



Newsletter Spring 2022



EVENTS ARE BACK! Hopefully!

After two years of muted activity on the park, we are looking forward to a return of some special days: As it stands our provisional aspirations are:

April 13th – Easter Parade: This is a joint activity by Altrincham Church of England School and Friends of John Leigh Park. A traditional celebration of Easter and a fund-raiser for The Marie Curie Foundation

May 2nd – Car Boot Sale. This will be at Dunham and we will take two vehicles. Do come along and support us and the other stalls, Refreshments are scrumptious. Start is usually 9am

June 5th - BIG LUNCH – Jubilee theme: the biggest day – from 11am – to 4pm and beyond

July 3rd - Jamming 1: Popular music delivered by local bands and you if you wish. 2pm – 4.20pm

July 17th – Teddy Bears' Picnic. A gentle time together for bears and their families in the Ornamental Garden. 2pm- 4pm or so

August 28th - Jamming 2: another session with a remix 2pm – 4.30pm or so

August 29th - Car Boot Sale at St Margaret's Church. Do come along and support us and the other stalls. Refreshments here have always been good too. Start is usually 9am

Autumn, 3 dates to be announced. – Cross Country: Three Saturdays organised by Altrincham Athletics Club and local schools

December 18th - Carols on the Park: presented by Altrincham Baptist Church supported by Friends of John Leigh Park. 4.30pm – 5.15pm. We will also be having an Advent Trail over the Christmas period.

There is a cautious thrill of excitement in the air as the light is with us earlier and later, the birds are busy and singing and the elements are being kinder on most days.

We have certainly suffered with many days of rain. There have been record sized puddles, especially at the bottom of the long drive, and winds – repeated very strong winds making it difficult, even dangerous, to walk. Two of our splendid beech trees have been downed or damaged. The devastation has been so widespread that the tree unit is still struggling to catch up.

It does look as though we can run a programme of events, including a return of The Big Lunch – special as this is Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee year – We are grateful and excited that so many fabulous entertainments will be with us for that day. There will be music, a Teddy Bears' Picnic on other weekends and we anticipate Cross Country in the autumn. And we have tennis training on Saturday afternoons.

Our regular Monday Health Walks continue from the bowling pavilion. Bowling will start again at the end of March – There is an invitation from the Ladies' bowling team to join them – and our social bowlers are welcoming on most days but especially Mondays at 6.30-pm and Saturdays at 2pm. Bowls provided. We are deep in discussion about the future of the bowling pavilion. It is the fulcrum of much that we do but is limited in its facilities. No other bowling pavilion in Trafford is without running water! There are thoughts and draft plans for improvements, but even modest extras would be costly – and we are in times where money is short for Local Authorities and for individuals and families.



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Work should begin shortly to replace the roofing of the aviary – This is not the level which keeps the birds safely in the aviary, but stops the rain falling on them over about two thirds of the area and also deters the Sparrow Hawk from spooking them too freely.

We are able to do this work and the work in the gardens thanks to donations and to grants which Angela Stone has been so adept at winning. This year should see additional storage space achieved for the mess – this will make it possible to do more work and to store materials with less clutter. There is every expectation that we can attend car boot sales at Dunham and St Margaret's – lovely occasions where we meet others and make some money, again thanks to generous donations. The extra line we have explored during the lockdowns, with sales by E-Bay and similar outlets will certainly continue. It is most rewarding.

Dogs - there are many around the park. It is so important that owners look after them with care and respect for other park-users. Clear up dog poo please, and have your dog under your control at all times. Please respect the request that dogs are not taken into playgrounds and are only in the bowling green garden if on a lead. No 'Dogs' Delight' this year but we hope this will be possible from 2023.

Our gardening team are transforming some areas within the park. Matthew has provided an account of this. Their work is supplemented by the Duke of Edinburgh students. With them we have shifted leaves from the tennis courts, repeatedly cleared mud from the bottom of the main drive, cleared mud and damage from the Hartley Road cul-de-sac.

(Please do not park on the grass verges! The planned new parking restrictions are welcomed).



**Duke of Edinburgh Award
volunteers and members of the
gardening team help to clear the
pathway near The Wheatsheaf**

We have another project which is clearing the ancient pathway beside the wall of the Wheatsheaf. This had become overgrown with brambles and turf but is being revealed as a favourite route toward the school and eventually the town. The green space beside it used to boast four or five buildings, one being a sweet shop we are told.

These are difficult times. The park gives us space to be together for body and soul.

D. Jolley

Devonshire Road Church
Devonshire Road Broadheath
0161 929 9364
www.altrincham-evangelicalchurch.org

**“CHRIST
is RISEN”**

EASTER SUNDAY CELEBRATION

April 17th at 11 am

REGULAR SERVICES

ALL WELCOME

Sunday 10 am **Communion**
(except 1st Sun of month)
11 am **Morning service**

Tuesday 10.30-12 **Prayer & Bible study**

Weds 10.30-12 **Take-a-Break**
ladies coffee morning

Report From The Gardening Team

As the ground warms and the sun shines for a bit longer each day, crocus and daffodils are all starting to poke their heads above the soil again. Over the winter the gardeners have been preparing for the warmer weather.



We are bringing the ornamental garden to life again, replacing Carex with some woodland roses. They should flower this summer and provide hips for some colour through the winter. We hope you will love the blooms and on hot sunny days the smell should be sweet and fresh. Roses attract lots of insects to feast on their nectar. The humming as they go about their business may even drown out the sound of the traffic.



Down on the octagonal bed, where the bandstand used to be, caterpillars have eaten the Box around the 'Red Robin' tree. With the help of the Conservation Volunteers and a team of volunteers from NatWest, the Box was replaced with some Yew. The new plants are very small and may need protection until they get established. That may not look great but the reward in a couple of years will be a neat circular hedge.



We are likely to lose all the Box from that bed due to the caterpillar. As it goes, the plants inside will lose their protection. They suffered through lockdown from too much traffic and when the Box hedge goes so will all the plants inside. So we are intending to replace those formal beds with more Dogwood/Cornus.



The existing Cornus looks a bit sad now but will bounce back growing strongly through the summer and displaying coloured stems through the winter. We should be planting more of the Dogwood over the next couple of weeks to replace the plants removed recently.



If you would like to join in, the gardeners meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9am if the weather is good enough.

Matthew Curnow

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**Message from JLP Ladies' Bowling Team.
'Do come and join us.'**

The J L P ladies bowling team are looking forward to a full season this year, playing in the Altrincham Ladies League, as last year we could only play for half a season on a friendly basis without cup competitions. We play on a Wednesday afternoon with any cup competitions played on a Monday. Our first match will be at home on April 13th.

We are not the best team in the league by a long way but we enjoy playing and are a friendly group. We are always looking for new players so if you are looking for a new activity, whether you have played before or not, contact Ann Baldwin on 07854103589. We would love to see you.

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In January, Alan and Lynn represented the Friends of John Leigh Park in going along to accept a cheque from Waitrose for £333.

The lockdowns have meant that it has not been possible for stores to run the token schemes. Waitrose have, however, done very well during the pandemic and were keen to share their profits with good causes and they decided we are a good cause - So we are very grateful!



TREE DAMAGE

High winds and storms have felled or partly brought down trees in the park, and the tree unit has been very busy clearing up after the bad weather.

We have a new Ornamental Pear tree planted in memory in the Ornamental Garden and a replacement Rowan planted on the east of the main drive. A commemorative Jubilee oak will be planted near the ancient oak – completing a square of four younger oaks around the original. Further work will be done on the large fractured beech near the Oldfield Road play area. There are logs which remain and the beech which fell through the eastern wall some weeks ago remains to receive attention.



ALTRINCHAM METHODIST CHURCH

Barrington Road, WA14 1HF

SUNDAY WORSHIP

On-Line Altrincham Methodist Circuit

<https://thesundayservice.gallery.video/altrinchammethodist>

Join us at 10.30am for our on-line service. Past services are also available here.

Our Weekly Sunday Worship at Altrincham Methodist Church commences at 11.00 am till April 30th

Special Easter services on Good Friday 15th April at 10am and Easter Sunday 17th April at 11am

Mid-Week Services



Reflections/Worship at Altrincham Methodist Church

On 1st Wednesdays of every month at 1pm with short communion Service.

And on Wednesday 15th June at 1pm there will be 'Your Favourite Hymns', followed by a cream tea.

This is an open invitation to all

Or just come and have a brew with friends

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