

Newsletter, Summer 2022

The Platinum Jubilee Big Lunch



Christine did us proud with her display of balloons, flags and banner on the memorial bench for her husband Bert. The display was spoiled first time round by vandals – but Christine came again to put it right. Thank you, Christine.

June has brought us a very busy first week – with The Big Jubilee Lunch on Sunday 5th and the Green Flag assessment the following Thursday - not an 'event' but very much a red-letter day in our calendar. Our Green Flag judge was particularly taken with the weeping beech and all aspects of the Ornamental Garden, the Acer bed, and Dawn's bank. Plans for a bigger, wilder wild-flower area within and below the Field of Hope promise more for the future.



St Margaret's Church Mobile Belfry

Rain – and the threat of rain were to have influence on **The Big Jubilee Lunch** – Forecasters were not of the mode of Michael Fish and painted dire pictures of a miserable, rain-swept day for our celebrations. This almost certainly reduced attendance but there were still something like 200 people of all ages on the park during the day. We were treated to a fine programme – starting with a mobile bell tower which had been erected near the lower tennis courts by Andrew Darling and other enthusiasts. So we had bells rung within the park for the first time in its history. There were demonstration peals, and people were invited to try their hands at bell ringing through the day – and they did! The ambition was to recruit potential bell-ringers for St Margaret's Church. It was a great success and there are thoughts of an extended version next year with invitations to local bell-ringer teams to show off their repertoires, but still to allow novices their time.



Magic Voices choir entertained us splendidly with lively, tuneful, harmonised songs, bringing back memories and not a few tears. The arrangements were unusual and complex, but accurately and impressively sung. We know that Magic Voices will be receiving applications to join them. Just lovely.



The **Bollin Morris** Dancers came colourful and exuberant – flowing colours of the river – stirring sounds of fiddle and drum and more. Feet were tapping and stamping, bells were ringing and Big Sticks were rat-tatting in rhythm. The costumes and blue faces look amazing. Spectators could join in with some of the dances – and claim another badge for the cap or jersey. Terrific – Have you got your breath back?

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The appearance of the **St. Ambrose Jazz Band** – led by Miss Yates – was much anticipated. It was well-worth the wait. They gave an impressive, immaculate performance showing the range of skill, talent and togetherness that they have achieved.

People wanted more – and hopefully we will see more of them in the future. The boys and Miss Yates should feel very pleased and proud of what they did for us this day.



The weather improved a little in the afternoon, and people stayed to sit under the gazebo or the tree to listen to the Buskers

The various brilliant local musicians who form the body of our Jamming group are: **Recycled**, Mike and John with **Oldplay**, **Michael Whelton**, and **The OMT Buskers**. They lifted our spirits, jogging our memories, teaching us new tunes – Magical.

They will be back for two **Jamming In The Park** sessions on July 3rd, 2pm to 4pm or so, and August 28th, 2pm to 4pm. People can join in if they have their instrument and a song to share, or just come along, listen and enjoy.

Phil Spencer from Bowdon Tennis Club was at the tennis court to offer guidance with tennis, but we did not get a five-a-side football competition, nor bowling because of rain and numbers – Next year!

There should have been a wood turning display, but the wood turners thought better of it because of the weather, but will come again.

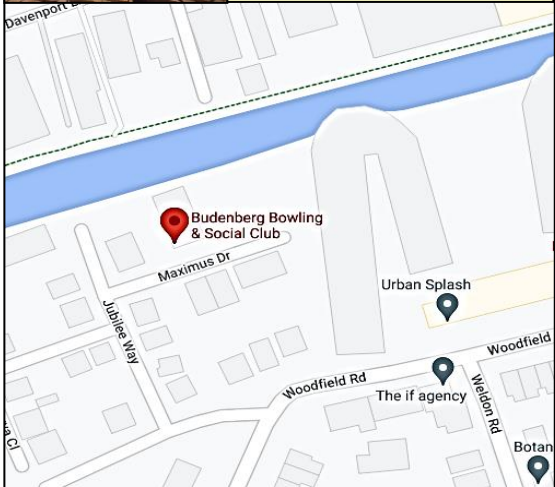
The threat of heavy rain and the lack of numbers led to the cancellation of craft sessions for the children with Andrew and Ruth. Such a shame! Next year, hopefully!



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**We welcomed April, with her Vanoffee van, who
has been waiting many weeks to get her licence
with Trafford processed.**

Friends of John Leigh Park provided refreshments if these were needed to supplement picnics. Our new Coffee Van lady, April, came for the first time – to serve coffee and other snacks from her Vanoffee van. It has been a struggle to get through the red tape to get refreshments on the park in succession to Johnny with his ice cream van. April is planning to add ice-creams to her range very soon. We have emphasised that ice-creams of good quality are a must please.

Other Events

We had hoped we could get going with events this year – and indeed we have, despite the weather. Wind and rain meant the Easter Bonnet Parade with Altrincham Church of England School had to be modified from the usual parade around the park, to a march around the playground.

However, that went very well and gave the children the chance to show off their hats over several circuits of the playground.



The beginning of May gave us sunshine for a day at Dunham to enjoy being part of the car boot sale there – Great to meet all the people, enjoy the bacon butties and make quite a lot of pounds from the sale of fabulous items donated by your good selves. Please bear us in mind when you decide to part company with a valued something or other which is looking for a new home.



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(except 1st Sun of month)

11 am Morning Service

(including Sunday Club)

Tuesday 10.30 – 12 Take-a-Break

Ladies' coffee morning

coming soon

Holiday

Club

22 -26 August and

29 Aug – 2 Sept

More events to come:

July 3rd – Jamming 2pm – 4pm or so

July 17th – Teddy Bears' Picnic in the Ornamental Garden.

This is one for the little ones and their families and their teddies. Please bring a picnic, and at least one teddy to join your family picnic. Music for the children to dance about to. A laid back afternoon.

August 28th Jamming again 2pm – 4.00pm or so.

August 29th – Car boot sale at St Margaret's church.



Walking for health: Monday mornings at 10.30am we walk for an hour around the locality – a number of different routes including the near part of Dunham Park, the canal, other local parks and King George V Pool. There is a cuppa and time to eat – we were pleased to find The Queen joined us after the Jubilee. New walkers are welcome – we do not go too far nor too fast. If you could give time to train to be a leader with us – You will be especially welcome.



Bowling: The green is as good as it has ever been and is well used. Everyone welcome – We ask people to join Friends of John Leigh Park - £5 a year

Tennis: courts are available every day – with supervised training on many Saturdays at 2pm

Orienteering? Watch this space – but something is brewing from The Loreto Grammar School.

The Gardens

We are fortunate in the support given by Trafford MBC and Amey. Doubly fortunate in the work done within the park and Manchester Road Corner by the volunteer Gardening Team and Duke of Edinburgh Award students. A start has been made to remove the box bushes which have been ravaged by the Box Moth caterpillars. Alternatives will be found.

In Altrincham, the JLP planter in front of the hospital adds colour and class, thanks to Alan and Lynne

