

# THE HEXPRESS

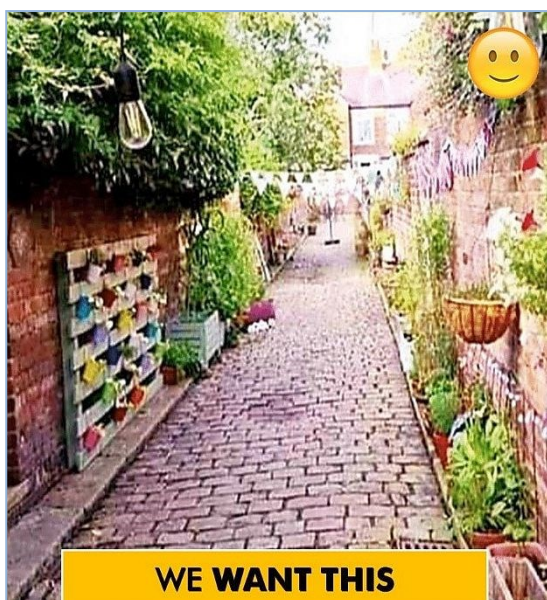
YOUR FREE HEXTHORPE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

No. 115 May 2022

thehexpress.co.uk

## Love Where We Live

*“Dream Big. Start Small. Act Now.” Robin S. Sharma*



“Love Where We Live - this is a proposal from and for the neighbours of Hexthorpe; it is an invitation to all residents of our community to work together to make our neighbourhood a place we can all take pride in.”

These are the words of Luz Welman, a Hexthorpe resident, who heads up this initiative. The project is financed by Doncaster Council and will initially start in Sheardown Street, Crimpsall Road and Mutual Street.

All neighbours in these streets were visited and invited to an Opening Day held at The Junction, 28 Hexthorpe Road. Those who attended had the opportunity to express their concerns and suggest possible ways to tackle serious problems, such as littering and fly-tipping. Also, they were asked what

needs to be done to make Hexthorpe streets greener, cleaner and more beautiful.

Luz says,

*“As locals, we started this project because we recognise the close relationship between environment and quality of life. We hope that by working together, Council and residents, in improving our surroundings, we will make Hexthorpe more attractive, safer and friendlier. In fact, several studies have demonstrated that a clean environment positively impacts people’s physical and mental health, as well as their behaviour, giving them more impulse to act on to keep it always clean. For all of these reasons, we are kindly inviting you to be part of this amazing transformation.*

*We know there are wonderful things about Hexthorpe such as location, architecture and history, however, we believe there are still many things we can improve, so please join us. If you are interested and want to be part of this project come to The Junction and talk to Lynn Petersen to find out more. We need and welcome people of all ages, nationalities and abilities, both individuals and families, because working together we can achieve amazing things.”*

Friday 3rd June 2022  
**The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee**  
Hexthorpe Park  
12 - 2pm  
Bring Your Own Picnic & Blanket  
Prizes for Best Dressed Jubilee Outfit, Hat or Crown  
Games & Prizes

## WHO'S WHO

### Local Councillors

Sophie Liu Tel. 07981 869 276

Glyn Jones Tel. 01302 816881

### Methodist Minister

Rev Jon Bellfield Tel. 07766397708

### Parish Priest

### Hexthorpe Police Community Officer

Sergeant Steve Roberts: Tel: 01302 385339

### Hexthorpe Police Community Support Officer

PCSO Emma Langstaff: Tel. 01302 736930

## WEEKLY EVENTS

### Under The Crossing @ The King's Cross Church

#### Monday

3.30-5.00pm Mini Cruz (Key stage 1)

5.30-7.30pm Mega Cruz (Key stage 2)

#### Tuesday

9.15-11.00am SARA Group for Parents and Kids (0-3)

7.00-9.00pm Youth Group

**You are invited on any Sunday to the Worship Services at The King's Cross Church**  
10.30am and 6.00pm

### 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.

### The Junction

The Junction is open on:

- Monday.
- Tuesday 10.00am to 1.45pm and 2.15pm to 4.15 pm,
- Thursday 10.00am to 1.00pm and 1.30pm to 4.00pm.

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.

### 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)

**Contact:** 01302 340346

The Hall is available for hire for parties and other special events.

#### Sunday Services

10.00am Morning Prayer

11.00am Parish Mass

**Any letters, articles, adverts contact:**

thehexpress.co.uk or Donald 01302 852521

*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.*

## Update From Friends of Hexthorpe Flatts Park

**We have arranged for two bands to play in the bandstand in The Dell in the summer - Markham Main Colliery Band on 21 August and Armthorpe Elmfield Band on 4 September. These will be free to enter events and it will be great to see the bandstand in full use again.**



The Park has applied for a Green Flag award this year. We are hopeful that it will be successful as there has been significant improvement since it was last entered in 2020.

The Friends group is intended to bring the local community and all park users together in an effort to bring forward improvements to the security, facilities and physical appearance of Hexthorpe Park. This could be through:

- Acting as a pressure group to get things done
- Practical work to improve the park, such as new planting and gardening
- Fundraising for improvements
- Putting on events, big and small
- Engaging with other local people

We hold regular one-hour meetings every second Tuesday of each month at Travis Gardens Community Hall. The next one is on Tuesday 10 May 2022. All are welcome and so if you are interested please come along as we are always looking for new volunteers. You can also contact us online @hexthorpepark or at hexthorpepark@gmail.com with any ideas, questions or suggestions.

## Update From The Junction

We are continuing to see people entering the premises, some for a social time of coffee and chat or a game of pool, but others with specific issues. The Stronger Community Officers, who are now based at The Junction, also have people coming to see them, and we have regular visits from an employment adviser. The Councillors' surgeries, on the fourth Friday of each month, are continuing, as are our regular sessions with Migrant Action and the midwife's appointments every Wednesday.

Our greenhouse is now well on the way to being repaired in readiness for another season of vegetable growing and, hopefully, cooking. We have continued to cook on a fortnightly basis, albeit more baking over the last month or so as the vegetable supplies are coming to an end.

We have been much encouraged by the offer of a sewing and knitting group, which has attracted a lot of interest, on Thursday afternoons. Do come along for a time of getting together, being creative and eating cake! On the strength of its popularity, I have been granted the money for, and have purchased, a sewing machine of our own.

As we did last year, we were able to celebrate Easter in the open air on Easter Saturday, with a service in the back yard (thanks to Revd Jon Bellfield for leading), followed by hot drinks and hot cross buns.

We are always delighted to welcome new people, either for coffee and a friendly chat, or for more specific help, at 28 Hexthorpe Road on Mondays and Tuesdays (10am - 1.45pm, then 2.15 - 4.15pm) or Thursdays (10am - 1pm, 1.30 - 4pm). Or if you want to get in touch, please ring 01302 349341 or email thejunction20@yahoo.com *Lynn Petersen*

# News of Pullman Green

Hexthorpe was an area in need of major regeneration following a period of significant decline in the wake of the closure of the Plant Works, with unemployment 25% higher than the national average. Countryside Partnerships purchased the property in 2019 and subsequently obtained planning approval for a mixed tenure scheme of 671 private, rented, and affordable homes in 2020.

Pullman Green is a successful example of a major brownfield regeneration project tackling significant development constraints such as historic asbestos, overhead power cables and ecological mitigation. In addition to the housing development, the scheme also provides 10 hectares of public open space and ecological areas, including a landscaped footpath alongside the River Don.

- Start date: 2020
- Total number of dwellings: 671
- Private homes for sale: 305
- Affordable houses: 166
- Private rented homes: 200

## Project challenges and how we overcame them

**Overhead power lines:** Two 66kv overhead cables cross the site on the northern boundary. These cables are to be re-routed below ground.

**Great Crested Newts:** The site houses great crested newts and a variety of bat and bird breeding habitats. We have retained a large area of the property as a natural habitat, with footpaths for public access.

**Land Allocation:** The site was primarily allocated as employment land, with small areas in the residential policy area and Green Belt. Given the emerging local plan policy and the extant permission, housing was seen to be acceptable on this site.

**Noise:** Industrial development bounds the site to the east which generates noise pollution. To mitigate against this, contributions have been made for the fitting of white noise receptors to plant. Additionally, the dwellings impacted by the noise pollution have been fitted with trickle vents and a noise attenuation buffer strip has been planted.

*Source: The Countryside Property website.*

## ***Hexpress Comment***

### ***The Crimpsall and Eden Grove***

*There is still no news to report on our request to the Council to hold discussions on the future of the Crimpsall. 6 months ago we were told a meeting would be arranged - we are still waiting. Have you ever been to walk around the Crimpsall? It is like being in another world - the fauna and wildlife is outstanding. The potential is still enormous. There needs to be a proper Management Scheme. The developers of Pullman Green have fenced off the old Eden Grove; that is designated as a public space on their plans. We look forward to progress being made!*

## Two views of Eden Grove

This is another photograph from the collection of Julie Bridges. It is of a large group watching what was probably a Punch and Judy show. It is taken on the Eden Grove Sports Ground that belonged to the Plant Works. It is also interesting to see the houses in Eden Grove in the background. The nearest row was the oldest - now replaced by bungalows. It is a superb snapshot of some of the simple pleasures of Hexthorpe life – around 1930, we believe. There are many people there and yet it is so clear that some can still be identified.



Here is another picture of Eden Grove, on one of the occasions when the whole of the playing area was covered with flood water. In the background can be seen the old Plant Works. That is where the new housing - Pulman Field - is now being built.

Eden Grove is designated on the building plans as a 'public space'. Originally, there was to be a new club House and Playing fields - but those plans have long since been abandoned.



## The Old Hexthorpe Pinfold and a Mortuary 1900

This article from the *Doncaster Chronicle* is fascinating. It gives us a picture of the area around the entrance to the Flatts Park in 1900. It has been sent to us by William Bell.

*The Balby-with-Hexthorpe Urban District Council are about to perpetrate as short sighted a piece of mischievous blundering as anyone can readily conceive to be possible. They are called upon to provide a mortuary, though why, heaven only knows!*

*Doncaster with between twenty and thirty thousand inhabitants had no mortuary until a few years ago and what Balby and Hexthorpe wants with one, it would puzzle most people to find out.*

*However, there the fact is, and it is no fault of the local authority that they have to build a 'dead-house' of some kind and somewhere.*

*It is their fault, however, that in the innate wisdom of their conclave they have resolved to bring it to the very doors of the best residential property the parish contains, and pitch it down close to the only recreation ground the people of Doncaster possess on the western side of the town - the healthiest side of all.*

*Not only so, but it is close to the highway, at the very gates of Hexthorpe Flatts, where scores of children and others pass every day in search of a playground and fresh air, both of which they got there!*

*But it happens that there is a pinfold at Old Hexthorpe, which is rarely used, not because there is no need of it, but that nobody knows where to find the Pinder. Cattle frequently stray off the Flatts and may be seen wandering along the roads, or, worse still, are discovered in neighbouring gardens. Happy thought!*

*Here was a possible site and nothing to pay for it. And so at this junction of the roads at Old Hexthorpe, just where the view is fresh and green, quaint and pretty, and where one is tempted to stay and look over the quarry gardens and cottage orchards - just here are those discriminating gentlemen going to block the view with a building which will be an eyesore in itself and clearly prejudicial to the whole neighbourhood in its associations.*

*Not only so, but it is practically a mile away from any part of the main road at Balby, and a long way from everywhere else, so to speak, save perhaps the river; but we can scarcely recall more than one or two instances where even in that case it could have been of any service.*

*The whole thing is out of proportion to start with and outrageously offensive and mistaken in the form and substance that the Urban District Council propose and, indeed, are proceeding to give it. All this with the approval apparently of the Medical Officer of Health - and Doncaster's best sanitorium under his very nose!*

It appears that the mortuary was never built. A pinfold was where stray animals were put. The Pinder was an official who was responsible for the pinfold. The Hexthorpe pinfold can be seen on the map - it was on the corner where the flats are now, opposite the school. Notice that the streets between Shadyside and Urban Road had not yet been built. Louis

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Webster, who was born in Gladstone Road in 1906, wrote in his memoirs that he had been able to see the Flatts from his front door. It was obviously a very rural scene - stray animals from the Flatts, cottage orchards and a 'quaint and pretty' view.



When 'The Hexthorpe Pinfold' was 'googled' we had a surprise. Pinfold and Old Hexthorpe appeared - but not as being in Hexthorpe. There was a house described as being in Pinfold Lane, Beesby, Alford. The name of the house was 'Old Hexthorpe'. Presumably, the original owners came from Hexthorpe and decided to remember their origins.



## **Hexthorpe Positive Action Group (PAG)**

Are you a Hexthorpe Resident or part of a local group?

Would you like to find out about activities in your area, share information or find out about funding opportunities?

Or you could even help to set up something new.

**Why not come along to the Positive Action Group?**

Held on the first Thursday of each month, 5.30pm at the Travis Garden Community Centre.

For information contact Neil Marshall on 07789065512 or [neilmarshall@doncaster.gov.uk](mailto:neilmarshall@doncaster.gov.uk)



The Magpie has a date with the Squirrel in Hexthorpe Flatts  
(Courtesy of our resident photographer William Bell)



Doncaster Plant

Photo copyright Julie Bridges Family Album

Another photograph from the collection of Julie Bridges.  
This shows Plant Works workers around the 1910's.



# **SPECIAL OFFER FOR NEW BOWLERS**

## **at the Hexthorpe based Doncaster Indoor Bowling Club**

The Doncaster Indoor Bowling Club is positioned right in the heart of Hexthorpe. The club opened on the 4 September 2001. It is the only National Standard six rink indoor bowling green within a radius of 17 miles - the only one in South Yorkshire. It provides excellent facilities - a six rink indoor bowling green and a large lounge and bar area which is open for all to obtain meals and drinks.

Here is a message from the club to all local residents:

We offer a chance for anyone to come and try their hand at indoor bowling by taking advantage of our FREE taster session.

We will provide you with bowls shoes, set of bowls and a qualified coach to instruct you on how to play the game and explain the rules. The sessions are approximately one hour long and the coach will be available to you for the full session.

Our taster sessions are totally FREE with no hidden charges. If you are interested in taking us up on the offer, then booking is essential.

Please call us on 01302 361600 to book your FREE session.  
Please state when booking that it is a taster session you require.

**Full membership** of the club entitles you to play in any event organised by the club. These include playing in our internal leagues, competitions, drives, shuffles, representing the club at Local, County and National level, friendly matches.

**Junior membership** is open to any person under 16 years of age, or under 18 years of age, if still in full time education. Junior Members have the same rights as a Full Member except that they cannot vote at any General Meeting or hold any office in the club.



The club has a National Standard six rink indoor bowling green. It hosts a number of notable national events, friendly matches and County as well as Club leagues in both summer and winter

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The Club has a large lounge and bar area where bar meals and drinks can be obtained.



The Club boasts excellent access facilities throughout the premises. We have disabled access to the green using the gutter ramp and two specialised bowls buggies for wheelchair bowlers.

# News in Brief

## Speeding

This is a message from Emma Langstaff (PCSO - Police Community Support Officer). We give it as an example of the responses and actions that result from officers listening to local residents.

*'On Tuesday 5 April, a local officer has conducted speed gun awareness on Shadyside, Hexthorpe. 24 vehicles were checked - there was no speeding detected.*

*On speaking with residents, it appears that there are some drivers who consistently drive over the limit. This manner of driving is putting pedestrians, property and other road users at risk.*

*Slow Down!'*

## Traffic Wardens seem to get younger these days!

In most areas there are always problems with car parking when school close in the afternoon. This can cause real danger to children and other road users.

At our Hexthorpe School, Police Community Support Officers, Emma Langstaff and Soneel Minhas have been encouraging pupils to make the school safer by acting as 'mini PCSOs'. The children have been designing their own car parking tickets to give to parents who are parking around the school. Lots of parents received positive tickets.

However, unfortunately, some 'not ok' parking tickets were also issued.

The 'mini PCSOs' have also looked at the phonetic alphabet and communications. They have completed role play calls to the police.



## A personal view from a reader - for discussion

*Have you ever tried reporting an incident or a crime to the Police? It was not an emergency and so you didn't use 999 but 101 as requested by the police. Recently I had this experience. I dialled 101 and was on the line for an hour at least and listened to the repeated apology that 'the lines are very busy' and was offered the alternative of giving my message online. I was unable to do that immediately, until after an hour of waiting on the phone. When I went online, I had to register and was asked numerous questions - in fact there were pages to complete. I never did get any response.*

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*I wonder how many people have tried to report a matter to the Police and have given up in frustration? I do understand that the demands on the police are great and responses to calls have to be prioritised, but how much crime goes unreported in the first place, because of the frustrations of contacting the police?*

*So much progress has been made over the years in technology, but wasn't it much more efficient to have a known police constable on a neighbourhood beat? The constable was known by local residents, regularly available; in return the local officer knew local villains! Who today knows the name of, or even recognises a police officer responsible for Hexthorpe?*

## **Good Friday**

After a Good Friday morning service the King's Cross Church held a walk of witness around Hexthorpe. A simple wooden cross was carried, reminding us all that it was the day when Jesus was crucified. At various points there were songs, Bible readings and explanations of the meaning of Good Friday.

## **Local Doncaster boxing club set to benefit from new sponsorship**

Local boxing club, Doncaster Plant Works, is set to benefit from a substantial £7,500 cash injection following sponsorship from local business partners, Countryside, the UK's leading mixed-tenure developer, Sage Housing, the UK's largest provider of newly built affordable housing and Sigma Capital Group with Simple Life Homes, who are each donating £2,500.

The three companies are working together in the area to build 671 high quality, new, two, three and four-bedroom homes on the Pullman Green development in Hexthorpe, close to the home of the boxing club.

Early in the development the partners heard about the boxing club which was set up by the workers at the Plant Works in the 1920s and what it meant to the local area and wanted to put something back into the community.

## **Support local businesses when you can**

We have been asked to highlight the following three local initiatives run by young adults.

### **DHP Jet Service**

Driveway Cleaning - Block Paving - Imprinted Concrete - Decking Cleaning - Tarmac Cleaning/Restoration - Driveway Sealing - Decking Stain and Oil - Imprinted Concrete Re colouring - Block Paving Sand and Seal - Patio Sealing.

07860137625 dhpjets@gmail.com dhpjetservices.co.uk

### **Samantha Fretwell - Beauty Enhancer**

For all your beauty needs. Lashes - Brows - Facials - Waxing.

Appointments available Tuesday - Thursday and Saturdays.

Based in Hexthorpe - find us on Facebook and Instagram.

### **The Dell Café**

This is situated at the entrance to Hexthorpe Flatts Park, with a wonderful view over the park. Enjoy a coffee or tea - cake of the day - lunches - afternoon teas - free range eggs for sale.

Open 9.30-3.00pm Monday - Friday and Saturdays 10.00-2.00pm.

Find us on Facebook to see our specials or to book a table.