'Hidden gem' of a golf course celebrates 50-year anniversary

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A MUCH-LOVED golf course in Trafford has celebrated 50 years since it first opened.

Woodheys Park pitch and putt, off Kenmore Road, Sale, first opened in the 1970s as a nine-hole course.

Over the years, it has grown into an 18-hole course and become a popular destination for families and golf enthusiasts.

The course has been a Green Flag park for more than 20 years thanks to the efforts of the Friends of Woodheys Park and One Trafford.

Despite its popularity today, the park faced challenges in the 1980s and 1990s when it fell into disrepair.

This led to the formation of the Friends of Woodheys Park in 2001, who worked with the council to restore and maintain the park.

The pitch and putt course underwent a transformation, expanding over 7.5 hectares to become what it is today.

Russell Scharosch of the Friends of Woodheys Park said: "The park and its pitch and putt have something for everyone, from a game of golf suitable for all ages and abilities, to wildlife lovers, to dog walkers.

"We're looking forward to its next 50 years."

Around the golf course, there is an orchard with 12 varieties of apple trees, plum trees, and a black mulberry tree, as well as ditches and hedgerows that date back over 100 years.

Trafford Conservation Volunteers have also recently added new willow and hawthorn shrubs to try to attract the endangered willow tit.

Councillor Stephen Adshead said: "Woodheys pitch and putt is something of a hidden gem in Trafford – a fun way to pass a few hours in a beautiful environment.

"The One Trafford partnership continues to maintain and develop it, for the community and visitors to the area."

It is open every day from 10.30am to 6.30pm from Easter until the end of September, with no pre-booking required.

Charges are £6 for adults and £4 for children and concessions, which includes the hire of a seven iron, a putter, and balls.

Deliiah, 6, and Abel, 8, at Woodheys Pitch and Putt