



FRIENDS OF
JOHN LEIGH PARK



Newsletter Autumn 2020

Thank Goodness We Have The Park!

The year of the Covid-19 Pandemic continues. Sadly, lives have been lost and life-style has been changed for everyone, world over. The events in the park planned for this year have been cancelled.



As the number of cases has risen again after a reassuring fall and reduction of death rate, new restrictions have come into place and unfortunately we cannot look with any confidence toward events for later in the year or for 2021

But the park is here for everyone and has been a source of salvation – open, free and beautiful. We have seen people use the space and facilities with enthusiasm, creativity and responsibility.

People have brought extra chairs to sit at a suitable distance in small groups – just to catch up – or to celebrate something special.

Gazebos have appeared, festooned with ribbons and balloons. Informal games have been played. Picnics have been enjoyed, (no barbecues)! Ice-cream man John has been to hand when needed – queues even more impressive than usual with the two metre rule.



Tennis, football and basketball have been played responsibly within the courts. The bowling green has been well used – with someone on the green almost every day – but always within rules which restrict numbers, distances and use of equipment. The bowling pavilion, splendid in its new green paintwork, has remained out of bounds. There have been no competitive games this season, our activity is ‘social bowling’ – not to say we are not competitive!

The quirky, undulating bowling green looks as good as it has ever been in recent years, though running repairs were needed to some worn patches. Repair/replacement of the side boards is still on the agenda. This and the routines of green maintenance will begin during the autumn – winter break from the end of September.

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ALTRINCHAM METHODIST CHURCH

We are now open for Sunday worship every fortnight at 11am from Sunday 4th October 2020

We are also open for Private Prayer every week on Wednesdays 10am to 12 noon from Wednesday 7th October 2020

Other Methodist Churches in the area are also open. For more details please contact the circuit Office



Contact details
Church office 0161 928 0022

Email:
circuitoffice@altrinchammethodistcircuit.org.uk
Or visit our website:
www.altrincham-methodist.org.uk

Health walks had been been suspended, but changes in the rules mean that we were able to start a modified version of the scheme on September 21st. We will meet on the first and third Mondays of each month and do a shorter walk, staying within the park boundaries. It is not possible to go into the pavilion and have refreshments in the park after the walk.



New walkers are welcome, but please email or call to register beforehand. (See contact details on back page).

Walkers enjoying the sunshine, exercise and conversation on the first health walk since the end of March.

Keeping the Park Looking Good

The weather has been kind for the most part. There have been long periods of days with warmth, sunshine and dry ground. There have been days with monsoon-like rain. The combination has provided ideal growing conditions - grass has grown, as have the plants we love to see, and of course the weeds! We are grateful for the attentions of the Amey teams and their support by officers of Amey and Trafford MBC. We are also grateful for the contributions that volunteers have made to gardening throughout the spring and summer. The Duke of Edinburgh Award young people, and individual volunteers have worked on various gardening tasks such as edging, weeding and hedge trimming, as well as helping in the aviary.



Dawn's Bank – this was once the site of derelict toilets until 2015. It now presents a fabulous welcome just on the left from the Oldfield Road entrance. The Octagonal Bed – on the site which was once Oldfield Hall - is impressive and much loved by children who use it as a maze. There are plans to improve the hedging there and add under-planting for next year.



The Acer bed, just along from the bowling green, is much improved and the bed and the lawn around it are now given much more attention by visitors, including picnickers.



All the beds within and around the Ornamental Garden have done well, with even more attention than in previous years. The perennial beds have continued to be spectacular into the autumn, though the wildflower strips are now looking a bit tatty. However, it's important to remember they gave a good show earlier. We are discussing how to use these spaces for future years.



There is also the prospect of a wildflower patch below the Field of Hope (which has also done fairly well this year). This is to the right at the top of the main drive, and many daffodil bulbs have been planted there.



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After a dreadful time during the most severe lockdown, the toilet is open daily – with Friends ensuring it is available at weekends, bank holidays and afternoons into the evening while daylight allows. The play areas were also ‘out of bounds’ for many weeks. It was a special relief when the toddlers’ play area was unlocked, allowing families access to the space and its equipment, and to the aviary, where the birds had been looked after as ever by members of The Friends group.



The Hartley Road gateway remains a sad sight – but work will begin in October to bring it back to a much better state – Thanks to funds from Trafford/Amey – supplemented by contributions from our generous local people – including Seamons Moss Community Association. The restoration of the gateway will definitely be something to write home about!

D Jolley

Devonshire Road Church
Devonshire Road, Broadheath
929 9364

Jesus said, ‘Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.’

We are now holding our Sunday Morning Service
11am – 12 noon
ALL WELCOME
(Face coverings must be worn)

If you would like us to pray for you, please send your request to:
drecprayer@gmail.com





Friends group volunteers **Alan and Lynne** have been very busy as usual in the park. They have been cleaning and smartening up the wooden carvings of the parakeet and the crocodile in the toddlers' play area. Here they are with a new recruit.

They are part of the wonderful small group of people who look after the birds, turning out in all weathers to feed them and clean the aviary.

They also look after the Friends of John Leigh Park planter in front of the hospital. They design, plant, weed, and replenish it, for the enjoyment of the community.



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Trafford MBC has put up new signs at the 3 entrances to the park. This was a stipulation of the Green Flag assessors, and we believe the signs are standard in all Trafford parks.

Can you help to deliver our quarterly newsletters? We currently need a volunteer to deliver to Devonshire Rd, Newby Drive, Princes Rd and Salco Square. Please email friendsofjohnleighpark@gmail.com if you can help.

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