

# Winter Newsletter

January 2016



Friends of  
John Leigh  
Park



## HORSE CHESTNUT TREE UPROOTED IN STORM!



The wind and rain on the morning of the 30<sup>th</sup> December resulted sadly in the uprooting of this mature tree near the top of the park. Our fallen tree has had sympathetic surgery: the root-base is still with us and large limbs, at least for now, are lain close to where they fell.

Friends hope the trunk and root base can be retained in situ as a feature of interest and to be climbed on and loved – and also to be allowed to decay and be a home to insects, fungi and other small organisms – feeding the birds with an extended menu.

### CAROLS IN THE PARK.

Over 200 people came together to sing and enjoy the closeness of an open air service of carols, readings, reflective words and thought provoking topical videos.

The service was brilliantly presented by Reverend Ashley Hardingham with members of Altrincham Baptist Church making up the band and singers, and technical wizards of light and sound.

A collection raised £214 for Barnabus, a charity for the homeless in Manchester. Thank you to all involved in the planning and performance, and to all who attended this joyful family event.





## ALTRINCHAM METHODIST CHURCH

**MID WEEK ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:**  
Parent & Toddler groups, lunch club,  
Rainbows, Brownies, Guides,  
Boys Brigade  
and lots more

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

**Rooms available for children's parties**

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

**Sunday Evening Services Jan 31<sup>st</sup> to Feb 21<sup>st</sup>:  
Bible Teaching Series: 'New Testament  
Images of a Healthy Church'**

**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)



# Stepping Stones

## *Playgroup*

Based at St.Albans Church Hall,  
a Playgroup offering Ofsted  
registered childcare for  
children aged 2-5 years at  
an affordable price.

For further information or to  
apply, please contact us at:

[stepping\\_stones\\_playgroup@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:stepping_stones_playgroup@yahoo.co.uk)  
Tel: 07548 991 566



Stepping Stones Playgroup

## PLACES AVAILABLE

St Albans Church Hall Lindsell Road, Altrincham WA14 5NX

- ✓ English
- ✓ Maths
- ✓ Reading
- ✓ Spelling



## PROFESSIONAL TUTORING

**5 - 16 yrs GCSEs, SATs,  
Entrance Exams**

**Qualified, experienced teachers**

**FREE ASSESSMENT  
Call 0161 928 2111**

**We accept childcare vouchers  
No fees during school holidays**

**61 Brook Lane Timperley WA15 6RZ**

[www.stepuptuition.co.uk](http://www.stepuptuition.co.uk)



**The Wheatsheaf  
Church St  
Altrincham  
Home Cooked Food**

**2 Roast Dinners on Sundays - £10**

**Mon and Weds - Karaoke**

**Tues and Sun - Quiz & Play Your Cards  
Right**

**Fri and Sat - Disco, Karaoke**

***Please note: During January and  
February, we are open from***

***3.30pm – 12 midnight Monday to***

***Thursday. Food served 3.30 – 7.30 pm.***

***Weekends as normal.***

**Follow us on Twitter/ Facebook**

**0161 928 1284**

**North West in Bloom  
Gold Medal Award  
2015**

## **GREEN NEWS!**

### **2016 will be the Year of the Green Flag!**

After a gap of about 10 years, Trafford with Amey have agreed to increase the number of parks applying for Green Flag Status from 6 to 8, and have included John Leigh Park in the 8 applications. This is great news and would warm the hearts of the earlier Friends of John Leigh Park. There have been many positive developments which will support the bid:

- We were awarded Level 4, 'Thriving' by North West in Bloom 2015.
- Additional trees have been planted – Liquidambar and Black Walnuts.
- New plants for the long border came from a Skipton Building Society grant.
- Trafford Thrive has sponsored care of the birds in the aviary.
- Fruit trees have been donated by 'The Hub', and planted in the long border.
- Benches have been refurbished by volunteers from the Halifax Building Society, Altrincham.
- Friends have worked with Trafford/Amey officers and staff to keep the park tidy: planting bulbs in the Field of Hope, Thompson's Bank, and more, as well as looking after the birds every day.
- The park has a splendid new toilet to replace the previously derelict toilet block. This area now has an attractive wall and a grassy bank which will also be planted in due course.



- Money has been received from Trafford Thrive 2015 for two picnic benches, with extra sponsorship from an individual member of the Friends group.
- We have organised community events, which have been extremely popular and very well attended: The Big Lunch in June, Dogs' Delight Day in July, and Carols in the Park in December.



Devonshire Road Evangelical Church  
Devonshire Road Broadheath  
0161 929 9364  
[www.altrincham-evangelicalchurch.org](http://www.altrincham-evangelicalchurch.org)

**Take-a-Break**  
**Ladies' Coffee Morning** 

**An informal coffee morning every  
Wednesday 10.30 –12.00  
during term-time**

**Illustrated talks, crafts,  
demonstrations, outings**

**Why not join us for a cup of coffee  
and a chat.**

**A WARM WELCOME TO ALL**

# Calendars and Cards

For the first time we have produced a calendar of views of the park through the seasons. We have also created packs of 6 greeting cards with views of the park, which are blank inside for your own messages at any time of the year. We are very pleased with the interest shown in both the calendars and cards. **We still have a few calendars for sale.** The packs of cards will be available throughout the year. The aim is to spread knowledge and enjoyment of the park and to make a modest contribution to funds. Calendars are £7.50, packs of cards are £3.

**For next year's calendar, we want you to provide the illustrations.** We are asking people to send photographs each month and we will arrange for one to be selected from each month's collection to be included in the calendar. Your photo might also appear on our Facebook page or Twitter. Please send photos to our email address below.



**To buy calendars or cards, contact Maggie on 0161 928 6277 or Dave, 07976018418**



## Altrincham in Bloom Planter

Look out for the Friends of John Leigh Park Planter near the entrance to Regent Road Car Park. We're proud to take part in the Planter Scheme, and are most grateful to Alan Rydout and Lynne Dwyer, two members who design and maintain the planter on behalf of the Friends of John Leigh Park.

## Contact us:

If you have news, comments:  
David Jolley, 07976 018418  
[friendsofjohnleighpark@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofjohnleighpark@gmail.com)  
[www.johnleighpark.org.uk](http://www.johnleighpark.org.uk)

If you would like to advertise in our newsletter, or if you're interested in becoming a member or a sponsor, please contact: Jim Leslie, 33 Oldfield Road 0161 928 6277



## 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.

**We meet weekly at the Wheatsheaf at 7.30pm on Thursdays. Please come and share your thoughts.**



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

