, please call 999. Let us put a stop to these thieves!! Make sure you report any incidents to the police and allow us to find these males and stop their deceitful antics!!

Some readers' frustrations and complaints

The policy of the Hexpress has always been to highlight the achievements, the positive things that are happening in our community and the much good work that many people give to us all. However, an increasing number of readers have contacted us by phone or via our website regarding matters that are of deep concern to them. We feel that we must highlight these.

One is the danger on our roads.

Motorists and cyclists are aware of the number of people – young and old – who either gather on the road or take little care in crossing.

'There is a serious accident just waiting to happen. Then we will get blamed', says one cyclist.

One very dangerous place identified is the road junction just outside the 'Junction'. Speeding cars ignoring the road markings and pedestrians on the road are said to be the biggest problem there.

Another source of concern is cars ignoring the 20 mph, especially on Old Hexthorpe.

'The speed bumps seem to be a challenge for some who just take off as they go over them. If they want to damage their cars then that is their choice. However, they could seriously injure any passing pedestrian', says one resident.

A more recent concern is the number of lorries that are using Old Hexthorpe to take ballast to the new 'Pullman Green' site. One resident counted 5 lorries going by his gate in one ten-minute period.

'The empty ones certainly were in a great hurry! The road is a residential one. It is not built for heavy, industrial vehicles. Surely they should take the nearest route to the main road and not drive all the way up Ramsden Road and Old Hexthorpe.'

There is at least one positive note – the lorries can bring dirt and mud on to the road, but a road cleaning vehicle regularly cleans the roads next to the site.

The other concern is the 101 number.

In the warning message from Andy Ireland we are told to ring 101 if we experience bogus

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callers at our doorsteps. However, a number of people have said that it is extremely difficult to get a reply on that number. Those who have concerns about large groups gathering or large parties being held in houses or back yards, contrary to present restrictions, are told to ring 101. Again, there have been difficulties. One person was so frustrated in not getting through to report such a party – a late, noisy and large gathering – that he dialled 999. He was told that it wasn't an emergency, and that he must ring 101!

A Response

We contacted Councillor Glyn Jones about these matters and he has sent us these helpful comments.



These are legitimate concerns, particularly about the HGV traffic movements along Old Hexthorpe and Ramsden Road.

I have reported this on numerous occasions to the Planning Department, who have been in touch with the site owners and manager. I am assured that instructions have been issued for them to follow a lesser intrusive route, but some HGV drivers are ignoring this.

Regarding the 20mph speed limits, the PCSO's regularly hold speed check sessions across the ward and I will ask them to conduct a session.

As for the 101 number, it is much quicker and easier to log complaints online with the South Yorkshire Police (SYP), who will get back to the individual if there is a need. SYP have acknowledged there is a problem with the telephone system and staffing levels and work to remedy both elements is underway.

<https://www.southyorks.police.uk/contact-us/report-something/>

Hexthorpe Junior School Log Book Extract June 1888

It is believed that the policy of allowing children - especially girls - to leave school after passing standard 4 causes many behavioural problems. They leave being only ten years old and go to work either out or at home. The boys run the streets and numbers of them become thieves. It seems wrong in either case and the raising of the standard would do away with the cruelty in one case and the bad policy in the other. Appealing to the parents of such children is of no avail and such would not send their children to school at all unless compelled. There have been numerous cases of theft by boys in Doncaster recently.

It would seem that Mr Smith was blaming not only the system for lack of discipline but also some of the parents. It is part of folk mythology that in 'our day' we all behaved at school and one was disciplined at school then parents doubled it on arrival at home! However, from this and other instances it shows that times don't change.

SHE CAUSED QUITE A STIR IN HEXTHORPE

Part 2 of the story of Miss Robinson (1906-1996)

We continue the account of the life of Miss Robinson. The first part is in Issue number 108 where she recalled her younger days in the hamlet of Levitt Hagg. In 1920 at the age of 14 her family moved to Hexthorpe. She related her Hexthorpe days to the Hexpress. It gives us an insight into the life of a family living here in the 1920's.

From the lovely description of her early days we have already been able to discern the themes that ran throughout her life - a simple lifestyle, independence, a strong family life and hard work. All these were based on a Christian foundation.



Source: <https://exploringtheunderbelly.wordpress.com/>

The family moved to a house in Laughton Road. Miss Robinson instantly caused quite a stir. That seems quite surprising as she was not by any stretch of the imagination an extrovert. She had already passed the examination for the Doncaster Girls High School and so had been a pupil there since she was eleven. Imagine the stir among the locals as she walked home through the streets

in her uniform wearing a boater hat!

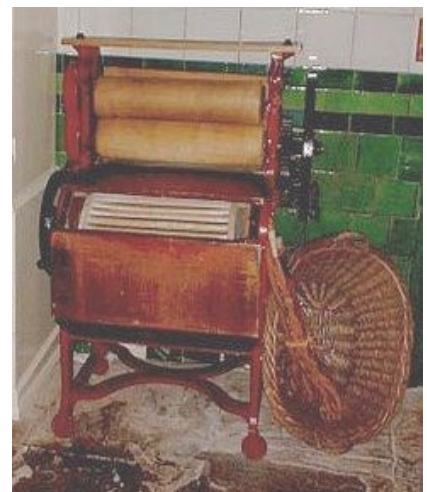
However, when she was fifteen her parents removed her from school, as she was needed to help at home. The number of children in the family had increased to eight and ultimately nine. Think of it - nine children and two parents living in the terrace house in Laughton Road. Sometimes an auntie and two cousins came to stay!

Her work at home consisted of preparing meals. Breakfast covered two hours, as people went out to work or to school at different times. Then came lunch, tea and a laid-out supper.

On Monday mornings the Sunday shoes and suits (whatever has happened to them?) were laid out on the stairs - the shoes had to be polished and the suits dusted down and then put away.

There was washday and cleaning. Again, what has happened to wash days? Today dirty clothes are put in to the machine, a button is pressed and a hour or so later the clothes are clean; another button maybe and they are almost dry. Then comes the ironing. For her it would have been a day's work before any thought of ironing. The copper boiler with a fire underneath, a scrubbing board, the wash tub with a peg leg, the heavy mangle, and during the winter months rooms full of steaming, drying clothes! That was the work of the 15 year old girl.

Her life was built around the home and the Primitive Methodist Chapel. The family were members there. There is a great picture, on page 10, of some of those who attended in the 1920's. Miss Robinson is on the front row. The picture mainly shows the young adults who attended the chapel.



Source: Wallington © National Trust / Donald Bovill & Susan McCormack

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When the Second World War came, now in her 30's, she had to find work outside the home. For a brief time she worked as a house-keeper for a Methodist minister in Sussex, but soon returned to Hexthorpe. She became a clerical officer in the Food Office in Doncaster. When the rationing of food was over Miss Robinson moved into the DHSS offices. She worked there until her retirement in 1966.

Her mother died in 1946 and her father in 1964. For many years Mr Robinson stood as a candidate in the elections for local councillors. He stood as an Independent, but never was elected. She looked after her mother and then her father, combining her work and her care for them.

She moved into a flat at the top of Urban Road, where she continued to live a quiet, simple, yet purposeful life. Some youngsters knew her as 'Auntie Nellie who has no telly'. As we have seen, her family was central to her life, not only her immediate family but also her extended family. No birthday was ever missed; she had a birthday book in which were dozens, perhaps hundreds, of names and dates of birth. A work colleague said that she had received a birthday card each year for the last thirty years since Miss Robinson retired.

She was a generous lady, read extensively and said that,

'this 80th birthday party is the first one I have ever had. I don't want there to be feast when I am gone. I am ready to go to heaven now, my old friends are there.'

Almost until her death, Miss Robinson attended the worship services at the Methodist church twice every Sunday. We repeat what we wrote in the first article,

'We loved to sing about the future life in heaven, 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 there is now.' She added 'I remember we used to sing, ' Oh, the joy when I awake within the palace of the King. I shall see him face to face and tell the story saved by grace.'



Front Row: Miss Robinson is second from the right.

Third Row: Her mother is fourth from the right. Back Row: Her father is first on the right.

GOOD NEWS FROM THE JUNCTION



The Junction will be reopening its doors for the first time in over six months at the beginning of October, albeit in a somewhat different way from where we were pre-pandemic.

We are starting very cautiously, with three two hour sessions per week on an appointment-only basis. A full risk assessment has been completed, and we will constantly keep the situation under review as to whether and when we can expand our activities. My thanks to the volunteers who have expressed their willingness to return.

Physically, The Junction looks like a very different place too - on the inside, at least. The Management Committee have taken the opportunity of a prolonged shutdown to undertake some much-needed refurbishment and redecoration, and it now looks much cleaner and fresher than before.

Our old premises at 61 Hexthorpe Road have also been refurbished, and "United", a young people's drop-in, will be taking place there over the next few months three times a week, staffed by Chloe Craven, the former Family Worker at The King's Cross Church, Jessica Dienst, the current Family Worker, and myself.

We hope and pray that the coronavirus situation will allow us to make progress towards offering more services to the Hexthorpe community.

Lynn Petersen – The Junction Manager

Hexthorpe Junior School Log Book Extract January 1886

A boy from the Grammar School applied to be a pupil teacher.

The following are specimens of his work.

Arithmetic: Four very simple Fifth Standard sums e.g. 3 eighths multiplied by 11 eighteenths. He got only one correct.

Geography: next to none.

Grammar: very fair.

General English: very bad indeed.

History: he answered one question out of thirty given, e.g. When did the Danes first come in force to England? What was the Witan? Bretwalda? Name the kings from Egbert to William first. What king divided the kingdom of a England with Canute? What Kings from Egbert to William the first were murdered?

I shall not recommend him for appointment.

Anyone care to apply?!

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sad if the new housing development meant that there would be no trace left of the old Plant Works.

There is a monument in memory of Patrick Stirling outside Patrick Stirling Court in Barnstone Street. It was moved there from the town end of Hexthorpe Bridge; it is a reminder of the early days of the coming of the railways to Hexthorpe. The old Plant site is usually now referred to as the old Bombardier site. However the old Plant as we know it must not be forgotten. It was founded in 1853. It is part of our heritage.

We suggest that there should be some recognition of the many workers who helped to build the locomotives and carriages that came out of the Plant on the new estate. Somewhere, perhaps at the entrance there could be a reminder of those who once worked there. Perhaps roads, crescents etc could be named after locomotives built at the Plant.



It is pleasing that the site name has a railway connection. It is to be hoped that there is to be further recognition of our rich railway heritage.

What do we know about Countryside Properties?

It is a UK housebuilding and urban regeneration company, operating mainly in London and the South East of England, and with a presence in the North of England.

Greenwich Millennium Village Limited, a joint venture between Countryside and Taylor Wimpey, won a government-initiated competition in February 1998 to transform the former site of Europe's largest gas works into a sustainable new community. It is one of the largest regeneration projects in Europe.

The Village won a sustainability award at the RIBA Housing Design Awards and a Civic Trust Award in 2004. 2020 marks a significant milestone in the history of Greenwich Millennium Village. Countryside says,

'It's been 20 years since the first residents arrived and few could believe that the development would become the diverse, convenient and much-loved place it is today.'

The Street Planters

In the Balby and Hexthorpe Rose Sheet that our Councillors have distributed it states that one of the activities included in the 'Safer Streets Fund' bid is:

Removal of brick planters, known to be the source of many ASB (Anti-Social Behaviour) reports. This has already started with the removal of the planter at the top of Kirk Street. Unfortunately, this has proved to be necessary.

The following extract from the Doncaster Evening Post of June 1978 gives food for thought:

Already £5million has been spent on the giant face-lift. You have to leave the main road and go down the side streets to see the pleasant pedestrianised areas and planted trees...In Sheardown Street, workmen are completing a traffic-free scheme which incorporates flower boxes and seats.