

The **HEX-PRESS**

YOUR FREE HEXTHORPE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER No. 77 June - July 2005

Sponsored by HEXQOL, the Hexthorpe Quality of Life Initiative.

THE MALLARD CENTRE: LATEST NEWS

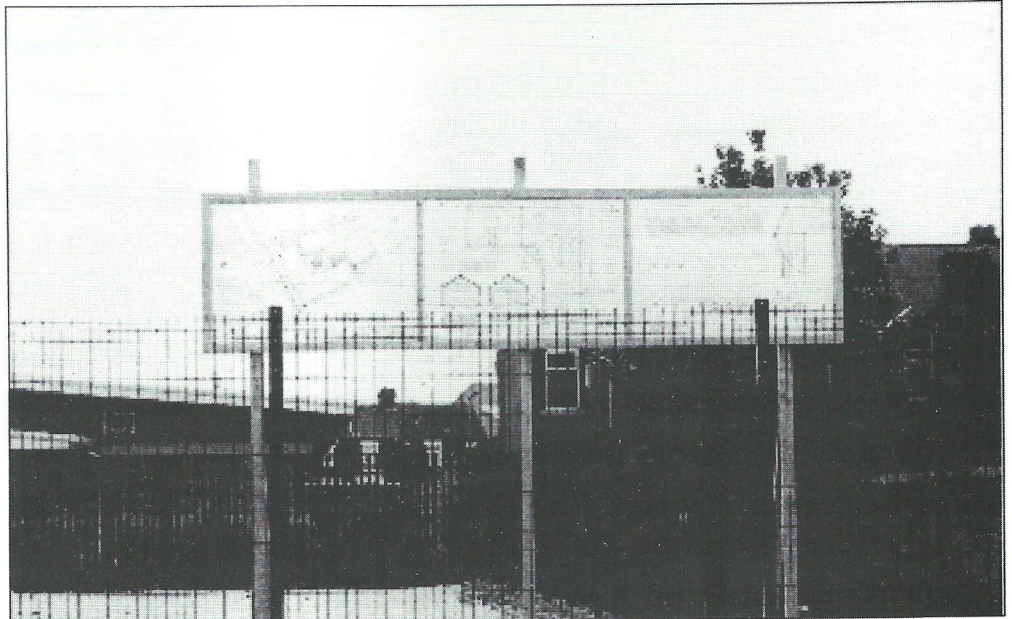
There has been action on the old school site next to the Bowling Club. It has been cleared of rubbish, surfaced with hard core and fenced in. A notice board, displaying the plans for a proposed building, has been erected.

Many people have been asking what is happening there. Despite frequent news in the Hexpress, there are still those who do not know of the Mallard Centre. It is a proposed Community Resources Centre, providing much needed community and social facilities.

The members of Hexqol – the Hexthorpe Quality of Life Group – have been working and fighting hard for years to bring this about. The way has not been easy. There have been numerous problems, setbacks and disappointments, particularly in the area of funding.

Hexqol is also the group that now finds the finance for and publishes the Hexpress.

Is the building of the Mallard Centre now a possibility in the not too distant future? That is the hope of the Hexqol Steering Group, led by Bob Baker, the Chairman



of Hexqol and the driving force behind the project. The group have put in many hours of 'blood, sweat, toil and tears'. At times brick walls of officialdom have been run into. Funds that seemed to be there were withdrawn. Everyone gives verbal support, but in the end it is cash on the table that matters. Hexqol firmly believes that Hexthorpe deserves new facilities and it is not for want of trying that they are still not with us. Plans have been passed and all is ready for going to tender. It is the last piece of the jigsaw of funding that has to be put in to place. Watch this space!

WHO'S WHO

Local Councillors

Stuart Exelby 70 Carr View Avenue, Tel 329521
Glyn Jones 20 Lister Avenue, Balby DN4 8AR
Tel. 816881
John McHale Tel. 326350

Methodist Minister

John Hartley 1 Cedar Road, Balby Tel: 852024

The Junction Manager

John Crawford, 61 Hexthorpe Road Tel: 349341

Parish Priest

The Rev. J. Gilbert, 2 Riverside Close, Hexthorpe
Tel: 852057

Hexthorpe Community Constable

contact P.C. Peter Hartshorne Tel: 0114 220 2020

MOBILE LIBRARY

On Fridays:

Patrick Stirling Court	9.30-10.00pm
Shadyside: (opp. Windle Rd)	10.05-10.35am
Eden Grove	10.40-11.10am
Shadyside (St Jude's Church)	11.15-11.45am

Any letters, articles, adverts contact:

Donald, 31 Old Hexthorpe, Tel: 852521

Published by:

Hexqol - Hexthorpe Quality of Life

**Advertisements: Contact Joan Reasbeck,
31 Old Hexthorpe, Tel. 852521**

**Advertisements in each issue cost from
£5.00 per issue to £15.00 according to size.**

The Hexpress is very saddened to report the death of Councillor Henry Green. Henry was elected as one of our councillors in May 2004. He was a member of the Liberal Democrats. His passing was announced to the Tara meeting by Councillor Glyn Jones. The Tara members were shocked at the news, as in the short time that he had been a councillor, Henry became a regular attender at the meetings. The members stood in a minute's silence as a sign of respect.

WEEKLY EVENTS

Methodist Church Hall

S.A.R.A Group (Stay and Rest Awhile)

Mums and Tots Group Thursday 9.45 - 11.45 am

Mini-cruz

5 — 7 year olds Tuesday 5.30 - 7.00 pm

Mega-cruz

7 — 11 year olds Wednesday 5.45 - 7.15pm

Rock Solid Club

11 — 14 year olds Wednesday 7.45 - 9.01 pm

**You are invited on any Sunday to the Worship
Services at Hexthorpe Methodist Church**

10.30 am and 6.00 pm

At Hexthorpe Parish Hall (St Jude's)

Laughton Road, Hexthorpe

Monday	1.45-3.15 pm	Yoga
	7.00-10.00 pm	Line Dancing
Tuesday	5.30-9.30 pm	Tae Kwon Do
Wednesday	7.00-8.30 pm	Yoga
Thursday	5.30-8.30 pm	Tae Kwon Do
Friday 2nd & 4th in the month	7.00-9.00 pm	Prize Bingo

Other events as advertised

Hire of hall - phone 321569

Up to 5.30 pm £12.50 per hour

After 5.30 pm £15.00 per hour

Sunday Services

10.00 am Parish Mass and Sunday School

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310637 for details.**

Hexthorpe School Life

– by the Pupils

Arts Week

From the 7th - 11th of March the school has held a successful Arts week, with the theme of a Chinese Festival. The school organised a variety of activities for Key Stage 1 and 2, including dance, cookery, lantern and kite making, making willow cups and saucers. In the Chinese cookery session we made lots of different Chinese food, such as Moon Biscuits, decorated with the Chinese 'Moon' symbol, a steamed New Year sponge and stir fry vegetables. The vegetables were the tastiest in my opinion. I thought that the whole festival was fantastic and certainly one to remember.

Evelyn Muir Year 6

As a Shock Hits Us All

As people all over the world know a disaster has happened in Thailand and other countries, called the Tsunami. Hexthorpe School has been raising money for the unfortunate people still living there who have lost so many family members. So far we have raised a miraculous £1,380! We are still going to keep on raising more funds in the future. We have raised money by selling cookies and buns at a reasonable price.

Vijay Swaly Year 6

Red Nose Day

Hexthorpe School has been raising money for Red Nose Day for the past years. The reason why we do this is to reunite families together over the nation and also to help starving children. Towards the situation, Hexthorpe Primary have raised a massive amount of money to help the sick children of Africa. We did this by wearing at least one piece of clothing of the colour red and by having a non-uniform day. Everyone could give as little or as much as they want. The school wants to say thank you for all the donations you have given us. It could change someone's life in many ways.

Katy Higham Year 6

Maths Week

On the 7th March Key Stage 1 and 2 had the first Maths week planned by Mrs Smith. Every year collected and recorded data about Health and Exercise and learned a song about totally different things to do with Maths. After 4 days of hard work, the school had to show their work and what they had been learning over the past week. After every year had their presentation the results were wonderful, so the year groups put their work on display. Maths week was a fantastic achievement.

Gareth Millington Year 6

Basketball

In basketball Bob teaches us how to shoot, bounce and pass. He says that they are the most important skills to learn. When we play, we play in four teams. Bob chooses the players. All the teams have different shirts on. Two of the teams start playing and the other two watch and cheer. Then they swap over and the other teams start playing. At the end Bob gives out the certificates to the best or most improved players.

Mitu Bajaj Year 3

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NEW HEXTHORPE POST OFFICE

Mr Yusuf Jogee (Joseph), the new sub-postmaster, has had a very wide experience in the financial field. Yusuf, has had 24 years of experience in banking, insurance and mortgage business. His reputation in customer care is of a very high standard. He and his family would like to welcome everyone from Hexthorpe village to New Hexthorpe Post Office. Yusuf and his family deeply thanks one and all in the village for being kind and supportive towards them.

Why not open a Post Office Card Account?

Over the last six months we have found that many people are under the misconception that in order to get their benefits they have to have it put into their bank account, however, this is not true. We have found that many people who have opted for their benefits to be paid in to their bank account as are unhappy because of the great inconvenience.

Opening a post office card account allows great flexibility and convenience. Therefore, we urge that those who are unhappy for their benefits to be paid in their bank accounts, please call in at the post office and we will advise you how to open a post office card account. We will try to give you the best service we can to help you.

Our Opening Hours

Monday- 9.00am to 5.30pm
Tuesday- 9.00am to 5.30pm
Wednesday- 9.00am to 5.30pm
Thursday- 9.00am to 5.30pm
Friday- 9.00am to 5.30pm
Saturday- 9.00am to 12.30pm
Sunday- Closed

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- ☞ And MANY MORE* coming soon!!

*please ask at the post office for details

*** HAVE A LOOK AT OUR
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CARDS AND STATIONARY!!**

Crucial Crew

Two weeks ago the Crucial Crew came into our school to talk about railway safety, electricity and home safety. The older children were split into three groups – one went to electricity, one to railway safety and one to home safety. They then talked about safety on the railways, in your house and near electric pylons and centres.

Kurt Watson Year 5

Rainbows

Rainbows is a group where trained school staff have been giving up their time to help children who have experienced loss or bereavement in their lives. Mrs Dorlin, Mrs Holmes, Mrs McAleese, Mrs Mockler and Mrs Murray run it every Monday and Thursday evenings after school. Everything is private and confidential and they give you ways of handling your problems, as well as helping to boost your confidence. Hexthorpe School learned about Rainbows when some staff went on a course and they found that it had been very successful in other schools. So they brought it to us to see if it could be successful here and it has been.

Amy Ogilvie Year 6

Playmates Childcare

Playmates is open after school. You come into the school-hall, check if you have got everything, then put your bag and coat on the table in the corner. You take a biscuit and then you are free to choose what you want to do, such as going outside, on the play station or do activities. Helen, our leader, plans these activities for us. Later you have snacks of biscuits, toast, crisps or a yogurt to eat. Once snacks are finished you are allowed to go in the hall to play football, basketball or running around with your friends.

Gareth and Darren Millington Years 6 and 4

Grand Easter Raffle

Hexthorpe School Council would like to inform everyone in Hexthorpe about the Grand Easter Raffle. The raffle was drawn on Friday 11 March at quarter past two. There were twenty three prizes. First place was a huge hamper and there were wine and Easter eggs and other various prizes. Two people won two prizes each. Simon Swale won twice and a child in Nursery also won twice. The raffle raised a lot of money, £365.

Jordan Beaver Year 4

Play Box Equipment

The new play box is very good. We have got: magnetic racquets and balls, big soft blue balls, blue racquets and all sorts of good stuff. The thing is some people are destroying it by not looking after it. People have to learn to respect these new things, as they have to last a long time. If we look after them then we will have nothing to play with at play times. So all you people out there who are reading this, please learn to look after the toys that the school kindly bought for us or they will not buy us any more in the future.

Samuel Cunneyworth Year 3

Litter Posters

We have been designing a poster about litter. In assembly three ladies came in and told us all the dangers about litter and that if you carry on dropping litter then the whole world will become a waste bin. If your poster wins it will be put up in shops around you and you will remind everyone not to drop litter. You might win a prize too. Some school councillors will be judging them. If you see anyone dropping litter on the floor tell them to pick it up and put it in a bin. We don't want litterbugs around us do we? Recycle – it is lots, lots better than just throwing your litter on the floor.

Jodie Oliver and Emma Mahon Year 5



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LOCAL DELIVERIES

Pete's Patch

Thank heavens the summers here and the start of some sunny weather.. I hope. This is also the start of my busy period in the year when my colleagues and I stretched to the full coping with daily problems. Have you heard of Safer Neighbourhood Teams? or SNT's ? that being the short title. This is team of which I am now a part of and covers the whole of Balby and Hexthorpe. SNT's are designed to provide you with a better service and safer communities. The SNT consists of multi - agency partners so that in theory a problem is tackled more speedily, where in the past one of the agencies would come to a halt and say that we have done all that we can you will have to contact this agency or that department. I work in the main with DMBC Community First officers as the main throng of complaints is either directed at the Police or Council. The golden number to ring is 01302 736000 bear in mind this is for non emergency and minor problems. The existing telephone numbers are still open depending on what you see or construe the degree of response you want from the services. DMBC Switchboard 01302 734444 South Yorkshire Police 0114 2202020 Emergency 999

The SNT also deal with long term problems such as neighbour trouble, Anti - social behaviour by young people, nuisance motorcycles etc etc. These problems generally require inter agency working where a problem can be shared and resolved giving you the customer a far greater service and hopefully a safer and more prolonged quality of life.

The team consists of a sergeant, 4 Police constables who are in the main existing community constables, four Police Support Staff and four DMBC Community Wardens.

The team has access to both DMBC and Police computers and information. We are backed up by Community First staff and visible contacts from areas like housing, health, education and so forth. It is in it's infancy so let's hope the system works.

Driving Part 3

This information is more in line with the young male in the community as this group are more likely to own a motorcycle before driving a motor car albeit I have seen a few young ladies driving these small scooters and the like.

All learner riders must complete a compulsory basic training course before riding on a road. After that you will receive a training certificate (DL196) , which is valid for 2 years. Please keep this safe as you may need it when required to produce to a police officer if requested. Persons over 21 can learn to ride a larger motorcycle but

an approved instructor must accompany them. You must also pass a theory test. You can try a mock theory test on the Driving Standards Agency (DSA) web site

www.dsa.gov.org

Learner drivers have to pass a theory test as well as a practical one and you will be asked vehicle safety questions on the day of the test. The theory test is made up of 35 multiple choice questions and a test of your hazard perception skills. If you are under 21 you can choose between two practical tests for different sized motorcycles. After 21 the choice is between three. The New Drivers Act refers to anyone who receives 6 penalty points within their first two years of passing your driving test, you will automatically lose your driving licence. To get it back you will have to apply for a provisional licence again, drive as a learner and pass the theory and practical test once more. The points will remain on your licence and if you add more to points to a total of 12 you are likely to be disqualified by a court. Remember as discussed previously insurance can be costly enough when you are young a just starting out without the added burden of penalty points on your driving record.

Drinking and Driving

As I have explained in previous issues of the Hex-Press on the subject of driving it can take a lot of hard work and expense to get a driving licence and it can be very easy to lose it. I have been asked previously "How much can I have to drink before I'm over the limit to drive"? This is a question I never can answer, in some people alcohol levels are absorbed quickly into the body and in other's not so quickly. This can all depend on your physical build, if you have had a recent meal if your are suffering from fatigue. The best advice I can give anyone is never do it. Use a taxi or bus for the sake of a couple of pounds. If you are going out in a group take it in turns to drink non alcoholic drinks, on the next outing it can then be your turn to have one or two over the top. If you are a passenger in a vehicle and you know the driver has exceeded the driving limit persuade them to lock up and leave the vehicle until the following day.

Mobile Phone Use

From 1st December 2003 it is illegal for the driver to use a mobile phone whilst driving. The driver may receive various options from a fixed penalty ticket, a court appearance and almost certainly 3 points on their licence. I can see the logic behind this, if you are distracted either dialing numbers or having to drive with one hand you cannot have proper control over the vehicle.

Hiring a car

To hire a car you usually have to be over 21 and the holder of a full driving licence. Make sure you check out the car that you hire it is your responsibility to make sure all the relevant controls and systems work. Use a reputable dealer, the cheapest is not always the best. Good Luck!!

Bringing you up to date

- The base area for the proposed community centre has been laid and fenced off adjacent to the Bowling club on Shadyside.
- The speed reduction project is about halfway through. This consists of speed bumps and different coloured tarmac.
- The cracking group are working very hard trying to improve areas within Hexthorpe especially for the youth.
- Hexthorpe Primary are working on a sensory garden project within the school grounds.
- The school allotment project has started again this season. This year the project has a nutritionist from the Health Authority working with them promoting healthy lifestyles. The project hopes to enter the Doncaster in Bloom 2005 and hopefully make winning a hat-trick. Best of Luck.
- The New Deal for Communities Annual General Meeting is on 18 1h July at Doncaster Racecourse
- Several Police operations have took place over the past two months targeting unlicensed motor vehicles and having them removed.
- Further Police/DMBC operations have taken place targeting nuisance motorcycles on roads and green public areas to great success.
- Several truancy operations between police/ Education Welfare Officers have been undertaken conveying children back to school and setting them a behavioural improvement programme within school.
- Two large drugs operations were executed in the area netting large amounts of cannabis and growing equipment.
- Nuisance youth operations have taken place and are planned throughout the year in different parts of Hexthorpe & Balby. Make a point of asking your son/daughter where they hang about and remind them the Police are out there.

Crime News

Household Burglaries remain to be on the agenda for some time yet. You can help yourselves by being more

vigilant and taking steps to deter these prolific thieves who have no respect for your property. Have you been offered stolen goods? Do you suspect anyone who is resorting to this type of crime? **DO NOT BE AFRAID TO REPORT THEM.** You can provide information in confidence and no one including myself will know who has provided the information. Ring Crimestoppers free on 0800 555 111. You may also receive a community action reward for your information. So don't just sit there on valuable information tell someone.

Drug Misuse continues to be a problem across the whole Borough. I feel that the Government have given out the wrong message about cannabis use. It has been declassified to category C Drug under the Misuse of Drugs Act. Certain conditions have changed regarding it's use but it is still illegal to possess and supply, so abusers be aware. If anyone has any information regarding the use of any illegal drug call crimestoppers in confidence.

Changing the Subject

Can I just say that Hexthorpe is still a great place to live and work. It has a strong community bond and persons within that community strive to make it better. There are many great projects that other areas are envious of. One of them is the rowing club that operates from Hexthorpe Park. The club is open several evenings per week and at weekends. Why not go down and see what work they do particularly with the youth. They hope to expand and upgrade their facilities what a great outdoor pursuit for shedding those extra pounds and toning that six pack. I ask people also to respect the club members and the sport they do whilst they are out on the River.

Quick Tea Time Quiz

1. What are the four National Flowers of Britain?
2. What is England's 'National Day' in the Calendar called?
3. What are the three emblems that make up and appear on the flag of Britain the 'Union Jack'?
4. Name three National Parks in England?
5. Where is the 'Giants Causeway'?
6. Where can I find 'Speakers Corner'?
7. Which important person has two birthdays every year?
8. What is a Parliamentary 'Whip'?
9. Can you drive through the Channel Tunnel?
10. What type of birds are commonly associated with the Tower of London?

Until next time, bye

Local News in Brief

The River Don

Did you know that there is an Upper Don Environmental Improvement Scheme? There is a possibility of establishing a River Don Trust that would look at the river as a whole system. Although the river has greatly improved environmentally over recent years – many we are sure can remember what a foul river it used to be- there is a desire to see it return to the system it once was, full of migrating fish.

Brussels and the British Government support the River Trust Movement. The Trusts can attract large amount of money. The next step is to take the message forward. If any groups or individuals are particularly interested in this, please contact Jane Kidd on 01302 343300 ext. 225 or email jkidd@doncastercvs.org.uk.

The Clock

The old Jubilee Clock is in need of restoration. The Hexthorpe C.R.A.C.K.I.N.G. Group is working with Community First to have the clock that stands outside St Jude's Church restored. They write, 'To accomplish this we need to know what was actually written on the missing plaque. So, if when reading this you remember an old photo or newspaper clipping that you may have tucked away, or you can help, please contact Val Winfield (secretary) by leaving details in the C.R.A.C.K.I.N.G. post box in Hexthorpe Post Office or contact Michaela Rowland (Community First) on 736000. If we are unable to acquire the information needed, then we will only be able to inscribe the rededication details, which would be a shame.'

C.R.A.C.K.I.N.G., it emphasises, is a group that is working for the benefit of the whole of Hexthorpe.

A New Sensory Garden

Hexthorpe Primary School is currently in the early stages of developing the Nursery/Key Stage 1 playground into a new exciting learning environment. With plans having been drawn up by 'Grounds Force Expert' Martin Towers, staff at the school are starting to build the sensory garden path. The school is grateful to Community First for providing valuable support.

Electrical Work

Councillor Stuart Exelby has sent us the following information regarding new building regulations aimed at curbing the unacceptable number of deaths, injuries and house fires caused by faulty electrical installations. They came into force on 1st January 2005. The new rules affect anyone considering electrical work in their homes, including D.I.Y. enthusiasts.

The key question is - who is carrying out the work? If it is the householder, friend or relative then they will have to notify the Local Authority Building Control Department, unless only minor work is involved. Minor work is replacing sockets and light switches in a low risk area. All other work, i.e. work in kitchens, bathrooms or outdoors or adding new circuits in any part of the house, will have to get building control involved. The alternative is to get a qualified person

Noise nuisance

A new service was launched on 14th January to deal with the problems of loud music at the weekends from late night parties. The scheme is under the control of the Council's Environmental Health Officers.

The scheme runs between the hours of 9 p.m. through to 3 a.m. on Friday and Saturday nights.

The Officers will in the first instance ask for the music to be turned down; if this is ignored, then legal notices will be served and with the support of the Police, the officers will seize all the noise making equipment on the spot. It will be retained pending court proceedings. The court has the power to impose fines up to £5,000 and grant forfeiture orders.

To register complaints ring 07917 234 660 9 p.m. Friday to 3.a.m. Saturday and 9 p.m. Saturday to 3 a.m. Sunday.

Community Support Unit

This Unit has now moved on. It has been in Hexthorpe for the best part of a year. It came because of problems the community was facing. It was well used in the first few months. Gradually it was being used by residents less frequently. This was probably because it had served its purpose and people felt more secure. It was a good example of the authorities acting quickly in response to a community need. Let us hope that its work has a permanent, positive effect in the life of local people.

Hexthorpe 100 years ago – a Centenarian Remembers

Louis Webster was born in Gladstone Road , Hexthorpe on January 13th 1905. He celebrated his 100th birthday this year. He now lives in Birmingham. Fortunately, his mind is still very active and he has written down a full account of his long life. We give an extract here from his early life in Gladstone Road. It will be of interest to older members of our community. However, it is hoped that youngsters will read it, as they will get a fascinating view of what life was like for a boy in Hexthorpe in the early 20th century. Perhaps in later issues we can give more extracts.

I lived in Gladstone Road. The house was a typical terrace house, with three upstairs bedrooms, a front room, middle room and kitchen downstairs. The front room was my parents' bedroom and the whole house was sparsely furnished. There were no easy chairs, just enough kitchen chairs to meet our needs; life was very hard.

The kitchen had a brick built clothes boiler in one corner, which was also used once yearly as the boiler for the Christmas puddings. There was a mangle, one of the upright giants, with wooden rollers, whose handle I had to turn for mother many times. In connection with this, I remember that once a tooth of the cog wheel broke off, as a result when the handle turned to a certain point, there was a resounding crash that could be heard for a long way. Until it was replaced at the local brass foundry for a few pence, everyone in the neighbourhood knew when my mother was doing the washing! We had no carpets in the house; the only piece of floor covering was a clothed-peg hearthrug. The rest of the house floors were bare.

The house was lit by gas and in the kitchen was an ugly black gas cooker. It was bought through the amount of gas being used, how many pennies were put in the slot to purchase it, I have no idea. I do remember when the gas collector removed a little brass plate from it and told my mother it was now paid for.

In the living room was a big cast iron range; at the side of this was an oven and on the other side a box with a lid on and we used to put the sticks of wood there to dry, ready for lighting the fire. The oven was in constant use, in particular when a stew pot was needed.

We had bread and jam or toast for breakfast and for dinner there would be one of the following – beef (ex-frozen because it was cheaper) stew, rabbit, oxtail, beast heart, sheep's head, cow heel, pig's feet and just

occasionally cheap fish. Suet played a big part in our winter diet in the form of dumplings or as a roly-poly with currants inside. There was rice or sago pudding and Yorkshire pudding. When fruit was in season we had rhubarb and pies in plenty.

Our toilet was at the far end of the long narrow garden and in my early days was a midden. This meant that from time to time the so called night soil men wrapped in sacking and armed with shovels and wax candles climbed into the bin that was shared with our neighbours. They emptied the contents into the passage through a wooden doorway and then loaded it into huge carts. A sprinkling of some sort of disinfectant was scattered and the tallow candle that had given them light in the night was removed from where they had stuck it on the wall. We boys who went to Sunday School had a biblical name for those men, for we called them the 'Midianites'.

Our diet was poor, there was no heating upstairs and very scanty bed coverings. I had not much resistance and was not very strong. I remember on one occasion I had been sitting on the kerb watching other children play, when I came to get up I could not stand and so my father had to come and pick me up and carry me home. After this episode, I was given cod liver oil and malt for years. This was obtained by taking a two pound stone jam jar to the council office in Low Road in Balby, who supplied it. They also supplied 'fernil' which I assume was really Phenol, for the purposes of disinfecting the house.

The local pawnbroker was well acquainted with our family, because as a child I was a frequent visitor to his establishment, which I had to approach through the backs. One Sunday morning, the brother next to me in age was getting ready to go out when he could not find his suit, simply because my mother had forgotten to send me for it, or because she could not have the money to redeem the pledge.

During the summer holidays, I sometimes went with a friend of mine to spend the day at his maiden aunt's house at Sprotbrough, where there was a hall and a large vicarage. It was rather select and they gave us careful instructions regarding our behaviour. On one occasion I turned up looking rather unkempt, and before they would let me go into the village, I had to take off my trousers and sit for a while, until some running (or was it sitting) repairs were carried out.

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HISTORY IN THE MAKING....

by the Vicar of Hexthorpe, Fr John Gilbert

St Jude's Church was completed in 1894 and ever since the church, its priests and people have faithfully served the local community. Now a new chapter is about to begin in the life of our parish with the imminent arrival of an assistant curate in June. I believe I am correct in thinking that this is the first time in our parish's history that we will have a curate and it is an exciting development, not least because it is a vote of confidence in our church and parish by the Bishop.

Not surprisingly, people get confused about the various terms and titles, so I will try to explain them as simply as I can. In the Church of England the Incumbent of the parish is known as the Vicar, (or in some parishes the Rector), and has what is known as the 'freehold' of the church building and the care of the people of the parish: you might say he 'carries the can'! When first ordained, one is not a priest but a deacon; ordination to the priesthood comes at the end of the first year, if all has gone well. A deacon normally enters his or her ministry doing the job of an 'assistant curate', which basically means being an apprentice to the vicar. So when our new curate arrives in June, he will be newly ordained and in training. If all goes according to plan, he will expect to be here for around four years.

Hexthorpe's new curate will be known as Father Neil and I know he is very excited at the prospect of coming to live and work here. He will soon become a familiar face around the village and I'm sure will be made as welcome as I have been over the years. He wrote a piece for the May issue of our church magazine, which is reproduced below for your interest:

It is now only a matter of a weeks before I begin work as assistant curate at St Jude's and words are not enough to describe how excited I am about living with and serving God's people in Hexthorpe. Born in Rotherham, not too far from Doncaster, almost 35 years ago, I lived in a pit village with my mum and dad, for sixteen years. It feels like there is a seam of coal running through my family's veins that runs

back several generations. When Silverwood colliery closed my father retired and we moved a very short distance away. I am the youngest of four children, my two brothers, sister, and their families all live in the Rotherham area. I studied in Nottingham for a 3 year law degree. I then lived in York for a year to to qualify as a solicitor.

I had always hoped to return to South Yorkshire and in this I succeeded, being fortunate enough to get a position with Attey Bower and Jones solicitors, as they were known then. Based initially for a few months in their Doncaster office I later moved to Mexborough and then to Rotherham. It was whilst at Rotherham that I was asked to consider a job in the Magistrates' Courts service. I did so and worked in all the South Yorkshire Courts for over eight years. As a legal advisor I was completely independent. I was not a prosecutor or a defence solicitor, but was there to look after the rights of all those who where in court. It was a job I enjoyed a great deal and I had many very valuable experiences. I was fortunate that I was given the opportunity of writing and delivering training material for Magistrates and District judges, not only across the County but also nationally, in all aspects of work, but particularly in respect of issues relating to young people.

It was the biggest, but after much reflection, the easiest decision of my life to leave my job and enter full time residential training at the College of the Resurrection at Mirfield. The experiences I have had there have been challenging, yet so rewarding. These have included going to Romania to work for five weeks last summer and to Catterick army garrison just before Christmas. So you could say my life whilst at college has been full of new experiences.

My parents, family and friends have been so supportive in all the things I have done and this means a great deal to me. It has been a privilege to have been at Mirfield and it is going to be a privilege to serve God and the people of Hexthorpe in the coming years. I look forward to joining a community that I feel almost a part of already. Neil Bower

Litter Poster Campaign

Hexthorpe Primary School and the C.R.A.C.K.I.N.G. Group recently joined together in a litter campaign. All the children worked really hard designing a poster. Nick Hancock Radio Trax F.M. presenter judged the posters and chose 16 winners. One overall winner was chosen and Councillor Glyn Jones accepted the winning poster on behalf of D.M.B.C.

Each child won a visit to see Nick Hancock at Radio Trax F.M. and have a tour to see how a programme goes on air.

The winners were Madison Millard Age 4, Kajol Kaur Age 5, Bethany Cunneyworth Age 7, Fatima Moteirek Age 8, Carl White Age 9, Philip Clegg Age 9, Chloe Craven Age 9, Kurt Watson Age 10, Shona Howe Age 10, Sally Taylor Age 10, Nour Moteirek Age 10, Hayley Mills Age 11, Lauren Carr-Barker Age 11, Zaid Salim Age 11, Lewis Tuke Age 11.

The overall winner was Tom Jeffery Age 9.



Congratulations to each of you and a great big thank you to all the children in the school for their wonderful designs. We hope that people take notice of the posters and will put their litter 'in their pockets and not drop it'.