



*Friends of John Leigh Park
Newsletter Winter 2021*

THE ADVENT TRAIL WILL BE BACK!

So this is Christmas

John Lennon asked us 'And what have we done?' Such a simple question, set in such perceptive verses which are worth reading and singing over and over.

Let's hope it's a good one.

Last Christmas we were unable to present Carols on the Park, but with the extraordinary skills and determination of friends at Altrincham Baptist Church, the park became home to an Advent trail – beautiful, big and telling the story. Love was central to the experience which also brought us Hope, Joy, Angels, Kings and more. We could take these themes to heart and take them home. The trail was here for days and lived on. We are doing the same again. ABC have been busy and will bring some of the stands from last year and some which are new. Come and enjoy it from 13th December or thereabouts.



Carols in the Park Sunday 19th December, 4.30 – 5.15pm

AND – it looks as though it will be safe and approved for us to have carols on the park – December 19th, 4.30pm for 45 minutes of music, readings, and reflections together. Put it in your diary, hope it is not wet or too cold – an extra special something to be added to our stockings. Bring a torch!

Donations will be welcome for local charities for the homeless.

2022 CALENDAR



JOHN LEIGH PARK, OLDFIELD ROAD, ALTRINCHAM, WA14
4EQ WEB: WWW.JOHNLEIGHPARK.ORG.UK
EMAIL: FRIENDSOFJOHNLEIGHPARK@GMAIL.COM



And so – This is Christmas. We have again produced a calendar which celebrates the months as experienced in the park. This has continued to be popular and used by local people for themselves and to share with friends and family who are elsewhere but have affection for this place at this special time.



In addition, we have produced sets of six different cards for Christmas. These show illustrations of some of the stations of the Advent Trail. We hope that they will be well received and used to extend fellowship. Calendars continue to be £7.50 and sets of cards £3.00. It's £10 for a calendar plus a pack of cards. They are available from Friends of John Leigh Park – phone 07976018418 or 07869323175 – and from Oldfield Brow Post Office.

During recent weeks we found that the metal legs supporting our noticeboard at the Oldfield Road entrance had rusted at their base and one had rotted through to produce a hazard of its falling. This resulted in the board and legs being taken away and declared defunct. A replacement would have cost well over £1,000 from the approved and recommended company. Quite marvellously Alan Rydout, George Salkowski and Lynne Dwyer have rescued the noticeboard, repaired and refurbished to a very high standard. It is now secured on the legs of the One Trafford Sign at the Oldfield Road entrance and looks fit for many more years of life.



Among the first additions to the reborn noticeboard is an A3 print of the Tree Trail. This is to encourage people to enjoy our spectacular trees and be pleased to identify just some of them. A Tree Trail was produced with the help of Pat Swindley for the Centenary celebrations 2017 and a version has been available on the website since then. It is Kevin Smith's initiative to bring more into the light of day for people walking in the park. We believe it will be welcomed and add to people's enjoyment. The poster now has a QR code which enables you to import the trail to your mobile device and use it to identify the trees and learn about them as you walk around the park.'

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NEW GREEN FLAG AWARD FOR THE PARK, AND TWO RHS IN BLOOM AWARDS

Our Autumn newsletter featured some of the work which the gardening group have been doing – and plan to extend in the near future. Just now we can share that the combined efforts of Friends of John Leigh Park, and staff of Amey and Trafford MBC, have been recognised in the award of the Green Flag. This is an international standard of excellence.

Ours is one of eleven parks within the borough to achieve it. This reflects the commitment of the council and volunteers to making and keeping our green spaces as good as we can, despite the cutback in monies available to local authorities. Our Autumn newsletter featured some of the work which the gardening group

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Parks are massively important to the health and wellbeing of the people – of all ages, nationalities and beliefs. Parks and green spaces give so much yet can be so easily spoiled if not given fair attention. They are so important in this time of continued restraint, uncertainty about infections and repairing damage to morale and confidence which followed from lockdowns, mask wearing and the rationing of the time we were allowed to be with loved ones.

In addition, we have been part of the Royal Horticultural Society's 'In Bloom' project every year since 2014. This year we enjoyed a friendly and informative assessment by very experienced North West In Bloom judges. They have felt fit to rate the park as 'Outstanding' and recommended the park for the RHS National Award of Distinction. The National Certificates of Distinction are awarded by the RHS across all of the UK. There are different categories.

- Involving Children and Young People
- Growing Communities
- Gardening in a Changing Climate
- Wild about gardens
- Parks and green spaces
- Overcoming Diversity

The North West judges felt that we deserved National recognition in the category 'Parks and Green Spaces'. This is something very special.

happy kids thrive

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Autumn leaves bring us beautiful colours, and much pleasure. However, they also brings lots of work for our volunteer gardening team, and the Duke of Edinburgh Award volunteers! The team meets on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9.30am. No experience needed.

STORM DAMAGE TO TREES IN THE PARK

High winds on the night of Friday 26th November brought down this massive beech tree. It fell through the boundary wall to Townfield Gardens, requiring action from Trafford MBC/Amey.



There has also been a fairly large fall of branches in the wooded area as you come into the park from Oldfield Road, leaving debris across the path. This damage was due to storm 'Arwen', the first named storm of the 2021/22 season, (Sept 21 – Aug 2022). The next one will be named 'Barra'. Here's hoping we don't get too far through the alphabet with these storm names from the Met office!

ALTRINCHAM METHODIST CHURCH

SUNDAY WORSHIP

ON-LINE Altrincham Methodist Circuit
<https://thesundayservice.gallery.video/altrinchammethodist>

Join us at 10.30am for our on-line service.
Past services are also available here.

Christmas Services:

Carol Service Sunday 19th December

11am



Christmas Day 10am



**Our Sunday Worship at
Altrincham Methodist Church**

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

ENCOUNTER
LOVE. WORSHIP. GROW.
Reflections/Worship

On 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month
The 1st Wednesday of every month will be a short
communion service
And the 2nd Wednesday will be a short service of
reflection.

This is an open invitation to all

circuitoffice@altrinchammethodistcircuit.org.uk

Café open Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri, 10am – 2pm

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

Website:

www.johnleighpark.org.uk

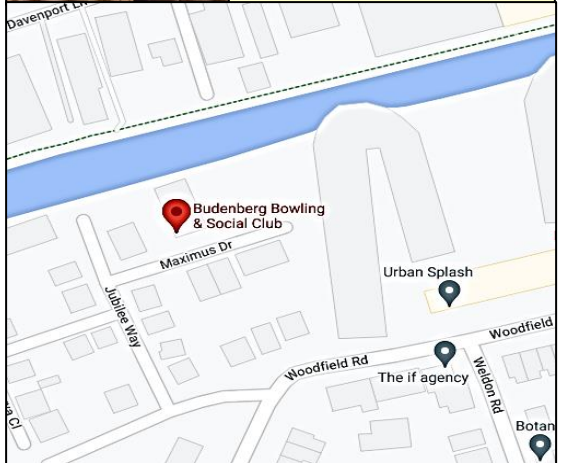
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WEDNESDAY
8.00PM START –
ALL WELCOME!**

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A frosty morning doesn't deter our health walkers! We meet at 10.30am at the bowling pavilion, most Monday mornings. We walk for around an hour, around the park and to nearby places. Refreshments are available afterwards. It's a friendly group, and if you feel like giving it a try, you will be most welcome.



Titan Landscaping and Paving have a team with over 20 years of experience and will beat any like for like quote. Special offer this Autumn with 10% off for all Friends of John Leigh Park.

Services include:

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**Devonshire Road Church
Devonshire Road Broadheath
0161 929 9364**

**We wish you a very
HAPPY and BLESSED
CHRISTMAS**



**"TO YOU IS BORN A SAVIOUR,
HE IS CHRIST, THE LORD"**

Photo by Annie Spratt on Unsplash



A very Merry Christmas,
And a Happy New Year.
Let's hope it's a good one,
Without any fear.



David Jolley

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