



Newsletter SUMMER 2023



The Big Lunch, June 11th

The weather for the Big Lunch was not perfect – but by the early afternoon there was a good collection of visitors of all ages. The Woodcraft people from Sale had set up their impressive display of wood turning and provided interesting information and encouragement for people to appreciate their work and maybe join in their activities. We have a brilliant lidded bowl which is fashioned from a bowler's wood. It is a new heirloom for the family.

A 70 voice choir 'Magic Voices', treated us to two sessions of high quality singing . They sang songs which moved the memory and swelled our hearts – and not many could resist the call to join in. A few tears of happiness.

Friends of John Leigh Park sold refreshments, Peter hosted bowling, and George sold quality donated goods from a Table Top..

Meanwhile, the extraordinary Andy Waters contrived glorious games of 5-side football (teams of 2 x 5 or 6, and 2 x 3). Great quality. Immaculate discipline at the whistle. Pride and good nature at the result – a cup, medals and an ice-cream!

Nearby the children could make things craft-wise, or scamper about with water, hoops – obstacles, and all in lively short races.

Ah – Yes – we had ice-creams – the queue was as long as that for the legendary Jon in years sadly now past.

Nearby you could make things craft-wise, or scamper about with waters, hoops, obstacles and all in lively short races.

And – Alan R had organised a Jamming session which got us singing again – seeing us out and sending us home, humming and smiling.



The intrepid bell ringers from St Margaret's Church again set up their mobile bell tower for the Big Lunch so that we could appreciate their skills up close.



The members of the Altrincham Bell Ringers group demonstrated the techniques with the ropes and bells and encouraged us to have a go.



Altrincham Bell Ringing Summer School

Altrincham Bell Ringers are running a **Summer School** from **21st to 25th August, 9.30 to 11.30**, to introduce youngsters to bell ringing. We are looking for a group of folk going into Years 7,8 or 9, who would be keen on taking part. We have very limited places!

In 2018, Altrincham's bell ringers began training a group of youngsters to ring bells. We used the latest teaching methods and a training scheme called **Bell Start**. This allowed the youngsters to make accelerated progress. As a result of our success, in 2020, we won the award for the **best National Bell Ringing Youth Group** in the country. Our youngsters are now all going to university and we want to take on another group. If you would like to come along, please contact Andrew on dunhambells@gmail.com





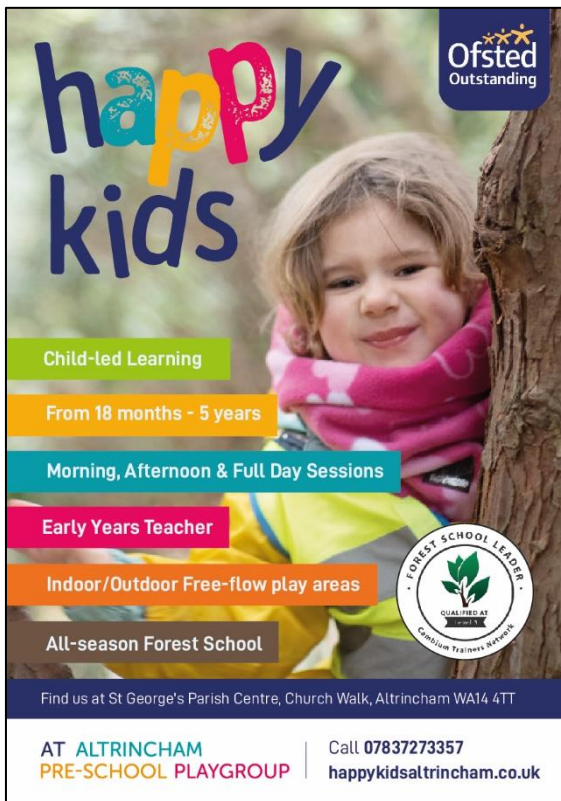
The Bollin Dancers gave us two sets of music and dancing from the generations. Their Dancing enthral – and sucks you in if you dare to join in. Just lovely.



This family joined us at the Big Lunch for the jamming session. They call themselves the Desert Rabbits. Dad had made the instruments himself!



We're always so grateful to John Donahue, who performs so brilliantly at our Jamming sessions and is so clever as our sound technician.



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June 25th we planned to run Dogs' Delight with Perfect Paws and St George's Church – but we were forced to cancel because of a forecast of rain, thunder and lightning. They all came and we were glad to be at home. It may be possible to run it again in September.

We believe we have been 'secret shopped' by Green Flag and we look forward to the RHS 'In your neighbourhood' visit in August.

Our worry about the future of the tennis courts and MUGA remains unresolved. There has been a good deal of quiet and non-communication from Trafford MBC on this. We understand that the results of discussion and a survey and 'consultation' will be present to Trafford Executive quite soon. We are not convinced that this is an even-handed process and fear that the courts will become locked and available only to people who have paid for access or are allowed access because of their special needs. (Sir) John Leigh gave this land for the people of Altrincham.

These parcels of land with the park will be less freely available than they have been for many years. We do understand that there is need to find ways to sponsor good care of parks, but we would wish to explore other ways.



So - everyone is welcome to the ornamental garden - but if you are bringing your dog, please have them on a lead to be sure the plants are not damaged. There are plenty of other acres of the park where you can let your dog off the lead.

Please note:

The date of the Friends of John Leigh Park Annual General Meeting is Thursday September 21st at The Old Roebuck, 42 Victoria Street, Altrincham.



On July 2nd we had a full Jamming session. Alan had assembled a fabulous array of talented local musicians. It was a bit chilly and we had been warned of high winds – but fortune favoured the brave and we enjoyed a quality afternoon – again with refreshments to keep us comfortable.

Ben Williams (above photo) is a long standing favourite at the Jamming sessions.



John Donahue performed with 2 of his children and 2 of their friends. Such a great achievement for these youngsters.

We also enjoyed a brass quartet (left), of highly talented musicians who rehearse at the Navigation pub.

The next Jamming session is August 20th



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&

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Devonshire Road, Broadheath
0161 929 9364

www.altrincham-evangelicalchurch.org

REGULAR SERVICES

Sunday	10 am	Communion <i>(except 1st Sun of month)</i>
	11 am	Morning service <i>(including Sunday Club)</i>
Tuesday	10.30 - 12	Prayer & Bible study
Weds	10.30 - 12	Take-a-Break ladies coffee morning <i>(term time)</i> Starting again Sept 6th

Harvest Service

8th October 11.00 am

All Welcome

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**For any information or to book a session,
call Coach Phil on
0777 3738 981 or email
coachina@bowdonltc.com**



The Methodist Church
Altrincham Circuit

Join us for Sunday worship from 10.30am
Altrincham - Barrington Road
Timperley - Stockport Road
Hale - Hale Road
Bowdon Vale - Priory Street (10.45am)

Watch our services online
<https://thesundayservice.gallery.video/altrinchammethodist>

Follow us on Facebook
@Altrincham Methodist Circuit
@Timperley Methodist Church

Visit our cafe at
Altrincham Methodist Church, Barrington Road
Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursday, and Fridays
10am-2pm

WELCOME - WORSHIP - ACTION



Unfortunately we had to cancel the planned Teddy Bears' Picnic for the little ones on July 16th as thunderstorms were threatened.

We believe we have been 'secret shopped' by Green Flag and we look forward to the RHS 'In your neighbourhood' visit in August.

June, we are told, was the hottest month in the UK since records began. There were weeks with no rain, putting all of us and the plants and trees and grass in the park under pressure. It seems likely that this is the future we must be prepared for. Despite these difficulties, the park looks good thanks to the work of our gardening group and others, along with Amey and Trafford MBC. The most spectacular areas are the Ornamental Garden, Octagonal Bed and Dawn's Bank, but there are important additions elsewhere, including the Hydrangea bed just opposite the Acer bed at the north east corner beyond the bowling green.

At about 5.30pm on Monday 17th July, a huge branch fell from the large beech tree near the Oldfield Road entrance. Thankfully no one was hurt, but a mum with a pushchair and child were near at the time.

With extraordinary speed, Trafford's Tree Unit commissioned a team to remove the fallen branch, make the site safe, and make best use of the wood. As good as it gets. Thank you



CONTACT DETAILS

Tel: 07976018418



johnleighpark



/FriendsofJohnLeighPark



@JohnLeighPark

There is a membership form on our website. Annual membership is £5, Lifetime membership is a one off payment of £50. Bank details are on the membership form, or cash/cheque to The Treasurer, 55 Oldfield Road.

Email:

friendsofjohnleighpark@gmail.com

Website:

www.johnleighpark.org.uk

Annual members please note, annual subscriptions are due in June each year. Thank you to all those who have paid up to June 2024, but we await payment from quite a few annual members.

We are feeling our way to improve the area on the east border beside the new wall of Townfield Gardens. At present this is an interesting mix of the fallen beech tree and plantings by serendipity – we have added mulch from autumn leaves.

The bowling green has suffered most from the heat and drought. Its problems are exacerbated by the fact that there is no water supply to the bowling hut (or pavilion). We are the only bowling facility in Trafford parks which is without water. This has been an inconvenience for the Ladies' Bowling team, for social bowlers and for all the weekly and extra events which we organised from the building. But now we feel there is an urgent need to establish a water supply to the bowling hut that can be used to water the green when there are periods of heat and drought. Despite the recognised need, The Council cannot fund the provision of piped water and drainage. We are in the process of obtaining a cost to run a pipe from the mess/toilet block to the bowling hut – looking to provide a standpipe as a first move which will be most affordable, but nevertheless quite expensive. We are engaged with Trafford MBC and Amey in this exercise. It will be necessary for us to raise funds via grants and any other means.

We do have excellent relations with the staff of Trafford MBC and Amey. Almost every month we are able to walk the park with their senior officers. This allows us to identify any new needs or ideas and agree how to make them good. Not every wish can be satisfied as quickly as we would wish, but we have to work within what is feasible,

The Toddlers' Play area – a colourful hut with a musical pipe-organ (which can be heard late into the evenings!). The play area for young people and older children, near Oldfield Road, has a new basket swing – less adventurous than its predecessor, but perhaps more durable, and a replacement see-saw. The see-saw is made of substances other than wood, which may mean it lasts longer, but pieces have already gone missing. These new pieces of equipment are well received by children, parents and young people.

We have been approached by West Timperley Medical Practice, asking that we publicise the Social Prescribing scheme available from them and other Practices – The aim is to improve people's health and well-being by involvement in supported activities - we and other agencies can help with this through offering placements as volunteers.

Here is the contact information they have sent us.

Our Social Prescribers are here to help patients registered with Altrincham Healthcare Alliance Primary Care Network's GP practices:

Altrincham Medical Practice, Park Medical Practice, Shay Lane Medical Centre (Drs Cranston, Haslam and Connell), St Johns Medical Centre and West Timperley Medical Centre

Need support or a chat? Simply contact your GP Practice to speak to our Social Prescribers, or email trccg.socialprescriberahapcn@nhs.net, or self- refer via our website www.altrinchamhealthcarealliance.co.uk/our-work/social-prescribing-self-referral

And we are glad to be here and to be part of something wonderful. There have been several generous donations, some in memory of lost members of family – we are most grateful for these They emphasise that this park is owned by the people who live nearby and love it and use it as their own. There is room for you to join in the work – in the gardens, the aviary, the Health Walks and more. Feel invited.

D Jolley