

Friends of John Leigh Park

Newsletter
Spring 2019



What a Contrast!

The end of January brought the snow, and many families flocked to the park to have fun and enjoy the beautiful Winter scenery.

At the end of February, we had lovely sunny, warm days, with crocuses and daffodils blooming. The half term holiday meant lots of families could spend time in the sunshine. This was the first time Jon the ice cream man had brought his van to the park in February!





Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme

Several young teenagers have been volunteering in the park on Saturday mornings as part of the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award scheme. They have worked with the guidance of the Friends group on clearing the bank at the back of the aviary, and have helped with various gardening duties in the ornamental gardens. They have also helped with the cleaning of the aviary and care of the birds. Money from the Skipton Grass Roots Giving grant has been used to buy plants and the young volunteers have done much of the planting. The course is a 12 week programme of weekly one hour volunteering, and they have made tremendous progress so far.



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ALTRINCHAM METHODIST CHURCH
MID WEEK ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

Parent & Toddler groups, Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Boys Brigade
Fun, Food and Fellowship on Wednesdays 12.30 to 1pm for lunch, and lots more

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

Come & join us this Easter. Services on Good Friday 19th April 10am and Easter Sunday 21st April 10.30 am & 6.30pm

Our Sunday Services are 10.30 am & 6.30pm

Contact details 
Church office 0161 928 0022
Email: amc.office@btconnect.com
Or visit our website:
www.altrincham-methodist.org.uk

Programme of Events 2019

Day and Date	Event
Sun March 24 th	Celebration of Trim Trail, 10.30am
Mon March 25 th	Bowling starts
Weds April 17 th	Easter Parade in the park with Alt C of E school, 9.30am
Mon May 6 th	Car Boot Sale, Dunham Massey
Sat May 11 th	Spring Clean
Sun June 2 nd	Big Lunch
Sat June 29 th	Dogs' Delight Day
Tues July 2 nd	Visit of NW in Bloom
Sun July 7 th	Jamming on the Park
Sun July 14 th	Teddy Bears' Picnic
Mon Aug 26 th	Car Boot Sale, St Margaret's Bowdon
Sun Sept 1 st	Jamming on the Park
Fri Sept 20 th	Last bowling
Sat Sept 28 th	Schools Cross Country Running
Sat Oct 12 th	Schools Cross Country Running
Weds Oct 30 th	NW in Bloom Awards, Southport
Sat Nov 16 th	Schools Cross Country Running
Sun Dec 22 nd	Carols in the Park



Trim Trail Celebration

Many park users are delighted that all seven elements of the trim trail have been restored and are being very well used. There has been a long wait for this to be put in place, and the cost was in the region of £16,500. This was funded by 106 monies from One Trafford Partnership. There is to be a celebration on **Sunday March 24th**, with demonstrations and competitions from the Altrincham gyms. Refreshments available from the Friends of JLP stall. We hope you will come along.



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Devonshire Road Evangelical Church
Devonshire Rd, Broadheath
0161 929 9364

www.altrincham-evangelicalchurch.org

Easter Sunday Celebration

April 21st 11.00am

Take - a - Break



Ladies coffee morning

Wednesdays (term time only)

10.30 – 1200

SUNDAYS

10.00am Communion

11.00am Morning Service

SATURDAYS

10.30AM -12.00 Youth Group

For young people in school years
7 and up during term time



Weekly Health Walks

Each Monday there is a health walk starting from the bowling pavilion, lasting around 45 minutes. Refreshments are available afterwards at the pavilion. Some of our members, including Wendy, pictured here, recently celebrated their 100th walk.



North West Air Ambulance Lands In The Park

The ambulance service and North West Air Ambulance responded to an emergency in John Leigh Park on 30th December, when a man had a fall and it was at first thought that neuro-surgical intervention might be required. The North West Air Ambulance have responded to 1774 call outs since March 2018. Follow this link to find out more about this wonderful service. <http://nwaa.net/>

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www.stgeorgesplaygroup.org.uk



The State Of Play:

Recent research from the University of Aarhus, using satellite images linked to health registers in Denmark, has demonstrated that living in or near green spaces in childhood is protective against mental health problems later in life. I suspect that my mother and generations before her knew that without the benefit of modern technology. Certainly the cotton masters who came to mansions in Bowdon and Altrincham were convinced that green fields, trees and clean air gave a better life than that in the slums and smog of the city.

We live on the edge of countryside, but direct access to the open space of John Leigh Park is a massive bonus. It is being kept tidy and gradually improved to encourage its use by people of all ages and all backgrounds.

We welcome Mrs Kirsty Chrysler, new head of Altrincham Church of England School. Children and families of the school use the park on a daily basis and Mrs Chrysler and the PTA are supportive of the Easter Parade Celebration which was rekindled during Mr Inglis' headship. The parade celebrates the relationship between school and park, raising funds for the Marie Curie Foundation in memory of a mother from the school who died of cancer. Our Field of Hope is gradually growing stronger year on year.

Young people from the National Citizens Service transformed our yard and mess last summer. At present a group of six teenagers working toward Duke of Edinburgh awards is helping improve the aviary garden and making best use of a £500 grant from Skipton Building Society's Grass Roots Giving Grant.

People of all ages can exercise for free in the fresh air, making use of the fabulous trim trail, tennis courts, football/basketball court and Bowling Green, not to mention the age-specific play areas. The bowling pavilion acts as base for the weekly Health Walk which now attracts of the order of 20 people each week. It is part of a network of walks which has been expanded with support from the NHS, many doctors now prescribing this and other exercise to improve health and quality of life beyond the reach of medication.

The programme of special events adds spice and encouragement to people to come along and know this place as their own.

These are not easy times, with imposed and prolonged austerity measures reducing resources being made available for welfare in any of its forms. Parks and green spaces have taken hits much greater than any other sector. The squeeze has produced stress and tensions as people are frustrated that visions, aspirations and even basic routines are not always achieved. But John Leigh Park provides a setting where good things can happen and do happen – very much dependent upon the people who live nearby and make best use of the heritage.

Dave Jolley Hon Sec FoJLP

Looking To The Future

Tennis For Free

The TFF coaching scheme will operate again in John Leigh Park. Visit their website to book. <https://www.tennisforfree.com/>

Bowling Green Area

The green has been prepared better than ever for the new season. We have thoughts to upgrade the pavilion, and an architect who is a supporter has done drawings for us. We are looking for funding sources, eg Sport England, Manchester Airport and others.

Grants News

- We were very pleased to receive a grant of £500 from the **Skipton Building Society** Grass Roots Giving Scheme. This has been spent on plants for the bank behind the aviary, and the ornamental garden.
- FoJLP has submitted an application to **The Tesco Bags Community Grant Scheme**. We want to buy a container to house community equipment. This would need an electricity supply to it, and CCTV.
- We have a project in mind and are submitting an application form to **Trafford Community Grants**, which are grants of up to £2,000. The project is the replacement of worn boards in the channels around the bowling green.
- The **Asda** grant application is ongoing. Thank you for your votes.
- As well the grants, the car boot sales bring in very helpful income. Your donations are very much appreciated.

Flying Saucer Repair

The new part is with Amey, and we hope it will be repaired and relaunched very soon

Hartley Rd Gates

We know that money has been set aside for the restoration, but we may need to ask for more.

Licence Renewal

The Licence for FoJLP to manage the aviary and mess buildings is due for renewal, and discussions are in place.

Green Flag and NW In Bloom

We will be making preparations for the visit of the Green Flag judges, and the North West in Bloom visit in July.

First Aid Training

12 of the FoJLP will be renewing their First Aid training certificates with training from St John Ambulance Service

Would you like to become a member of the Friends of John Leigh Park?

Your membership fee helps provide income for aviary costs, planting, maintenance tasks and for special events in the park.

The Friends group will email you with news about events, plans and progress relating to the park.

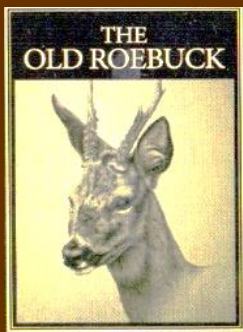
Annual membership is only £5, due in June each year, but you don't need to wait until June to join. If you join during March, April or May, your next annual fee won't be payable until June 2020.

Life membership is a one off payment of £50.

There is a membership form on our website: www.johnleighpark.org or ring Maggie Leslie, membership secretary, on 0161 928 6277.

You can pay by cash or cheque to:
Rob Kean,
Treasurer, FoJLP
55 Oldfield Rd
Altrincham
WA14 4BH

Or you can make a direct payment:
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