



The Beauty Of Our Park

The park is a safe place for people to spend time, within the rules, and has been a salvation for our physical and mental health and spiritual wellbeing. During these months, we have grown to value and understand how beautiful our park is. We've appreciated the seasons and the joys which come from the birds (singing louder than ever), squirrels, insects and other creatures within the marvellous context of the hillside, the trees, bushes and other plants. Perhaps most magnificent is the bed at the base of the wall where once there was the derelict toilet block, (photo above). We call this area Dawn's Bank.



There is competition from the Acer Bed, (above). In the ornamental garden there is the Long Border, the mini-orchard and the Holly Bank, as well as the main flower beds. All these areas are tended by the Friends gardening group.



The Friends gardening volunteers have given time and talent to improve the park. During the next few weeks we will be assessed for the Green Flag and by North West in Bloom. The volunteers are working very hard in preparation for these visits.



The perennial plants in the ornamental garden are looking better than ever this year.



In April we laid a magic carpet of pre-seeded turf in the ornamental garden, (a grant from Trafford Community fund). This has bloomed beautifully and hopefully will continue to do so in future summers.

The boards of the bowling green have been repaired thanks to Trafford MBC. The green looks marvellous, provides sport and fellowship – ‘Please Keep off the Grass’ signs seem to have been well received and respected. The green is in action almost daily, with special arrangements Mondays at 6.30pm and Saturdays at 2pm.



Whilst bowling, we do have to be aware of constraints of numbers and distancing, though it is generally agreed now that activities outdoors are less hazardous than indoor meetings. The Ladies' Bowling Team are about to start competitive games.



The beautiful trees make the playgrounds special places. The Octagonal Bed is a focus for activities and much enjoyed for its maze-like attributes. We do need to treat it with respect for fear of damaging the plants, hedging and shrubs. We are experimenting with the idea of ground cover to suppress weeds on the Octagonal Bed.

ALTRINCHAM METHODIST CHURCH

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On-Line Altrincham Methodist Circuit

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

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Our Sunday Reflections/Worship at Altrincham Methodist Church

On the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month 11.00 am

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On 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month

The 1st Wednesday of every month will be a short communion Service.

And the 3rd Wednesday of every month will be a short service of reflection.

These will commence as follows:

7th July short communion service at 11.15am

21st July short service of reflection at 11.15am

This is an open invitation to all

Please come and join us

Booking Essential

circuitoffice@altrinchammethodistcircuit.org.uk

Or visit our website:

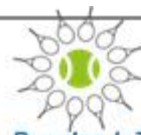
www.altrincham-methodist.org.uk



The planting at the corner of Manchester Road again provides interest and colour for passers-by – a gateway to Oldfield Road as people come and go to and from the park. The Friends of John Leigh Park planter boasts brilliant colour in our name beside the hospital in town.

The tennis courts and football/basketball court are open and well used. We would ask players to be mindful of neighbours – noise travels easily across the park. Playing noisily beyond 9pm is less than kind.

The birds in the aviary provide interest and entertainment for young and old – baby budgies came in the worst of weather but huddled together – we called them ‘Smudgies’. They have done well.



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The broken small roundabout was repaired within days – and other repairs have been done though the Cradle Swing is still out of action. This will be an expensive job and we have to wait in line within the restricted budget for all parks.

There has been a notable rise in the number of dogs in the park – so many puppies and proud new owners. It is important that dogs, owners and everyone takes care – clean up after your dog and be sure they are under your control at all times.

We welcome the new ventures offering refreshments in the park. Johnny and his silver bullet coffee van offers coffees, teas, hot chocolate, ice cream and cakes. The van is usually in the park Thursday to Sunday 10am to 4pm, weather permitting, and more days in the school holidays. Find Silver Bullet Coffee on Facebook or on Instagram @silverbulletcoffeeuk. The park also has a visiting 'Stop Me and Buy One' Ice Cream bike vendor.



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ALL ARE WELCOME

The restrained times of Covid-19 continue as the appearance of new variants and less careful behaviour has led to surges of infection and the continuance of social distancing and rules governing what we should do. We have not been able to organise a Big Lunch or Dogs' Delight Day, but we are hoping it may be possible to have Jamming on the Park (music by our local musicians and yourselves) – we are asking Trafford MBC about the dates of July 25th and September 5th. These are very provisional – but look out for more news on our Facebook page. We will also ask about a Teddy Bears' Picnic date for August.

The work of our gardening volunteers has been invaluable, Colleagues from Trafford MBC and Amey have played their parts, but have been hit by illness, at least one tragic death, and requirements to self-isolate. They are even more stretched for staff than usual. The Duke of Edinburgh Award students are with us on Saturday mornings and are involved in a range of projects which include edging-off, attending to the aviary, repairing the verge at Hartley Road Gateway, hedges, weeding, and surveying the 31 benches in preparation for action. Their work is much appreciated – For the most part they say they enjoy being with us!



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Regular Monday morning Health Walks started again in April, (10.30am start from the Bowling Pavilion). Health Walks have taken us as far as King George's Pool, the edge of the Devisdale and the Bridgewater canal. There is much to see and appreciate and stories to be told. In and out of the



park we see wild and cultivated plants – from roses to flowers of the field. Then afterwards we enjoy a chat and refreshments outside the bowling pavilion.



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We grieved and continue to grieve the loss of Jon our Ice Cream man. The Van returned for a final sale organised by the family. A very generous donation has been made to our funds and there will be a special bench in his name around the tree which carried so many tributes. On Father's Day, another floral tribute from the family was placed at the base of the tree where he parked his van.



We have received a grant of £1,000 from Tesco in response to a submission made many months ago. We are still in the process of purchasing a safe storage facility for the yard.

It has not been possible to attend car boot sales because of restrictions – this is a shame because they offer a great social occasion to meet others and advertise our work as well as raising funds. Funds have been maintained by generous donations, regular membership payments and sales through EBay, Gumtree and other online agencies of items which have been donated. Thank you all so much for this support.

We are relieved to find that the suggestion that Friends Groups would be asked to take responsibility for parks, has been hastily withdrawn, with apologies. We are happy to return to a fair and reasonable relationship in which the contributions of Friends voluntary activities are recognised and appreciated but overall responsibility and ownership is the Council's.

Our team has been meeting fortnightly on Thursdays via Zoom, and latterly with some people at The Roebuck. Any member is welcome to join us to have their say or simply to hear what is going on. Contact us to ask for the link to the meeting.

This is our park – If we work together and in good relationship with the Council – we will keep it beautiful.

David Jolley June 2021

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

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