



## **Courts for Tennis, Soccer and Basketball.**

We are fortunate in having three tennis courts and a Multi Use Games Area in the western section of the park. They are in good condition and are well used. People will have seen that Trafford MBC has accepted a proposal that courts in Trafford's Parks will become managed by the Lawn Tennis Association. In outline the plan is that courts become locked, and available for use via an electronic lock system which will be operated via tokens which will be available for a fee, or for certain people with particular needs. There were rumblings about this before the Covid crisis and lockdown – but it has resurfaced now – and presented as a fait accompli.

The argument for doing this is that it will generate money to ensure maintenance of the courts, and improvements where this is needed. It is also suggested that it will increase the use of courts and encourage people to become fitter and maybe to go on to more serious training in the skills of tennis. We understand that the courts, like all components of parks, require funding to be kept in good order. Friends of John Leigh Park, and Friends groups in other park complement the work done by 'The Council' and will always want best use made of monies that are available. We are steadfastly against giving over our courts to a third party and making them unavailable to most park users most of the time. The process of consultation on this matter has been notable by its absence until after the event. We, and other Friends groups, are contesting this. How far we can correct this fault remains to be seen, but please be vigilant and support us in this where you can.

## Gardening News



Removal of the dead or dying Box bushes has left space for new planting and opened up areas which had previously been dominated by these heavy, rather gloomy ever(dark)greens. The remnants of the short hedges on the Octagonal bed have been left in situ for now, as they provide a degree of protection for the newly planted, coloured cornus (Dogwood). The most dramatic change has come in the Ornamental Garden where bare and attractive walls have been visible through the winter, but we now see new sprouts of young plants. the modest and potentially shabby beds before the toilet have also been cleared of Box – and have the beginnings of a new, more colourful life.



The bed below the avenue of pollarded hollies has been transformed – with an open southern entrance, new smaller shrubs and an easy view down through smaller bushes illuminated by snowdrops and primroses. All this along the eastern border.



Established dogwood with mungo grass beneath.

A black bamboo



Escallonia



Choisya



The main area of the Ornamental Garden is awaiting this year's blooms from the perennial beds, including the wildflower beds. The verge of trees adds to the dignity and gives a third dimension to our experience.

The Long Border, which runs along the west of this garden was replanted last year. We look for additional vigour and colour from the roses which may also be protective to the area.

## Dogs

This is where we turn to dogs and children and mums and dads. The lovely plants are vulnerable and will not give their best if repeatedly run over by dogs and others who are careless of their worth. We are blessed with 14.6 acres of beautiful land, on slopes which display its virtues – including the plants and especially the specimen trees which have been planted with care and forethought over centuries. There is plenty of room for us to walk and run and enjoy fresh air.

The only spaces within the park where access for dogs is restricted are the play areas for young children. Dogs should never be taken into the toddlers' playground – for reasons of health and hygiene. We ask that dogs are taken into the bowling green area only if they are on leads. Additional notices are being prepared to emphasise this. We are keen for there to be similar discipline in the management of dogs within the Ornamental Garden. At present this is not a fenced area, though something like the fence around the bowling green might be considered. For now, after discussion with Trafford MBC/Amey, it was agreed that notices will be placed stating that dogs should be taken into this area only if they are on leads. This is in keeping with other parks, including Walkden Gardens.

We hope that people will respect this initiative, and also restrict games in this area to be sure that the plants are not at risk.



Most dog walkers are very good at clearing up after their dog. This is so important for all park users. There are just a few who are careless. We hope they can join the rest of us in keeping the park poo-free, please. We are fortunate in that bins are provided and are cleared quite frequently.

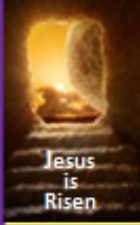
A promotional poster for 'Happy Kids' playgroup. The background features a young child with blonde hair, wearing a pink patterned scarf and a yellow high-visibility jacket, leaning against a tree trunk. The text 'happy kids' is written in large, colorful, lowercase letters. The poster includes several key details in colored boxes: 'Child-led Learning' (green), 'From 18 months - 5 years' (orange), 'Morning, Afternoon &amp; Full Day Sessions' (teal), 'Early Years Teacher' (pink), 'Indoor/Outdoor Free-flow play areas' (orange), and 'All-season Forest School' (dark blue). In the top right corner, there is an 'Ofsted Outstanding' logo. In the bottom right corner, there is a circular logo for 'FOREST SCHOOL LEADER' with a tree icon and the text 'QUAKHEDIAT 2017' and 'Consistent Trailers Network'. At the bottom, a dark blue banner contains the text 'Find us at St George's Parish Centre, Church Walk, Altrincham WA14 4TT'. Below the banner, the text 'AT ALTRINCHAM PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUP' is displayed in orange and pink, followed by 'Call 07837273357' and the website 'happykidsaltrincham.co.uk' in black.

Find us at St George's Parish Centre, Church Walk, Altrincham WA14 4TT

AT ALTRINCHAM  
PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUP

Call 07837273357  
happykidsaltrincham.co.uk

Devonshire Road Church  
 Devonshire Road, Broadbeath  
 0161 929 9364  
[www.altrincham-evangelicalchurch.org](http://www.altrincham-evangelicalchurch.org)



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is  
Risen

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## Planter

You might want to take a look at our Friends of John Leigh Park planter. It's the one situated at the front of the hospital on Railway Street. Alan and Lynne tend it and do the replanting as the seasons change. We are very grateful to them. Here it is newly dressed for Spring.



## Alan Hardman

### Altrincham and District Athletic Club.

It was with great sadness that we heard that Alan had passed away on the 12th of February 2023. ADAC was formed in 1961 and Alan was a founder member.



He was an Institution at the club, holding President, Chairman, and Secretary positions during his long and dedicated service.

ADAC have been using John Leigh Park as a training ground for Cross Country. In the 60's 70's and 80's the park was used, and formed part of the Manchester League Cross Country Series. The undulating nature of this park made it one of the toughest on the Manchester League circuit .

Prior to Covid 19 Alan was in attendance at all of the Schools Cross country races held in the park, helping in any way he could, setting out the course, logging times, giving out prizes.

Alan Hardman's service to the club was rewarded when he was asked to be a torch bearer for the 2012 London Olympic Games. A large gathering of athletes and locals turned out to watch him run his leg through Whitefield.

A.Rydout

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## Programme of Events 2023

**We have a lively programme for the weeks ahead** – Many events being in association with other local organisations. We hope people will come along and enjoy the events. We are not doing a Coronation Special – as we think there will be many other venues providing something – and we want to keep our regular Big Lunch session. This year it will be on June 11<sup>th</sup>.

March 30<sup>th</sup> Easter Bonnets. With Altrincham Church of England School

May 1<sup>st</sup>. Stall at Dunham Massey village hall car boot sale

June 11<sup>th</sup>. Big lunch. With bell ringers, Magic Voices Choir, Bollin Morris, Bands, games and crafts for the children, bowling, 5 a side football. Bring your picnic! No barbecues please!



June 25<sup>th</sup> Dogs' Delight. With Perfect Paws

July 2<sup>nd</sup> First Jamming In The Park

July 16<sup>th</sup> Teddy Bears' Picnic

August 20<sup>th</sup> or 27<sup>th</sup> Jamming In The Park 2

August 28<sup>th</sup> Stall at St Margaret's car boot sale.

October 31<sup>st</sup> A Halloween Night Stop. With St George's Church

3 x Cross Country races. Altrincham Athletics Club

Carols in the park. With Altrincham Baptist Church

We will also be involved in a Green Flag review and North West in Bloom (In Your Neighbourhood).

D. Jolley

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# The Methodist Church

Altrincham Circuit

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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**

## 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

**Email:**  
[friendsofjohnleighpark@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofjohnleighpark@gmail.com)

**Website:**  
[www.johnleighpark.org.uk](http://www.johnleighpark.org.uk)

## Bowling Green

The Bowling Green has been mowed and is looking good. We are able to bowl from Monday March 27<sup>th</sup> .



We will be present for social bowling Monday evening from 6pm and Saturday afternoon 2pm.

You are very welcome to come along and join us.

