# Altrincham & Bowdon Community Voice Magazine





## A message from our President and Sponsor of the Magazine

Welcome to the latest edition of our Magazine. The King's Coronation in May for some us was a once in a lifetime event and as you will read on the following pages, several organisations entered into the spirit of the occasion by organising some excellent activities and parties for everyone to enjoy.

Meanwhile our committee have been keeping the wheels turning elsewhere. Major issues at the moment are the revitalisation of the town centre, which has taken a downturn in recent times. Also, securing the future of Altrincham Town Hall for community use for which a community bid is being prepared to submit to Trafford Council.

All our 'Friends of Groups' have been working tirelessly to promote, maintain and enhance our many public areas for the benefit of all the community, so many thanks to all those people who give up their time volunteering.

Paulina Lewis our planning lead and committee member Leslie Cupitt have been keeping an eye on Planning Applications and Local Authority Works, in particular relating to Broadheath and West Timperley. You can read their reports on the following pages.

I hope you enjoy the rest of the Summer and look forward to seeing you at our AGM in November, where there will be more news of our various projects and a Guest Speaker. Don't forget you can keep up to date with local issues on our excellent website altrinchamandbowdoncs.com.

Best wishes,

Patricia Kovach



Report from the Chair

It has been a very busy half year for Altrincham and Bowdon Civic Society.

Trafford Borough Council has a new Leader Cllr Tom Ross and we shall be losing our MP Sir Graham Brady who will be stepping down at the next General Election. We owe Graham a great debt for being such a good constituency MP and he will be very much missed.

We would welcome readers' thoughts about Altrincham Town Centre which as with most high streets may suffer losses and it is very much hospitality based presently so more variety would be welcome. We realise traffic restrictions are not popular and as with Altrincham Town Hall we continue to represent our residents, users and businesses.

The appointment of a Heritage Champion for Trafford is again very welcome. Altrincham depends on its reputation as a historic market town. Suggestions for blue plaques are again very welcome.

Apart from the Town Hall there are areas of concerns. The planning for L&Q's town centre estate (ex Trafford Housing Trust) on New Street has been paused as the Altair project continues to be. The planned upgrade to The Graftons is again delayed by 2 years so both ends of the town are suffering.

The Hospital continues to have no minor injuries unit. Continued pressure from us has yielded little result so far. Proposed development of diagnostic facilities at Withington for Trafford patients would cause transport difficulties.

Altrincham Interchange despite being judged the best facility in Cheshire continues to fail to cope with its advantages for bringing people to the town by rail, tram and bus.

We would welcome anyone who cares about Altrincham, Bowdon or Broadheath to get in touch and join us.

Judie Collins Chair



Report on Planning from Paulina Lewis

Altrincham Town centre and its immediate surroundings have been suffering for some time from the effects of slow development of various sites. When change of use of the upper floors of retail units has been granted Developers spring into action to meet the demand for town centre homes, on completion they are quickly tenanted or sold. However, in the Downs Quarter work is progressing slowly although it does grind to a halt sometimes. It is good to see that the roofs in this particular area will not be flat.

Work continues on the building previously occupied by Rackhams and on the adjacent building (pictured right), again to provide residential units. It should be noted that, generally, these town centre homes are not 'child friendly' and occupiers are usually young adults. Alternatively these developments seem to be attractive for senior members of the population whose need for a family home has been superseded by the need for a smaller home with town centre facilities, good transport and other local amenities.



In contrast, on the opposite side of the Interchange is the large, approximately 4.5 acre site known as Altair. The site remains derelict (pictured left) almost 15 years since planning permission was granted to Nikal, the Developer.

Phase 1 over looking Tesco was to be an 8 storey high apartment block with a flat roof and roof garden (pictured right). Phase 2 included a sophisticated shopping area, with boulevards, al fresco dining, big retail units for big chains, a convenience store and offices. The upper storey's contained open-plan apartments. The flat topped building provided a roof garden for residents. Finally there was to be a car park. Phase 3 of the plans for Altair intended to include a replacement, permanent Ice Rink and leisure and spa facilities. The plans for the site need reconsidering.



The Council has started refurbishment of the Leisure Centre which is expected to

the completed in early 2024. Altrincham is now confronted with a growing number of empty shops and partly occupied office blocks. The growing need for social type family houses could be accommodated on the Altair site. Various grants are available for development of brown field sites, it is to be hoped that Altair's owners look at these alternatives.



With the application to convert the former Totties Club (see picture Left) into residential, some discussion has taken place regarding making the town safer in certain areas with CCTV coverage. The Back Graftons or the Causeway is not an ideal place for entrances to residential properties.

Trafford Housing Trust has been taken over by a housing trust based in London. The planning application to build 105 units on New Street has been withdrawn following many objections. Most of the maisonettes are now empty (pictured right).

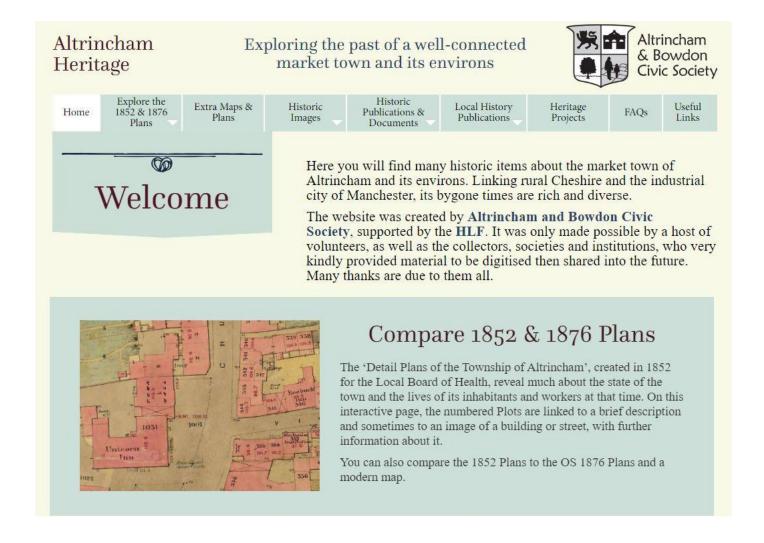




The former medical centre on St Johns Road (pictured left) has been partly demolished, planning permission had been granted for 9 town houses. Unfortunately work ceased on the site about 2 months ago, no information about completion is available.

Paulina

# WHY NOT EXPLORE THE ALTRINCHAM HERITAGE WEBSITE WHICH WAS LAUNCHED LAST YEAR THERE IS A WEALTH OF INFORMATION TO ENJOY



The creation of our new website about the fascinating bygone times of Altrincham and the surrounding area has taken over a decade and we are indebted to Sue Nichols our Heritage Project Coordinator for her tenacious commitment to the project.

Particularly impressive are the interactive maps and the following pages contain some pictures from the selection of pull down menus which can be enjoyed.

You can access the site at: www.altrinchamheritage.com



The website was created under the umbrella of Altrincham and Bowdon Civic Society, supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund. It was only made possible by a host of volunteers, as well as the collectors, societies and institutions, who very kindly provided items to be digitised and shared. Many thanks are due to them all.

All this material will eventually be lodged with the Trafford Local Archive in Sale for future reference.

# Altrincham Heritage

# Exploring the past of a well-connected market town and its environs



Home

Explore the 1852 & 1876 Plans

Extra Maps & Plans Historic Images Historic Publications & Documents

Local History Publications Heritage Projects FAQs

Useful Links

# Compare 1852 & 1876 Plans

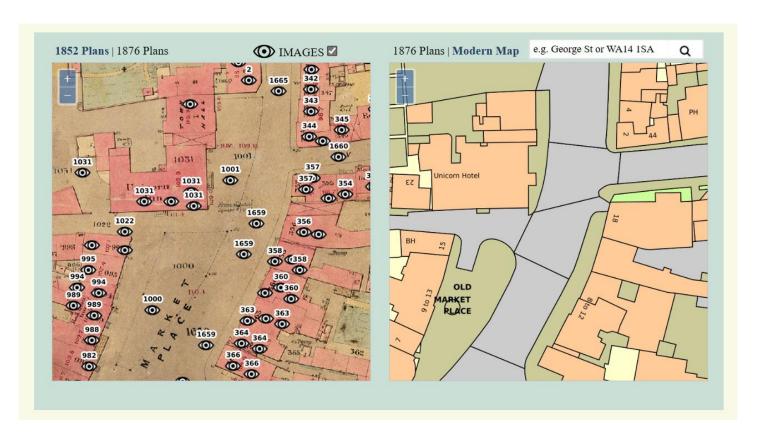
The 1852 Local Board of Health Plans and Ordnance Survey 1876 Plans can be compared with each other or else to a modern map. Search for a particular modern place, then explore by moving around and zooming. This handy PDF with the **Evolution of Street Names in the Altrincham Area** can be downloaded.

When you click on an 1852 Plot, the **1852 Plans Data** appears for each of one of them. It comes from the 'Altrincham Survey.

Book of Reference. **1852**.' of which you can download the PDF with all 1,666 Plot transcriptions.

Where they exist, images of buildings in place by 1852 will also appear. Plot numbers are described clockwise starting from the left. Brackets around Plot numbers indicate there is a better image nearby. Tick the Images box to find them.

There is a Key to both Plans at the bottom of the page. For more information visit the **Background** and also see the **Whole 1852** and 1876 Plans page.



As you grab the left hand map and scroll it, the right hand image will follow. You can also enlarge or shrink the image as required. If you tick on the images box, an image from the archive will appear – this is shown on the next page.

'Altrincham Survey. Book of Reference. 1852.'

Numbers referring to the Plan: 1659

Description of Land or Premises: Market Place

Mode of Cultivation: -

**Quantities in Statute Measure:** 0 acres 1 roods 33 perches **Owner or Reputed Owners:** The Surveyor of Highways

Occupiers: The Surveyor of Highways

Remarks: [Quantities: exclusion of plots marked by stones marked S & W]



Plots (366) (369) (1663) (1031) (1) 1001 (2) 1659: This is a view of the (Old) Market Place looking south in 1858. The open and raised area had been the historic core of the town since at least 1290, when the Altrincham Market Charter was granted by King Edward I to Baron Hamon de Massey, 5th Lord of Dunham Massey. It allowed Hamon to issue burgage plots in even sized strips around the market area, for tradespeople to develop the land, setting up shops or workshops within their dwelling. The Charter also created a centralised market system for goods, produce and services to be freely traded on a regulated and protected basis.

#### Other menus include the following:

## 19th Century Photos



Altrincham: Member of the Salvation army, late 1880s (George B. Bradshaw)



Altrincham: The Reverend Canon Frederick Wainwright M.A., early 1890s (George B. Bradshaw)



Altrincham: Boy with a model yacht, 1890s (George B. Bradshaw junior)



Altrincham: Girl in Gypsy costume, mid-1890s (George B. Bradshaw junior)

#### Historic adverts



KAY, Evan, 1924



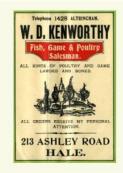
KEARN's, H. W. and Co., 1927



KELSALL and SUMNER, 1858



KELSALL and SUMNER, 1862



KENWORTHY, W. D., 1910

### Views from on High



Altrincham: Historic buildings in the town centre in the 1950s, prior to demolition



Altrincham: Around the Railway station, 1928



Altrincham: Altrincham and Bowdon Station, early 1920s



Altrincham: The Bus and Rail Interchange, 1986



News from Oldfield Brow – from Friends of Cowfield – Summer 2023 A report from resident Mike O'Neill

On Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May, three local streets in Oldfield Brow got together for a street party to celebrate the King's Coronation. It was a wonderful event full of food and drink and activities for both young and old.

Said one resident: "It was wonderful to see so many people getting involved on the day itself and everyone played their part in making it a really enjoyable celebration for all to enjoy!" We now know some of our neighbours a little more than before and we look forward to seeing how we can strengthen community life further following this spectacular event."



The street party used the opportunity to raise a little money for the local community grocery in Oldfield Brow that supports people to purchase reduced-cost food goods.

The other big bit of news from Oldfield Brow is that, following the Boundaries Commission decision to move Oldfield Brow from Altrincham ward into Bowdon ward, we have three new councillors. Our Green Party councillors have really helped Oldfield Brow over the years we were in Altrincham ward and we're looking forward very much to working with our new councillors to continue that good work and to build further on it, as there is still much to be done. Councillors Shengke Zhi and Phil Eckersley were quick to meet with Friends of Cowfield to find out about the proposed Trafford Council development in the old Allotment Gardens.



A few days later Cllr Phil Eckersley and Cllr Michael Whetton attended the Oldfield Brow Partnership meeting and it was great to see their enthusiasm for welcoming Oldfield Brow into the widely dispersed communities that make up the Bowdon ward.

This year, the Partnership is focusing especially on securing improvements for the Cowfield, in particular to improve access in all seasons for the less able and to get some proper play equipment for the older children, something that is badly

needed and where Cowfield continues to be starved of investment.

Our new councillors are keen also to get involved with an initiative started by our previous Cllr Dan Jerrome to look into trialling a Demand Responsive Transport (bus) service to help link all the various communities with Altrincham Interchange as well as other important destinations (Wythenshawe Hospital, Dunham Massey etc). We're hoping for some effective cross-ward-cross-party working with councillors on evolving more effective community transport

that reduces CO<sub>2</sub> emissions whilst being efficient and improving social mobility for all.



Oldfield Brow Partnership is also exploring whether the National Trust at Dunham Massey might look at using their derelict site at Rose Cottage next to Seamons Road canal bridge and opposite the former Bay Malton pub site. With Rose Cottage being so close to both the Bridgewater Way and the Trans Pennine Way, we think it could be good to explore whether NT or some other party might develop the site as a commercially viable asset linked to promoting active travel and helping local regeneration. Additionally, now that Oldfield Lane has been closed to cars, it is possible to enjoy a circular and substantially car free route that takes in Dunham

Massey. As well as contributing to the profile of Dunham Massey, this would link well to the National Trust vision to support communities neighbouring its estates. As well as its commitments to slowing climate change and promoting wellbeing.

A final special mention must go to G-Force and their team of volunteers, who some months ago started a now very successful community grocery in Oldfield Brow, using the large meeting room at Church on the Brow. Thanks to their amazing work, households struggling with finances have been able to buy good food at highly affordable prices. The grocery opens on Wednesday evenings and Thursday mornings and has proved highly popular.

Overall, good things are continuing to happen on the Brow, but we still have a long way to go to get some long overdue investment in improvements for the community. A Disability Access report was recently commissioned by Seamons Moss Community Association, and we are hoping that the findings of this report will help us build our case for the necessary investment by relevant authorities.

Until next time, best wishes from us all in Oldfield Brow

Mike O'Neill



# Broadheath Report from Leslie Cupitt

To celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III a Fun Day was organised in conjunction with G-Force. Well over 600 local residents came to Woodstock Park in Broadheath for some fun in the sun. We hope the youngsters will have made lots of memories of the day to cherish into their future years. The bouncy castles were a great draw. A thank you to all those who contributed or manned attractions and stalls.



Woodstock Park Coronation Family Picnic & Funday











**Woodstock Park** A new Friends of Woodstock Park has now been established. They have agreed a management group and a constitution. The Friends are already organising Sunday Family Days in the Woodstock Park. The Civic Society will continue to give them every possible help to change the Park for the better. In recent weeks the park has come under scrutiny after an upsurge in antisocial behaviour around the park.

Planning Objections Trafford Planning Committee had rejected an application for a four/five story public storage facility just off George Richards Way. The mass of the building was foremost among the many reasons TMBC turned down the application. The operators of the Retail Park made a request to the Planning Inspectorate for the decision to be appealed. The inspectorate decided in the first instance to ask for written submissions to support or oppose the planning application. The Civic Society wrote to oppose the application because of its height, being a four/five story building when everything around it was only two stories in height. The colour of cladding on the building drew attention to the height. As George Richards Way is a major route to access residential housing in Broadheath the Civic Society did not think the building was appropriate for its location and that it may create a precedent to increase the height of other building within the Retail Park. We await the decision of the Planning Inspectorate.

**The Railway** The Railways inn is the most well-known heritage asset in Broadheath. The rebuilding of the Homebase store has brought the retail store much closer to the Railway inn. As the change was approved by the Planning Inspectorate we have to accept the encroachment. The current tenants are making internal improvements and are being every encouragement by CAMRA.

Over the canal bridge the Packet Inn now has a new tenant so hopefully it will continue as it has done for over the last three hundred plus years. The Civic Society still has grave concerns about the 1833 Bridgewater Canal Warehouse (https://altrinchamandbowdoncs.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/RevBheathCanWhseReportmin.pdf). This heritage asset is still at very serious risk of crumbling now water is entering the building through the missing roof. Trafford's enforcement efforts are not doing much to make the building's owners change their mind on letting it fall apart. Once it is gone this link with our history will be gone for ever like so much of Broadheath.

**Broadheath Partnership** Members of the current Partnership have agreed to re-evaluate how they are constituted and manage their business. It wants to have more people actually living and working within Broadheath involved in its work. If you would like to become involved contact the Civic Society for details.

**Design Code** During 2022 Trafford Council held many consultation events in the process of drawing up the Trafford Design Code. The process is now at the Draft stage. The Draft Code can be viewed here http://trafforddesigncode.uk. There is now a stakeholder consultation which will continue until Monday 25 September 2023. A survey on the consultation is available https://trafford.citizenspace.com/place/trafford-designcode/ We ask you to have a read and give your views on the Draft Code before it becomes set in stone as it were.

**Carrington Moss** The public inquiry by the Planning Inspectorate continues into the Greater Manchester's 'Places of Everyone' local plan which entails building thousands of new houses on the green belt which forms Carrington Moss and across seven other boroughs of Manchester. The Friends of Carrington Moss continue to challenge the plans in detail, and have already secured many changes to reduce the number of houses to be built. The Inquiry started in February and is likely to continue through September.



Friends of Barrington Green Coronation Event Report by Bev Robinson

The Barrington Green Coronation Event was a great success, with many residents coming to join in the Celebration.













### A Coronation Poem by Mary Shoobridge



#### A Right Royal Apprenticeship

Young and old throughout the nation Are celebrating the Coronation. For seventy long years he's waited To inherit the throne that was vacated.

Then after having been anointed, King Charles the third will be appointed, With orb and sceptre, crown and ring, The pageantry to beget a King.

His eco credentials are highly respected.

He's been talking to plants; people thought him affected,
But now even Greta's convinced he was right
And saving the planet is well worth the fight.

He's fathered two boys, an Heir and a Spare.
The Spare wrote a book laying royalty bare,
So he's left the country, forsaking his roots
And moved to the west coast with an actress from Suits.

He owns most of Cornwall, all to himself. His Duchy Organics just fly off the shelf, In Waitrose of course, not in Aldi or Lidl The bastion of the upper-middle.

A chorus of a million people Will ring from homes and pubs and steeple. And so, raise a glass, whether tea, fizz or beer The long-served apprentice is finally here!

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# Updates on current projects

Assura PLC have moved their headquarters to Altrincham. We have met with them recently and they have promised to help on green spaces protection. They are a listed UK real estate investment trust ("REIT") specialising in the development of, investment in and management of a portfolio of primary care, diagnostic and treatment buildings across the UK. They are working with Planit-IE and hope to include Altrincham Methodist Church in their Green Space improvements

NHS Property have taken a long lease on the Health and Wellbeing Centre.

The Vegetarian Society is moving from Parkdale in Bowdon to Manchester. We are pleased that Parkdale will become a family home once again. We have met with them recently and they have promised us access to their archive.

The Local heritage building listing has been completed and Catherine Hynes, Deputy Leader of Trafford Council has agreed to be our heritage champion.

Sir Graham Brady is standing down at the next general election, but has two legacy projects he has agreed to continue with. We are showing his possible successors around the town.

Altrincham's public realm refurbishment is nearly completed and in association with Lindsay Humblet, Director Planit-IE we intend to put the project forward for the 2024 Civic Trust Awards.



# BUSINESS NEWS IN ALTRINCHAM from Angela Stone

Randall's have been given notice, there are a couple of options for them to move to elsewhere in the town centre.

County Galleries is set to close in the summer. It has been there for over 45 years.

There's a kitchen showroom opening in what was Sharp's bedrooms.

Justin and Diana who own California Coffee have bought Common Ground which will be launched as a Beverley Hills style venue. Carl, the former owner wants to focus on Alibi.

BID are running their annual RHS competition in July.

#### Hospitality

Coffee and Cactus opened in the former King Pong and there's a Mediterranean style restaurant opening in what was Wild Goose.

West Beverly, Altrincham's new Beverly Hills-themed cafe, restaurant and bar has opened on Shaw's Road. It's been launched in the unit formerly occupied by Common Ground on Shaw's Road by Justin and Diana Orozco, the husband and wife team behind California Coffee & Wine. The Orozcos have enjoyed great success since opening the original California Coffee & Wine on Oxford Road in 2018, and in May agreed a deal with Common Ground owner Carl Peters to take over the prestigious Shaw's Road space and open a second venue.

Chi Yip a new Oriental supermarket with an in-store bakery and bubble tea outlet has opened on Cross Street in Altrincham town centre. Husband and wife team Andy and Louise Yip, who have lived in Altrincham for the last five years, are behind the new launch which is the first foray into South Manchester for the established Chi Yip Group.

The Orange Tree has re-opened.

The Navigation has a new manager.

The Bricklayers Pub reopened last week.

The Best Bar None Annual reports are ready for us to distribute.

BID have submitted their application for Purple Flag, we await news of the assessment.

#### Other news

The Town Hall has gone to formal tender and we need to get a CIC application in mid August. The Neighbourhood Business Plan and A&BCS are working closely together to try to ensure that this remains a space for community use.

Altrincham 10k will now take place on the 17<sup>th</sup> September.

Some of the Neighbourhood Business Plan Group met with Caroline Wright our TMBC Strategic Planning Manager. She was really good and is helping with "re-designation" and will help with the review of the Plan that we need to do. Altrincham Leisure Centre is to be renamed "Move Altrincham".

Angela Stone and Chair Judie have met with TfGM to talk about EV charging and car share.

# Friends of Altrincham Interchange A report by Michael Battman

Altrincham Interchange is the hub for the town's multi-faceted transport modes: trams, trains, buses and taxis all call at the Interchange. It is also a significant 'right of way' with hundreds of people crossing from the car park, the sports centre (when operating), schools, businesses and housing on the east side to the shopping and entertainment parts of town to the west. For some reason many prefer to cross via the station footbridge rather than by the Moss Lane bridge.

The Interchange underwent a major refurbishment completed ten years ago which mainly affected the bus station and ticket office/Travel Centre (manned twelve hours a day) but also provided a new (if somewhat leaky) footbridge and lifts. Despite this, parts of the station are at best looking a little tired and the lack of money meant that the station had become drab. This is where the Friends of Altrincham Interchange (FoAI) comes in and makes a difference.

FoAI were the proud overall winners of the 2022 Best Kept Cheshire Station at an award ceremony in Hartford in March this year. In recent years the Interchange has won various awards from different bodies but this year was the pinnacle of our success picking up the award for the Best Kept Station in Cheshire.

What does FoAI, a voluntary group, do?

The group is responsible for all the planters on the station; the poetry boards in the ticket office and on platform 4 together with the community boards also on platform four. The group recently decorated the station to celebrate both the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and the King's Coronation. Last November we commissioned and installed silhouettes of two First World War soldiers to remember those who lost their lives, specifically those from the 'Bravest Little Street in England'.

The planters have been filled with colourful plants and shrubs and regularly watered by our volunteers - thanks must be given to the station staff that also help out with this task. In the warm spells that we enjoy, the watering can be onerous, so we are hoping this year to purchase a small bowser to assist with the transport of water from the limited taps available on the interchange. The biggest planter, on platform 4, remembers Martin Hett, who was tragically killed in the Manchester Arena bombing. We also have a small herb garden at the end of platform 1/2: please help yourself to a sprig or two whilst remembering to leave plenty for others.

FoAI regularly engages with local groups and schools to involve the community at the Interchange: Blessed Thomas Holford, Altrincham Grammar School for Girls, St Vincent's Primary and Broadheath Primary have all been involved over the past year. Poster cases have been filled with the schools' wonderful artwork and writings. Another impressive piece of art work is due to go up on platform 1 later this summer.

The poetry boards include The Hare & Rabbit Travels by Pam Bradshaw which are being turned into an anthology with design and illustrations by local artist Jodie Greenwood. They give waiting passengers a light hearted read when they have time to spare.

The buildings on platform 4 have seen some remedial work to the structure to ensure that the roof is safe together with more extensive internal work to re-assign their usage; this has necessitated the re-location of the friendly Northern Rail staff who will regrettably no longer be permanently on hand to assist passengers. Thankfully this long awaited building work lasting over six months is due to be complete by late spring.

If you have any spare time, hours to suit you, and care about the appearance of the Interchange why not join us in the effort to keep both the buildings and platforms ship shape – we are looking to retain our hard won accolade next year.

Mike Battman – Friends of Altrincham Interchange

#### **Altrincham & Bowdon Civic Society Membership**

Why not help to make Altrincham and Bowdon a better place by joining the Civic Society. Your subscription will help the Society achieve its many goals. We can also keep you up to date by email on our events and important changes in the town that affect you.

#### ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES BECOME DUE ON THE 1st JANUARY

To APPLY for or RENEW your membership you will need to do the following:

#### FROM THE WEBSITE MEMBERSHIP PAGE

Download or read our **Data Protection Privacy Notice**Download and print off a **Membership Form**Download and print off a **Gift Aid Form** (optional)

<u>Complete and sign</u> the Membership form, together with a Gift Aid Form (if applicable) and return them to the address shown below together with your payment (if paying by cheque).

If you do not have access to the Internet, please write to the membership secretary Altrincham & Bowdon Civic Society 14 Greenwood Street, Altrincham, Cheshire, WA14 1RZ or Phone 0161 927 7508.

#### Altrincham & Bowdon Community Voice

Newsletter of the Altrincham & Bowdon Civic Society Registered Charity No: 246145

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