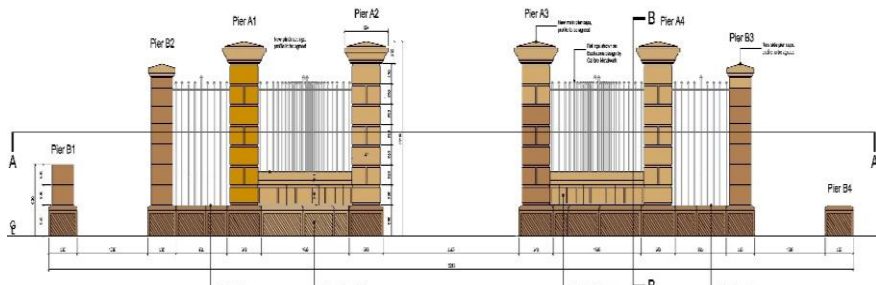


Friends of John Leigh Park



Newsletter, Summer 2020

Funding for the Hartley Rd Gateway – Target Achieved – but more if you will



We are pleased to announce that we have raised sufficient funds to begin the repair and reinstatement work of the Hartley Road gateway. This is a great achievement and cause for celebration. We thank those who have so far made donations that have enabled us to get to this stage. The final total of £15,486.75 was reached with the help of a transfer of £2,791.92 from FoJLP funds. So we will be pleased if people will continue to make donations toward the gateway to replenish the funds. Our £15,486.75 will be added to the £40,000 from Trafford MBC.

Trafford Council are in discussion with the contractor and they anticipate that the work may start in September 2020.

Donations can be made via the fund raising page:

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/hartley-road-gate-john-leigh-park-altrincham>

Or, by cash or cheque directly to: Friends of John Leigh Park, R Kean, Treasurer, 55 Oldfield Road, Altrincham WA14 4BH

Or, by direct bank transfer:

Friends of John Leigh Park, 05-02-13, account 42522594

We will keep you informed of any updates and progress.

Looking back at all that has happened with our park and its activities since the issue of our last newsletter

2020 –

The Vision That Has Been Taken Away

By the beginning of March we were pleased to be continuing our regular Health Walks, glad that the days were getting longer and we were setting up to be involved with the Easter Bonnet Parade on March 27th with pupils, staff and parents of Altrincham Church of England School and the Marie Curie volunteers in their large yellow hats. It was not to be. From March 17th we entered lockdown to defend us all from Covid-19.



The children of Altrincham C of E Primary School created a beautiful rainbow banner with their handprints.

So – no Big Lunch, no Dogs' Delight Day, no Teddy Bears' Picnic, no Jamming on the park – at least for now. There have been no car boot sales. We have apologised to people. Hopefully we will be able to realise the vision of 2020 in 2021.

Meanwhile the park has been a haven and a godsend for all of us who are able to access it for exercise and fresh air, within government guidance – keeping two metres apart and respecting the need that the play areas, sports courts and bowling green, not to mention the toilet, have been out of bounds. Almost everyone has complied.

On the streets around the park, there are rainbows and other signs at windows. On Thursdays at 8pm people have clapped to register support for everyone working to cope with the virus. On Sundays at 7pm some have placed a lighted candle in their window to indicate thoughtful togetherness. On May 8th, many people celebrated The 75th anniversary of VE Day in their drives, streets and gardens, decorating them with thoughts of that time when our nation had faced great difficulty and hardship.



Amey/Trafford MBC have done essential work in the park – clearing the bins and cutting the grass.

Friends of John Leigh Park have continued the daily rota to care for the birds in the aviary. It's been a busy time with a number of baby birds born.

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We have attended to the gardens with fabulous help from volunteers offering their exercise time and maintaining social distancing.



Volunteers have cleared leaves from beds and paths



There is always weeding to be done.

Watering has been vitally important during weeks of dry weather





We have planted seeds and supported the established plants.



Titan Landscaping and Paving have a team with over 20 years of experience and will beat any like for like quote.

Special offer this summer with 20% off for all Friends of John Leigh Park.

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Annual Membership Renewal



Annual Membership

Is due in June each year.

This year annual members have the option of paying £5 for one year, £10 for two years, or £25 for 5 years. Or of course there is Life Membership, a one off payment of £50.

You can renew your membership in the following ways:

By cash or cheque to The Treasurer, 55 Oldfield Rd, Altrincham WA 14 4BH. Please make cheques payable to 'Friends of John Leigh Park'.

Or a direct payment to: Friends of John Leigh Park, 05-02-13, 42522594. Please add your name as the reference.

Your support is very important to us and is greatly appreciated.



We have four new trees in the park – a Lime, a Ginko and two oaks, which are watered daily.



Alan and Lynne, from the the Friends group have maintained the John Leigh Park planter in front of Altrincham hospital. The Friends have also maintained the plants at the corner of Manchester Rd and Oldfield Rd.



Our team is still here for you!
Welcome to
Virtual Holiday Club 2020!

At The Methodist Church our first priority is keeping everyone safe, and at our holiday club this means our young guests, their families and our leaders. For this reason, this year we are unable to run our annual holiday club weeks in person. However, you can still access our club through the wonder of the internet! We will still be packing your weeks with fun, songs, stories and crafts, but you can access everything right in your living room!

Come and join us for either or both. For more information contact us at:

holidayclub@altrinchammethodistcircuit.org.uk



Come and join us for either or both.
Emergency Rescue:
27th - 31st July
Wonder Zone:
17th - 21st Aug

Sunday Services

Join us in your own home every Sunday at 10.30am for our Live Streamed Service

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



From May 13th – restrictions have been eased so that the sports courts are open for use within government guidelines.

The bowling green is open for use. The government guidelines have required us to establish a bowling section of FoJLP as the equivalent of a club. Only people registered as members can access the green and we are required to maintain a register of who bowls – essentially to confirm that there are not too many people on the green at one time so that social distancing can be ensured. It will also provide a framework for contact tracing should that ever become necessary.

The Green Flag assessment is suspended for this year, as is the RHS North West in Bloom scheme 'In Your Neighbourhood' – but we hope the park this year would have passed their scrutiny just the same.

There have been many sad losses of loved people during this time. A recent death was that of Bill Blackledge, the charismatic leader of North West in Bloom: we are grateful for the help and support he gave us.

Our regular Thursday meetings at the Roebuck have not been possible but we have latterly organised fortnightly Zoom meetings thanks to Angela Stone. These work quite well for those who are able to use the system. Our AGM is set for July 16th. Unless there are changes, this will be conducted via Zoom. Anyone wishing to join for this, please let us know and we will provide the link and further instructions. Dave Jolley 29 Oldfield Road. WA14 4EQ friendsofjohnleighpark@gmail.com

No definite plans for park events are possible. We await guidance on the next steps in a cautious and responsible usage of this precious green space.

D. Jolley

Hon Secretary

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Psalms 46 verse 1

Why not talk to Him



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