

THE HEXPRESS

YOUR FREE HEXTHORPE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

No. 119 November 2023

thehexpress.co.uk

Picnic in the Park



This took place on a Sunday in August in the Hexthorpe Flatts Park. The highlight of the day were the performances of ‘Out of the Deep Blue’.

‘Waves wash Eko, a sentient Sea Giant, onto the shore. There he encounters little Violet. These two beings - an ancient creature, and a young girl - offer us their stories: an impactful dialogue around our earth’s climate emergency told through dance, movement and masterful puppeteering.

Ideal for children and family audiences. It is a story about the power of friendships and empathy that speaks to the world at large.’

Other activities included bug hunts, nature trail, leaf printing - all with Don Catchment Rivers Trust, face painting sport activities, enigma trails.



Photo by our resident photographer William Bell

WHO'S WHO

Local Councillors

Sophie Liu Tel. 07981 869 276

Glyn Jones Tel. 01302 816881

The Kings Cross Church

<https://thekingscrosschurch.org.uk>

Parish Priest

Fr. Richard Hume Tel. 01709 231326

Hexthorpe Police Community Officer

Sergeant Steve Roberts: Tel: 01302 385339

Hexthorpe Police Community Support Officer

PCSO Emma Langstaff: Tel. 01302 736930

WEEKLY EVENTS

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

Hexthorpe Community Engagement Meeting

This meets on the last Thursday of each month at 6.00pm in the Community Hall, St Jude's.

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

6.00--7.00pm HCE 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

The Junction

The Junction is open on:

- Monday.
- Tuesday 10.00am to 1.45pm and 2.15pm to 4.15pm,
- 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.

Any letters, articles, adverts contact:

thehexpress.co.uk or Donald 01302 852521

Some activities are taking place with perhaps variations of timings. Please make enquiries to the organisers, if in any doubt.

Are our roads safe?

Speed limits on the country's urban roads have been in the news recently. Rishi Sunak says he wants to stop "hare-brained" road calming and safety schemes, including 20 mph zones, to end what he says is a "war on motorists". The prime minister said he wanted to ensure such measures would no longer be "forced" on drivers.

There are 20 mph zones in Hexthorpe and so we wondered what our residents thought about these comments of the Prime Minister. We began by asking what people knew about the present speed restrictions on our Hexthorpe roads and if they had any comments to make about the safety of them. It makes for some interesting reading.



"I think that some of the roads in Hexthorpe are 20 mph, but I am not sure which ones."

"I think that the through roads like Urban Road, Shadyside and Old Hexthorpe are all 30 mph. I am not sure about anywhere else."

"Well, I never knew that before - Windle Road is in a 20 mph Zone. I have never seen the sign and I live there."

"I don't think that Pulman Green is a 20 mph zone because there are no 20 mph signs on the entry road."

"The roads that surely should have a 20 mph restriction or even less at certain times; are parts of Urban Road and Greenfield Lane They are very dangerous when the children are going to or leaving school. I don't think that there any speed restrictions, are there?"

"I think that only the roads that are bus routes have a 30 mph limit."

"I believe that in built up areas there is an automatic 30 mph limit. If there is any change to that, then there will be a road sign indicating it."

"I have no idea what the law says about those electric scooters. I do know that they whizz around both on the pavements and on the roads. I think that they are dangerous when they go fast because they are so silent. Do they have to have a licence or insurance to go on the roads? I don't know. Some even have children on them as they leave school."

"Is there any difference in what the law says about electric bikes and scooters?"

"There are different sizes of scooters used by those with disabilities. I think some are allowed to use the roads. The smaller ones sometimes have to do that, when there are no drop kerbs. It must be very dangerous for them. I have no idea what speed limits they have or whether they have to have insurance or a licence."

Continued on page 4

“It is time that Urban Road, particularly near to the school, and Greenfield Lane were resurfaced. The latter is full of potholes and is hazardous to drive on.”

“There has recently been a reappearance of off-road motor bikes. Two were racing other around Hexthorpe. Their racing circuit was around Old Hexthorpe, down Urban Road and back up Ramsden Road. One mounted the pavement for about 50 yards to avoid an oncoming car. Any pedestrian would have had no chance.”



We looked on various Government websites to find information that might be helpful to us.

Speed Limits

Speed limits of 20 mph are designed to reduce the severity of injuries suffered in accidents. The implementation of such schemes is the responsibility of local authorities. Some argue that 20 mph zones do not reduce the number of accidents, but others point out that they do indeed reduce the number of serious injuries.

- The only road in Hexthorpe that has a 30 mph speed restriction is the one through Hexthorpe Road, Urban Road and into Greenfield Lane as it goes over the bridge into Balby.
- Every other road coming off that main through road has a 20 mph zone sign. That means that the new estate of Pulman Green has a 20 mph limit.
- On the approaches to the school there are signs that switch on when the children are arriving or leaving school, These signs indicate a speed limit of 20mph.

Electric bikes

The government web site indicates that you can ride an electric bike only if you are 14 or over, as long as it meets certain requirements. These electric bikes are known as ‘electrically assisted pedal cycles’ (EAPCs). You do not need a licence to ride one and it does not need to be registered, taxed or insured.

However, an EAPC must show the maximum power output that should not exceed 250 watts, the motor’s manufacturer’s name, and the maximum speed of the bike.

If a bike meets the EAPC requirements it is classed as a normal pedal bike. This means you can ride it on cycle paths and anywhere else pedal bikes are allowed.

Electric Scooters

Currently, electric scooters can only be used on private land with the landowner’s permission. ***It is effectively illegal to use them on public roads, on pavements, in cycle lanes and in pedestrian-only areas.***

Electric scooters are currently classed as ‘powered transporters’ by the government and fall under the same laws and regulations that apply to all motor vehicles. This means that it is illegal to use them on pavements, in cycle lanes and in pedestrian-only areas. It would only be legal to use them on public roads if they could meet the same requirements as motor vehicles (e.g., in terms of insurance, tax, license, registration and vehicle construction), which in practice is virtually impossible.

The formulation of a law specifically covering electric scooters has been under discussion for some time. It appears that there may be some government moves to make them legal in the near future.

Mobility Scooters

You do not need a licence to drive a mobility scooter or powered wheelchair, but you may have to register it. Only certain types can be driven on the road.

Mobility scooters and powered wheelchairs come in 2 categories:

- Class 2: These are allowed to use the pavements but cannot be used on the road (except where there is not a pavement) They have a maximum speed of 4 mph. There is no need to register these vehicles.
- Class 3: These can be used on the road and have a maximum speed of 4 mph off the road and 8 mph on the road. These vehicles must be registered.

Allotment Update: Hexthorpe

Mears Group and Council staff create new starter allotment plot in Hexthorpe.

Earlier this month, officers from our sustainability unit within City of Doncaster council welcomed a dedicated team from Mears Group to the allotment site on Bramworth Road in Hexthorpe.

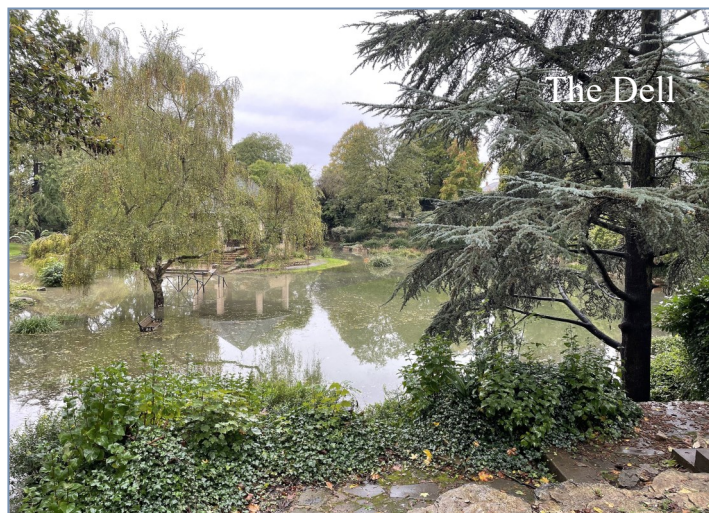
The aim of the day was to create a starter plot within the allotment site, which would allow prospective new tenants currently on the allotment waiting list, a chance to try their hand at food growing on the site.

The benefits of the scheme include helping aspiring gardeners to discover their passion for growing food, as well as encouraging the sharing of skills within the local community.

Our thanks go to the staff at Mears Group, who not only helped the team build the raised beds and clear all the overgrown rubbish from the area on the day, but also donated all the timber and top-soil required to create and fill the raised beds!



Recent floods in Hexthorpe



Spotlight on LUZ WELMANS

Reporter: Chris Branton

It seems a long time since I interviewed anyone for the Hexpress, life has been very hectic for us all and time has slipped by so fast.

However to get back to the article, last time some might remember I interviewed our local counsellors and started by saying that even though they don't actually live in Hexthorpe their lives were very much linked to our community. The lady who is in the limelight today does live in Hexthorpe, but was born thousands of miles away in Russia, she is incredibly multi-talented, and constantly on the go.

Her name is Luz Welmans. I quote from Luz

“In our neighbourhood we have so much diversity, and when I look around all I see are opportunities.”

Luz was born in Krasnodar, Russia whilst her Colombian parents were studying at university, and she was five before they arrived back in Colombia. Luz had obviously inherited her parents' thirst for education and graduated with honours as a drama teacher at a university in Cali, she then went to study a specialist course in Cultural affairs in Columbia.

She first came to the UK in 2001 to study English, and also a course in Acting for tv. Luz has always been passionate about theatre and poetry and has in fact written two poetry books in Spanish too. An extremely talented lady, she has also written two plays! And plays the guitar and sings!! Is there no end to her talent???

After studying in the UK Luz travelled to Thailand. Another great love of hers is travelling, something else inherited from her parents who moved around a lot in her childhood.

Her Christian faith has always played a big part in her life and in her time in Thailand Luz volunteered with her local church teaching English in rural areas and was involved in a lot of community outreach. This earlier training has equipped Luz for the work she is involved in now as a community leader in Hexthorpe, as well as her job at a local car showroom.

Luz must have developed an affection for the UK because she returned again to live in London, Sheffield then three years ago settled in Hexthorpe with her husband, William. She is also an active member of the Kings Cross church.

One of the projects she feels deeply about it Love Where You Live, an initiative to encourage people to take pride in their neighbourhood and to keep it clean and tidy. A few weeks ago Luz was involved in organising the Hexfest, a lovely weekend of different cultures sharing their music. Despite the heavy rain it was well attended and everyone enjoyed it. She works alongside the council and commits to attending the Positive Action Group regularly. Luz encourages others to join and have their say in what they want to happen in Hexthorpe.

Luz taught Spanish and Drama in schools over thirty years, working in Colombia, Thailand, London, Sheffield and Doncaster. She also managed to fit in and enjoy acting too. She runs a Facebook page entitled Voices of Hexthorpe. She is in the process of creating a Community Interest Company, which will be called Arts and Culture Community Centre so more workshops, arts and culture for everyone in Hexthorpe!

Continued on page 7

Continued from page 6

She tells me her dream is that, “in the near future, Hexthorpe will be the centre of Arts and Culture in Doncaster,” And I’ve no doubt that she has the enthusiasm and motivation to just make it happen!! Even writing about all these things make me tired! Luz is a whirlpool of activity, and always with a happy smile on her face!

Hexthorpe is chosen as Venue for Concerts

It seems that the dream Luz has “to make Hexthorpe the centre of Arts and Culture in Doncaster.” is beginning to become reality!

The Doncaster Choral Society has decided to hold its new programme of concerts in Hexthorpe. St Jude’s Church is the new chosen venue.

Previously they have been mainly held in Priory Place Chapel in the centre of the city.

Local people will have the opportunity to hear top class musicians perform. If you have never been to a classical music concert before then now is your opportunity.

Balby Oswin Avenue School Exhibition

(Danum Gallery Library and Museum until 6 January 2024)

<https://www.dglam.org.uk/whats-on/>

Tony Armstrong is to be congratulated on providing such a wonderful exhibition. It is not to be missed!

It brings together around fifty framed story boards, as well as artwork produced by former pupils, photographs, video clips and other objects relating to the school and people.

Tony said,

“Researching the history of Oswin Avenue School has been an informative and rewarding endeavour, allowing me to meet inspiring people and to share their fascinating stories.”



DONCASTER CHORAL SOCIETY
Concert Series 2023/24

Music Director Matt Beckingham

Hope

This season focuses on works which speak of hope. At a time when conflicts are not far from home. Hope. For peace in the things which cannot change. Hope. For a fresh spring. Hope.

Concert for Remembrance Day
Saturday 11 November 2023 - 7.30pm
Gorecki: Totus Tuus, Op.60
Goodall: Eternal Light
Jane Burnell (Soprano) John Dunford (Bass)
Rachel Fright (Piano) Alan Horsey (Organ)
Angelina Egerton (Harp)

Saturday 16 December 2023 - 7.30pm
Christmas Voices and Brass
with
Prince Bishops Brass Ensemble
Simon Corner (Organ)

Saturday 16 March 2024 - 7.30pm
Vivaldi: Gloria
Mozart: Requiem
Lottie Greenhow (Soprano) Rachel Gilmore (Alto)
James Micklethwaite (Tenor) Miles Taylor (Bass)
Matthew Wright (Organ)

Saturday 18 May 2024 - 7.30pm
Pergolesi: Stabat Mater
Purcell: Dido and Aeneas
Jane Burnell (Soprano) Alison Hudson (Alto)
Alan Horsey (Organ)

All concerts will take place at St. Jude's Church, Hexthorpe, DN4 0ED

making music
RIGHT UP OUR STREET
Doncaster
WeGot Tickets

The Society reserves the right to alter programmes and artistes as necessary

Good News For The River Don

This is the press release from the Don Catchment Rivers Trust. It is good news for our Hexthorpe community. We hope soon to have news as to what it means for our stretch of the river and its environs.

Today, Don Catchment Rivers Trust (DCRT) has received a National Lottery Heritage Fund grant of £695,000, plus £292,000 in match funding for an exciting heritage project, All Hands on the Don, along the River Don around Doncaster. Made possible by money raised by National Lottery players, the project focuses on the wonderful history and heritage of the river and its local community.

Supported through The National Lottery Heritage Fund, the project will have lots of opportunities for people to learn about their local river, with an emphasis on wellbeing, community participation and natural heritage. From school sessions to volunteering, citizen science to an arts programme, apprenticeships and angling - the project will shine a light on what a special place the River Don is.

The River Don has an unusual history, being re-routed in the 17th century to allow for the draining of Hatfield Chase. It was once one of the most polluted rivers in the country. But, now that fish are populating the river again, All Hands on the Don will improve habitats at two 'Ings' sites, providing much needed refuge for fish and wetland birds. Also, the popular Don Valley Way will be extended for 11 miles from Doncaster to Thorne, with local communities contributing their knowledge to information boards along the way.

Rachel Walker, Operations Director at DCRT said:

“The team at Don Catchment Rivers Trust are thrilled to have received this support thanks to National Lottery players. We want to thank all the people and organisations that have helped to develop this project, and we can't wait to start working with you to deliver all the exciting activities we planned together!”

The Hexthorpe - Newton Ferry

The editor of the Hexpress was thrilled recently when he found at the Doncaster and District Family History Fair this copy of a postcard. It is of the Hexthorpe - Newton ferry.

Older residents will remember the days when it was regularly used. The boat here is moored on the side opposite to the Crimpsall. Further down the bank can be seen a small hamlet and farm of Newton. It would cost a penny to be taken over. If you shouted “Ferry”, one

of the couple who lived in a small cottage through an archway, would row over. From the small wooden jetty you could walk through to Cusworth or Sprotbrough.



Continued on page 9

Continued from page 8

We know from a map that it was there at the end of the 19th century and it probably was in use until at last the 1960's.

Edward Day and the River Don

Edward Day was a Hexthorpe man through and through. He was a church warden at St Jude's. He died in 1989 He spent his working life in the Locomotive Accountant's Department of the LNER, subsequently British Railways. He, and his colleague in the department, Leslie Smith, were both avid local historians, who made a notable contribution to research on the history of Doncaster.

In the Doncaster City Archives there are 4 large notebooks with small handwritten notes written by Edward. Over the years he had read through all the copies of the local Doncaster newspapers - including the Doncaster Gazette and Doncaster Chronicle. Some of the papers date back to the late 19th century. The notebooks contain all the references to Hexthorpe that he had found. The Hexpress editor remembers seeing Edward constantly sitting in the old reference library in the 60's and 70's reading through the original bound papers. Here are some of the entries concerning the river Don.

January 1822 Caution to Watermen

'That all watermen shall be told that vessels, with or without horses, going through the Parish of Mexbro' on the Lord's Day will be proceeded against.'

There seems to have been a particular problem there with this ban on Sunday traffic on the river. It appears that this was the case at times all along the River Don.

8th February 1822 Pardon Asked

'Joseph Mason, a waterman, did conduct himself in a most violent and outrageous manner towards the Revd Minister of Mexbro', using language too horrible to be repeated and threats to take away his life. Likewise, James Pod, a pot seller, Richard Harrup and others did aid and abet and encourage Joseph Mason to put the Revd in fear of his life. Actions at law were taken.



The offenders expressed great contrition, begged pardon to behave better in time to come, pay all expenses etc. The Minister agreed to suspend proceedings and hoped that this will teach them and others that the excellent Laws of the Land are not to be violated with impunity.'

January 1889

'Coal is still being delivered to Hexthorpe Wharf for coal merchants.'

April 1901

'The Balby/Hexthorpe Urban District Council discussed a letter from the Borough Surveyor to Mr Fox about a contemplated charge for using Old Hexthorpe Wharf. A sub-committee said that Doncaster had no right to do this.'

It is generally thought that the Hexthorpe Wharf was at the bottom of what now is Bramworth Road. In the mid-20th century that site was used as a petrol depot. Lorries went from there delivering petrol around the Borough of Doncaster. The Water Board was then situated there and it is now a small housing complex - Riverside Close. Some argue that the wharf was where the Rowing Club is now situated.

The Return of Hexfest

Another successful Hexfest was held in July. It had become one of the victims of the covid pandemic. However, a small group of enthusiasts revived it this year.

It had an international flavour to it this year. Luz Welmans said,

“The festival was absolutely amazing. The attendance in all the events was approximately 350 people, perhaps even more. Thanks to everyone involved and let's think BIGGER for next year!”



Watch the Hexfest 2023 performers on YouTube
<https://youtu.be/rErYZ-acG6g>

Letter and News in Brief

A letter of concern about the Flatts

Dear Editor

The last edition of the Hexpress aroused my excitement, as there was some really positive news about the Flatts Park. A list of what was planned to happen in the near future was given us. This list included new lighting, solar bollards, benches, landscaped areas, gates, signings and interpretation boards. I am a regular visitor to the park and I wonder where they are? Members of the Friends of the Hexthorpe Flatts Park have continued in their planting programme and that it is great to see. They must be frustrated as they see this lack of progress in other areas. What is the problem?

Yours

(Name and address supplied)

An opportunity to explore the Christian Faith

The King's Cross Church has planned a variety of events over a weekend in November. These are to give people an opportunity to explore for themselves the Christian Faith and to find a fresh hope in life.

Friday 17th November

- Family Fun Event @ TKCC 4.00 pm to 5.30 pm

Saturday 18th November

- Men's Brunch @ TKCC 10:15 am
- Open house Coffee Mornings by Invitation
- Family Meal & Message @TKCC 6.30 pm

Sunday 19th November

- Family Service @ TKCC 10:30 am with guest speaker Paul Wilson

For further details visit thekingscrosschurch.org.uk



Who noticed this Post Box?

It was there for a few days. A lady was seen decorating it.

Head of the Don Race

The Head of the Don Race is to be held on Sunday 5th November at the Hexthorpe Flatts Park. All the events are raced upstream over a 400m course.

- Division 1: 10.30 am
- Division 2: 2.00 pm

Over 60's are very welcome here!

Do you want to enjoy meeting like-minded people in a safe welcoming environment?

If so, then REFRESH is for you. REFRESH is for over 60's - there is friendship, fun and food.

Where? - The King's Cross Church on Urban Road.

When? - The first Thursday of the month at 10.30am.

Flying Scotsman - The Pride of Hexthorpe



This magnificent machine was built here in Hexthorpe - local craftsmen were involved

What's happening?

This autumn, Flying Scotsman, the most famous steam locomotive in the world, will be returning to its birthplace of Doncaster for a special centenary visit.

Thousands of visitors will get the opportunity to see Flying Scotsman up close, take photos and marvel at the magnificent feat of engineering that was created in Doncaster 100 years ago.

Where will it be?

Flying Scotsman will be based at Freightliner Railport, Decoy Bank South.



Hexpress Comment

We make no apologies for yet again highlighting the Flying Scotsman. Stop and think about it. The most famous steam engine in the world was built here in Hexthorpe! Perhaps we should make a greater shout about it. Hexthorpe men were involved in its production.

The old Plant Works where Flying Scotsman was built is now the new Pulman Green housing estate. We suggested to the developers that the new roads could be named after the great engineers who worked there and the great steam locomotives that were built there. However, disappointingly that has not happened.

Should there be some permanent reminder in Hexthorpe of its great heritage? What could that be? Any suggestions?