

THE HEXPRESS

YOUR FREE HEXTHORPE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

No. 112 May 2021

thehexpress.co.uk

Where do you think you live?

Once again Hexthorpe has been in the news. The Doncaster Free Press reported recently:

'Police officers flooded Hexthorpe this morning and smashed a number of drug factories in the Abbot Street, Spansyke Street and Stone Close Avenue areas. It is the latest in a series of drug raids on properties in the area in the last few months with thousands of pounds of drugs seized. Residents have reported heavy police activity in the area throughout the day as police raided a number of properties in the multi-agency operation.'



We often read similar reports. We see much anti-social activity in the streets where we live. We experience totally unacceptable behaviour. We read and hear what people from outside say about our area. We can understandably become despondent and often justifiably join in the criticism ourselves.

We do not want to minimise the enormous problems we face day by day.

However, *'Where do you think we live?'* There is another story to tell. We want to remind ourselves in this

Hexpress that there is still much to be proud of. Why not occasionally walk around the Hexthorpe area and try to view things with, as it were, a different pair of spectacles on. We share some of the positives you might encounter.

Probably most importantly, there are many wonderful, caring people in our community.

You will know that to be true from our experiences during the past year. We have

some great open spaces - the Hexthorpe Flatts, including the Dell, the banks of the River Don, the Crimpsall Ings. The community has a rich, world famous, industrial heritage - see the new road signs.

We have a wonderful staff at our Hexthorpe School that has put themselves on the frontline for all our families during the pandemic. We have community groups that are thriving. There are some striking buildings. You can add to the list.



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

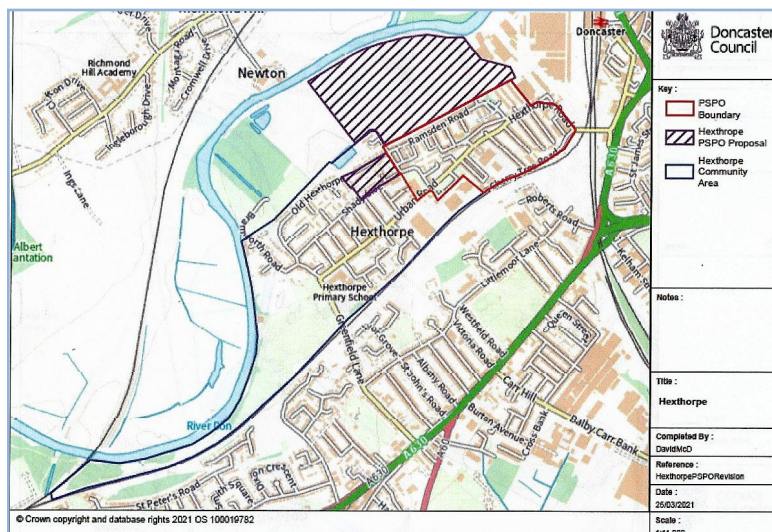
11.00am Parish Mass

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.

Hexthorpe Public Spaces Protection Order Consultation

Residents and businesses are encouraged to take part in a consultation on the proposed extension and variation to an existing Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) which is a measure being used to tackle anti-social behaviour within Hexthorpe. The consultation is open until **6th June 2021** and gives people the chance to have their say on the proposed PSPO for Hexthorpe.

The current PSPO is due to expire on the 10th August 2021 and it is currently proposed that the Council will extend this by the maximum period allowed of 3 years and make some changes to the PSPO.



The proposed changes are:

- To combine the two previous prohibitions about outside alcohol consumption into a single prohibition that is easier to understand
- To provide some more detail to the previous prohibition about intoxicating substances so it is clearer what is included
- To increase the geographical area covered by this Public Space Protection Order

The aim of the proposed PSPO is to address a number of specific ongoing concerns related to anti-social behaviour within parts of Hexthorpe. The PSPO is only one part of the approach used by the Council and its partners to deal with such behaviour.

If introduced, in brief, we are proposing to include the following behaviours in the PSPO applying to everyone in the designated parts of the Hexthorpe area and at all times of day and night:

- Groups congregating
- Playing street games on the public highway and pavements
- People making excessive noise (in public areas)
- Use of the play area and MUGA on Urban Road from 21:30 to 07:00
- Consumption of alcohol
- Use of legal highs
- Possession of opened alcohol containers in a public place

The Council would like to receive as much feedback as possible on the proposed PSPO. Therefore, you are invited to contribute to the consultation process by completing the survey at www.doncaster.gov.uk/services/get-involved/consultations and selecting 'Hexthorpe Public Space Protection Order.'

If you are unable to complete the survey directly online or have any questions regarding the consultation then please contact us via communitiescentral@doncaster.gov.uk or by calling Doncaster Council on 01302 736000 and we will respond to you.

Two Hexthorpe built locomotives return home

No. 251 and Green Arrow Locomotives are now on display in the new Danum Gallery, Library and Museum. Both of these were built in the Plant Works in Hexthorpe.

To think that Hexthorpe men contributed to the building of these magnificent machines! Mayor Ross Jones said that the exhibition will highlight the enormous contribution that Doncaster has made to the rail industry.

The Great Northern Railway 'Atlantic' locomotive No. 251 was built in the Plant Works in 1902. It was in service for 45 years, retiring in 1947.



Green Arrow was also manufactured at the Hexthorpe Plant Works in 1936. It was withdrawn from service in 1962. It is the last surviving British 2-6-2 tender locomotive. It was designed by Sir Nigel Gresley. He also designed the record-breaking locomotives Flying Scotsman, named after the service from Edinburgh to London, and Mallard. Both also were built in Hexthorpe in 1923 and 1938 respectively.



Both locomotives are displayed on purpose built tracks. You can see them through a virtual tour of the building. This can be accessed on www.heritagedoncaster.org.uk/dglam

It is hoped that the building will be open to the public later this year, subject to Covid regulations.

What a rich heritage we have!

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Some New Photographs

We have received some interesting and superb photographs of Hexthorpe life in the early 20th century. They have been sent to us by Julie Bridges. Here is one of them. We shall show others in further issues of the Hexpress. Julie writes,

“My great grandparents, Samuel and Ethel Walker lived at 7, Beaconsfield Road and my grandparents, William and Hilda Bridges lived at 19 Eden Grove. Samuel was born in Stamford and worked as a house painter. He married and moved to Hexthorpe, beginning work as part of the painting team at the Plant. My great grandfather is the left one in the apron, standing in front of the Flying Scotsman.”





Bird Photographs by Mr Bell



Newton Farm – view from the Crimpsall



The King's Cross Church



St Jude's Church

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The Manor House



Barge on the River Don



The Dell, Hexthorpe Flatts

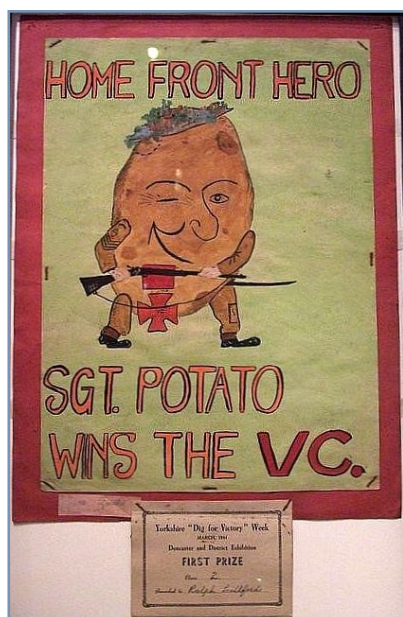


The Dell Café Garden



Across the Bowling Green from the Dell Cafe

Ralph Lillford (1932 - 2019)



Ralph was born in Beaconsfield Road, Hexthorpe in 1932. His home was only a few yards from the Hexthorpe Junior School. He first won recognition for his artwork at the age of nine in 1941, winning a Yorkshire all-schools 'Dig for Victory' poster competition with Sergeant Potato - a work which is now included in the National Army Museum. He became a Professor of Fine Art in the Richmond College, an American International University in London.

He attended Doncaster School of Art and Royal College of Art, 1954-7, after National Service in the Army in the Suez Canal Zone, 1952-4. He began teaching at Barnes Secondary School, 1957-60, followed by several other several appointments. He was appointed to Richmond College in 1983.

He visited Northern Ireland several times in the 1970's and witnessed the deteriorating situation at first hand. His provocative work led him into trouble with both paramilitary organisations and the British Army. At one point he was chased and stoned on the Creggan Estate and detained by armed men in balaclavas, because of his insistence on making an independent record of the troubles in Northern Ireland. This put him at odds with both Irish and English forces. Once he was arrested and his paintings confiscated.

In 2006 this work was the subject of 'Painting the Troubles', an exhibition at the National Army Museum. As an ex-soldier, his work examined a society torn apart by hostility, segregation and conflict.

In the late 1980s he began trying to get permission to enter the underground worksite of the Channel Tunnel. He wanted to record what was at the time the world's largest and most expensive and daring construction project, finally completed in 1994. He finally gained access and his images of this shadowy, dangerous world are striking ones, especially the giant boring machine which chewed its way through the undersea rock.

A stained-glass interpretation of his 1991 painting of the French tunnel-boring machine held a prominent place in the artist's home. The original was bought by the Queen!

One of Ralph's subjects for his painting was the English composer Edward Elgar, composer of Land of Hope and Glory, among many other



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works. A larger version of Ralph's portrait of Elgar is included in a new music centre built in Los Angeles. The Elgar portrait was sponsored by Kazakhstan and Ralph travelled to Paris to meet Kazakhstan's ambassador and presented him with the portrait.

On his retirement Ralph went to live in Australia, where he died in 2019. Among the tributes to him was this, *'Ralph had a keen interest in current affairs, combined with a stubborn streak and an ability to get his foot in the door. This has seen Ralph carry his sketchbook and paint brushes into situations ranging from the humorous to the hair raising and to countries from Russia to India. He painted in Crete, Russia, Egypt, America, Ireland and on the European continent. His work can be seen displayed at the Hermitage and Pushkin Museums in Russia, the National Army Museum, the Victoria and Albert Museum and the Imperial War Museum.'*

All this from his humble beginnings in Beaconsfield Road!

Local News in Brief

The Birdman of The Hexthorpe Flatts

As you walk around Hexthorpe Flatts Park, you may well come across a man with a camera and a pocket full of bird seed, and you can be sure that a robin will not be far away. Mr Bell, who lives in Balby, has always been interested in photography. This was taken to a new level when the Yorkshire Wildlife Park opened and he and his wife bought annual tickets. He developed an interest in taking pictures of animals at the Wildlife Park, and bought top-of-the-range cameras to help him with taking good quality photos. He displayed his photos through Facebook, and had people looking at his work from across the nations of the world, including Japan, Russia, the United States and Germany

The Covid pandemic put paid to his visits to the Wildlife Park, and sadly his wife went into a care home late last year. However, nothing daunted, Mr Bell put his photographic skills to use by pursuing his interest somewhat closer to home, taking photos of the swans on the River Don, and robins, with the occasional chaffinch, in the park. He estimates that he has taken several thousand photos of these birds since December last year, when he first started on this new venture. Some of these find their way on to Facebook. The reach of the Hexthorpe birds is not quite as far as that of the Wildlife Park animals, but still stretches across Europe, being viewed from Norway, Holland and Spain.

In Mr Bell, it would appear, we have our very own Birdman of Hexthorpe Flatts Park
Lynn Petersen

Easter Event in Windle Road



Michele Boardman reports:

"Windle Road had their belated Easter event on the 10th April. We held an Easter egg hunt for the children had our raffle and Easter bonnet and window decoration competition. We did have more planned, but the good old British weather put paid to that."

Here is a picture of the children with their prizes.

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Covid: Test Centre and Vaccination Programme

It is good to see the test centre situated in Hexthorpe. Also it is re-assuring to hear that so many of us have taken up the offer of the vaccine. If it is your turn, the advice is - please take up the offer for your own and the community's safety.

We are sure that we all are a little braver than the poor fellow below.



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Progress on the new Pullman Green Site



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Sculpture in the Dell

The Friends of Hexthorpe Flatts Park have previously mentioned the ‘snake’ sculpture that was situated near the entrance of the Dell – ‘does anyone have a photograph of it?’, we were asked. There is the possibility of reproducing it. This has prompted April, one of our readers, to ask if anyone else remembers the bust of William Shakespeare. This was on a plinth. April believes it was situated on the other side of the moat just opposite the main steps down to the bottom lawn. Again, it would be good if anyone else has a photograph or any information.

An Appreciation

Sadly, we have to report the death of Elizabeth Coyne. Elizabeth has been a most faithful deliverer of the Hexpress from almost the very beginning. Until almost the end, she insisted that she must deliver the papers to her streets. We shall miss not only her contribution to the Hexpress, but also meeting and greeting her on the bus or around the streets. She was always cheerful, despite her increasing weakness in recent years.

Very soon, when some of the houses in Pullman Fields are occupied, we shall need some more distributors. Also a few of the regular ones are increasing in years!

A Request from Australia

Michael Howie from Australia writes –

‘I am researching James William and Susannah Beaumont. Their sixth child emigrated to Australia in 1911. James and Susannah were among the fatalities at the Hexthorpe Railway disaster of 1887. Their connection to the railway disaster has been an unfolding story for us and we would welcome anything that you are able to contribute. The spread in the Leeds Mercury newspaper makes harrowing reading. At least two of their three sons (Walter and Percy) became railway employees. I was wondering if a plaque, or a memorial remembering the victims, may have been erected.’



We have been able to direct Michael to earlier issues of the Hexpress. They have some details of the accident. You can find them by visiting www.thehexpress.co.uk. Click on past issues and look at Issue 76 Dec 2004, Issue 85 Dec 2008 and Issue 100 July 2017. Michael has sent us a photograph of James and Susanna’s gravestone in Sheffield cemetery. It is interesting thought as to why there is no memorial to the disaster.

The Cost of the Hexpress

Every black and white issue of the Hexpress costs £500 to produce 1,800 copies. Occasional ones, like this issue, need coloured photographs – they can cost up to £200 more. The mathematicians among you can see that a black and white single copy costs around 28 pence each. Over the years we have been sustained by grants and sponsorship from various sources. We continue to seek these, but it is becoming increasingly difficult. We would appreciate any ideas, particularly in the area of sponsorship, of how we can continue a newspaper that we know, from comments made to us, is much appreciated by many of you.

The Crimpsall

We have another photograph taken from the Crimpsall. We had hoped to have an article

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about the Crimpsall and its possibilities. That will now be in the next edition.



The Latest Junction News

As I read back to what I wrote in October, I have a certain sense of "deja vu". We have been shut for most of the year due to the national Coronavirus restrictions coming into force again, and as I write, we are only in our second week of reopening, in a very similar format to previously, with three sessions of appointments per week. Hopefully as restrictions are eased still further we will be able to start operating more as a drop-in centre again. In the meantime, the Management Committee have engaged a consultant to undertake a review as to how The Junction can best serve the Hexthorpe community going forward, and it may be that the work of The Junction will look somewhat different by the end of this year.

Despite the restrictions we were delighted to be able to hold two outdoor celebrations, for Christmas and for Easter. Revd Stephen Clark and Revd Jon Bellfield came and spoke to us on these occasions, and it was wonderful to be able to sing in the open air! Unfortunately the circumstances meant that we were unable to enjoy a meal together, or to move round and chat to one another, but hot drinks and mince pies and Christmas cake or hot cross buns were served.

I am so looking forward to The Junction being fully operational again in whatever form this might take, but in the meantime, if you feel I can be of assistance, please contact me on 07814 899658, send an email to thejunction20@yahoo.com or a message through Facebook: The Junction - TKCC.

Lynn Petersen

A plea for help

Hi everyone

I am an Iraqi citizen. I lost my passport in March of this year. If anyone finds it will you please inform the Hexpress.

The Hexpress will then put you in touch with me. I very much appreciate your help.

Ahmed Hamad

The Hexpress contact details are on page 2

