



September  
2016

# Friends of John Leigh Park Autumn Newsletter

## Green Flag Awarded To John Leigh Park!



After a gap of ten years, John Leigh Park is now one of seven Trafford parks flying the Green Flag – a national standard of excellence. This does not mean we are perfect but it is acknowledgement of progress made by Friends of John Leigh Park in association with officers and staff of Trafford MBC and Amey. Quite something, given the prevailing economic climate. The judges take account of community work as well as standards of horticulture and facilities. Their report reveals enthusiasm for what they saw and heard, but also provided pointers for improvements and development.

### North West In Bloom Award 2016

The park was assessed by judges of North West in Bloom, and we were delighted to hear the park will receive an award in the category of: Britain in Bloom - It's Your Neighbourhood. Awards will be presented in October in Southport. We were pleased to support the town centre planter scheme with our 'Al's Fish & Chip Shop' planter for the theme of 'Best of British'.

### Improvements

A Trafford Thrive grant has allowed the purchase of chestnut fencing for the bowling green. This is well received. It prevents dogs and others from pushing through the hedge and reduces intrusion onto the green. Friends erected the fencing – leaving money to buy hawthorn bushes, to fill gaps in the hedging, and some additional tools. Consideration is being given to adding gates. The ambition is for the bowling green area to be an even lovelier place to be. More people are bowling, fewer are indulging in other potentially damaging recreations. The bowling pavilion has become the base for Monday morning health walks (10.30am), which culminate in a refreshment break and conversations. Modest additional funds are raised. A tree trail is in preparation. Repairs to the Oldfield Road playground have been completed – unfortunately these spanned much of the holiday period but the long term benefit is there now. Similarly, repairs will soon commence on the toilet floor.

A gardening rota of volunteers supplements the work of Amey staff. Recruits are always welcome!

## CHRISTMAS SERVICES

### CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

Sunday 18 December 6-7pm  
Join us to sing carols old and new

Tea/coffee and mince pies served

### CHRISTMAS DAY CELEBRATION

Christmas Day 11–11.45am  
An informal service to celebrate the  
birth of Christ

ALL WELCOME

Devonshire Road Evangelical Church  
Devonshire Road  
Broadheath 0161 929 9364

[www.altrincham-evangelicalchurch.org](http://www.altrincham-evangelicalchurch.org)



## The politics of parks

The Communities and Local Government Select Committee of Parliament is holding an Inquiry into the future of public parks because there is widespread concern that funding for parks and green spaces has been reduced to dangerously low levels. Evidence has been provided to the committee by local people and politicians and we have contributed to a note from Friends of Trafford's Parks and Green Spaces.

The evidence that parks and green spaces improve well-being, physical health and mental health of individuals and communities is overwhelming. This effect depends upon the park providing space, a sense of peace and safety along with freedom. This works when a park is well kept, free from litter and dog excrement. When parks are neglected they foster vandalism and other antisocial behaviour so contributing to a negative spiral of anger and mistrust, destruction of community cohesion and crippling of the potential of individuals.

The committee is asked to consider this and to revise the present absurdity that provision and maintenance of parks is not a statutory responsibility of councils. Please add your support to this reasoning by all means possible.

Even if the law on this can be changed, councils will continue to face great difficulty in providing all the services which people feel are essential, because of the severe reduction of central government funding to local authorities. In Trafford the brutal pruning of the parks' budget is complicated by the decision to devolve the service to Amey for many years ahead. One year on Amey is receiving pretty bad press with streets littered, grass left to get too long and responses to problems delayed or ineffective. We are working closely and determinedly with the officers and front line staff of 'The One Trafford Partnership' to get the best possible outcomes for our park. This requires open understanding and generous contribution of time, talent and some extra money from everyone – and responsible enjoyment of the park's facilities by people of all ages.



## The Wheatsheaf

Church St.  
Altrincham

**Home Cooked Food**

**Available 12 noon – 7.30pm**

**2 Roast Dinners on Sundays - £10**

**Mon, Weds & Fri - Karaoke**

**Tues and Sun - Quiz &**

**Play Your Cards Right**

**Live Act every alternate Saturday!**

**0161 928 1284**

**Our beer garden won  
a North West in Bloom  
Gold Medal Award  
2015**



## Ginger Jobs

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**Damage to the Hartley Road Gate and Gateposts of John Leigh Park** – discovered the morning of 27.8.16 – Presumably dealt with by police and emergency services overnight. It looks as though a car was driven at the gate at speed. Debris was scattered deep into the park. The Highways Emergency Officer was on the job by 7am to begin tidying up. It will be important to keep the pieces of gateposts safe and to begin a project to return the gates to their original configuration if possible.

## Can you help tell the story of John Leigh Park?

The park celebrates its 100<sup>th</sup> birthday next year and we need your help to tell its story.

We're planning centenary events and activities, and finding out all we can about the park's history.

The land was donated to the town by John Leigh in 1917 and is named after his father. But this was just the beginning and we want to know what the park was like over the years and what it has meant to local people. Do you have memories of life on the park – of outings with family or friends, the bandstand or the park keeper? If so we'd love to hear from you.

If you have memories, photos, newspaper cuttings or anything else that helps us to tell the park's story please get in touch with Dave Jolley –

**0161 928 1023 or 07976018418**

**BUDENBERG BOWLING & SOCIAL CLUB  
CANAL SIDE, JUBILEE WAY, BROADHEATH,  
ALTRINCHAM. WA14 4FB**



**Crown Green  
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Activities**

**Come and learn the game of Crown Green  
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**No previous experience required.  
Suitable for all age groups.**

**For further information call in at the club.**

**Alternatively call Jackie on 0161 928 1249**

## ALTRINCHAM METHODIST CHURCH



**MID WEEK ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:**

**Parent & Toddler groups, Rainbows,  
Brownies, Guides, Boys Brigade,**

**Fun, Food and Fellowship on Wednesdays,  
12 to 1pm, and lots more**

**Advent Craft Day Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November  
10am – 2pm**

**Our Coffee Bar is open during term time  
Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri  
10am to 2pm everyone is welcome**

**Rooms available to hire for children's parties**

**Our Sunday Services are 10.30am & 6.30pm**

**Contact details**

**Church office 0161 928 0022**

**Email: [amc.office@btconnect.com](mailto:amc.office@btconnect.com)**

**Or visit our website:**

**[www.altrincham-methodist.org.uk](http://www.altrincham-methodist.org.uk)**



## Road Safety

September 1<sup>st</sup> saw 40 people crushed into the Wheatsheaf to discuss their anger and fear because of the irresponsible behaviour of car users – parking illegally and thoughtlessly and driving much too fast for the circumstances. PCSO Dan Clark was there to hear us as was Councillor Alex Williams. There have been six crashes on the section of road by the park this year already. We fear more and worse outcomes. The reasoned fears of people have been heard. We need action now, not later.



## Aviary Update



Thanks to a kind donation, we now have a Golden Mantled Rosella in the aviary. Joseph is the star of the show but we are proud of our lively budgies – there have been many lovely youngsters. The cockatiels too are looking fine – benefitting from new blood from the same kindly donor. Millie our kakariki remains shy and reclusive but also seems to be thriving.

## Dates for your diary

Junior Schools Cross Country Running Mornings - Alt & District Athletic Club. 1<sup>st</sup> Oct, 15<sup>th</sup> Oct, 19<sup>th</sup> Nov.

Carols in the Park

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December, 4.30pm

Easter Parade – date to be arranged

The Big Lunch & Centenary Celebration

4<sup>th</sup> June 2017

Jammin' In the Park 2,  
Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> September

Another relaxed and enjoyable afternoon event with musicians of all ages taking part. We hope to organise more musical Sunday afternoons in Summer 2017



*Look out for our next Calendar! The 2016 issue has been a great success, and we hope 2017's will be as popular.*

*We still have packs of greetings cards for sale. £3 for a pack of 6 views of the park, blank inside, with envelopes. Contact Maggie on 0161 928 6277 or Dave, 07976018418*

## Membership

Becoming a member of the Friends of John Leigh Park means you will receive regular email updates of news and events. Your membership fee will help to support the aviary, buy plants and bulbs, and generally help with the upkeep and improvements to the park. Annual membership is £5, due in June each year. Life membership is a once only payment of £50.

Please send payment to Jim Leslie, Treasurer F of JLP, 33 Oldfield Rd Altrincham, WA14 4EQ *Thank you.*

Visit our website:

[www.johnleighpark.org.uk](http://www.johnleighpark.org.uk)



If you have news, comments, photographs, contact: David Jolley, 07976 018418 or [friendsofjohnleighpark@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofjohnleighpark@gmail.com)

Would you like to advertise your business in our quarterly newsletter? We deliver to 2,000 homes in the Altrincham area.

¼ of an A5 page is £30 for 1 issue and £100 for 4 issues. You can design your own or send us the text and we will do it for you. Contact Maggie on 0161 928 6277



#GrGWinner We're proud to be one of Skipton Building Society's Grassroots Giving winners, recognised for supporting our local community.

