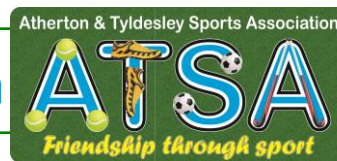


Atherton and Tyldesley Sports Association

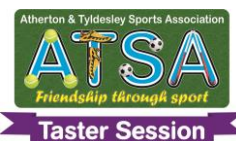


Introduction



APSA (Atherton Primary Sports Association) was formed in June 2011 when some of the PE leaders in Atherton could foresee that there would be a 'gap' in sporting provision for Primary schools in Atherton for 2011/2012. We felt that this 'gap' needed to be filled, especially as this was in the lead up to the 2012 London Olympics. We wanted to continue and build upon the fantastic work that Mr Kirk Jameson had commenced in his role as SSCO at Hesketh Fletcher High School. In our first year we organised 10 events which catered for the needs of 7 primary schools. With the support of local councillors, our first year culminated in a large Olympic parade through the streets of Atherton.

As the 'consortium' model took shape across Wigan schools in September 2012, APSA extended its coverage, to fall in line with the Atherton and Tyldesley Consortium and became known as ATSA (Atherton and Tyldesley Sports Association). This meant that 16 primary schools across Atherton and Tyldesley were being catered for. Because of this large number, a decision was made that some events would be split into an Atherton and Tyldesley section, namely football and netball leagues. In total, we had 15 events take place in 2012/2013 including our first theory based session (Sports Psychology) being held at St. Michael's School. 2013 also saw us make links with the local community as Pennington FC offered to host the KS1 Football Competition.



As we moved into 2013/2014, the success of ATSA was formally recognised by winning 'The Martin Lynn Contribution to School Sports Award' at the Wigan Sports Awards. From this it was necessary to formally constitute and set up a group of voluntary 'board' members. New developments included: a logo and 'strapline' designed by local children, a Facebook page was set up, a schools swimming gala being held at the Pelican Centre in Tyldesley (the first schools gala in over 25 years!), a Dodgeball Competition supported by DodgeballUK and a football referees course run by Lancashire FA. More links were made with community clubs such as Astley and Tyldesley Cricket Club, Astley VIP Boxing club, Astley Golf Range, Eccles Archery club and Leigh Centurions who all supported our events. Sports leaders from both our local high schools also supported events as part of their PE qualification. We started to cater for the adults in our area as we held the first of our staff/parent football matches. We also organised the first ATSA/Safe-Elec-UK Residential Sports Weekend in the Lake District which was a huge success.



It was in June 2014 that ATSA again was formally recognised by winning 'Outstanding Contribution to Local Education' from the local National Union of Teachers. 2014/2015 saw many 'firsts' for ATSA as we produced our first ATSA Directory, held our first CPD event for staff (Inclusive Sports), took part in the Atherton Carnival and organised many events in different sports for the first time, namely VX, Smitel, Futsal, Dance for KS1 & KS2, Sportshall athletics for KS1 & KS2, Tennis, Crown Green Bowling and Cycle Speedway. We also worked with the Challenge4Change Centre and the Ben Cohen StandUp Foundation to have two events focusing on some of our disadvantaged children.



June 2015 saw two significant events take place in the life of ATSA – first we launched our Sports Council, involving two children from each of the 16 schools formally representing their school and contributing to the ongoing successful leadership of ATSA – who better to ask for ideas than the very people who are at the heart of all we do? Secondly, it was during June 2015 that ATSA celebrated its 100th event since forming in 2011.

During 2016/2017, ATSA strengthened its links with Leigh Harriers as the second 'Graham Jackett Cross Country Challenge' and the first ever ATSA Track and Field Athletics event took place. ATSA also started to celebrate some of the local sporting talent within the area through developing its 'Recognition of Local Talent' display. The Sports Council also put together the ATSA logo mosaic, which is on display at The Pelican Centre.





In 2017/18, our 7th year, opportunities for ATSA to work with 'professional' sporting personnel and organisations started to develop. Former England goalkeeper, Chris Kirkland, coached a group of children during the 6 week Goalkeeping Academy. Our Sports Council spent a day at Wigan Athletic Football Club as they launched the 'Healthy Hearts' project across the borough. Select Group referee, Darren Bond, did further work in our school in conjunction with Premier Game Match Officials (PGMOL). Former Olympic Athlete, Jenny Meadows, started to work in our schools, leading inspirational assemblies as well as coaching athletics. ATSA also made a link with Manchester



United Football Club as eight schools took part in the Y2 and Y3 football tournament at The Cliff training ground. It was also during this year that ATSA was asked to promote and host the FA Primary Teachers Award, bringing together 21 professionals supporting their development with the teaching of Physical Education.



Sunday 1st July 2018 saw ATSA expand its provision further as sponsorship was secured from 'Octagon Education' to take 61 children and adults from seven local schools to The British Athletics Championships in Birmingham!



October 2018 saw ATSA join with Fur Clemt to launch its first 'All Sports Holiday Provision'. Children were able to access a day of high quality sports holiday provision from the likes of Jenny Meadows, Wigan Athletic, Leigh Centurions and Fun Swim at The Pelican Centre, with lunch provided by Fur Clemt, for **£3 per day!** 'All Sports Holiday Provision' has progressed each half term to include dance and boxing. As children are able to select as many (or as few) days as they like, they can access activities they prefer or wish to develop further in an affordable way each half term.

Click the link to view more about ATSA All Sports Holiday Provision: [ATSA All Sports Holiday Provision](#)



For our youngest children, we forged a link with local company, Kickstarterz who provided us with a gross motor skills session for our Reception children. We booked Kickstarterz to lead several sessions for both Nursery and Reception children throughout 2019/2020. June 2019 also saw us appeal to our local community to start to donate any unwanted sports equipment/clothing to ATSA with our ATSA 'Extra Time' scheme. Donated items will be collected by ATSA and then re-distributed within our community to people who may be able to provide 'Extra Time' for the items, continuing to make use of it. Several schools and local community venues volunteered to act as 'drop off' points for this so that items could be collected together and stalls set up at future ATSA events throughout 2019/2020.

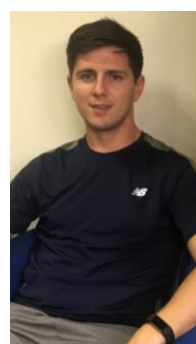
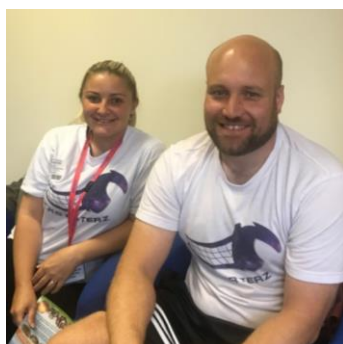




September 2019 saw us consult with our Sports Council as we looked to develop ATSA in other areas within our community. Feedback from the children helped us shape a Community Investment Fund bid to Wigan Council and the 'All Being Well' project was launched in January 2020 with the children of St. George's Central CE Primary School and Nursery. Feedback from our consultation with children told us that they wanted activities in their community 'beyond the school day' and so the 'All Being Well' project was formed.



Throughout September and October, we then met with local 'providers' who could potentially lead sessions based on the feedback from the children. At the time, the future of Shakerley Community was uncertain and so we saw this as an opportunity to develop the project but also support and promote the use of Shakerley Community Centre.



As well as the ideas discussed with the providers above, other plans for the 'All Being Well' project evolved and we started to think about how this project could:

- *develop opportunities for intergenerational work (between schools and local residential homes);
- *provide opportunities for children to care for their local environment;
- *provide opportunities for children to support the global environment and
- *help children develop their reading skills alongside their physical health.

Many 'strands' of the 'All Being Well' project would require funding and so in December 2019, a Community Investment Fund application was applied for with the aim of securing funding for the planned sessions at Shakerley Community Centre. An idea put forward by a teaching assistant from St. George's Central, Mrs Woodward, meant that some finances would be needed for the 'Reading Rewards' idea.

Some elements of the project would not require any financial commitment, just some planning from schools and time on the school timetable. January 2020 saw classes from St. George's Central CE Primary School and Nursery start to make regular visits to Hillcrest Residential Home in Tyldesley.



Most schools visit their local residential home, however, we wanted the 'intergenerational' part of this project to be a much more firmer link.....something more than the choir going singing to residents at Christmas. We introduced the use of weekly Picture News resources with the residents. It was felt that this approach would not only provide a focus for the children when visiting, but would also provide an engaging and enjoyable experience for both the residents and the children. This work would form part of regular planned work for schools and would become part of the Curriculum Intent of schools involved.



In February 2020, links were made with 'Toni Marie Yoga' as Yoga Taster Sessions took place for children and staff at St. George's Central School. Plans were then put in place for Yoga Taster Sessions to be a regular part of our 2020-2021 calendar of events.

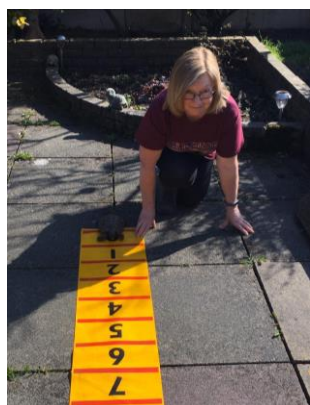


Our focus on the local environment started in March 2020 as classes from St. George's Central started to undertake litter picks within the locality of their school. This would form part of regular planned work for schools and would become part of the Curriculum Intent of schools involved.

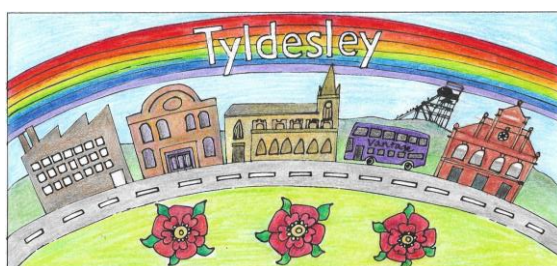


Little did we know at the Y3/4 Futsal event on Friday 13th March 2020 (pictured left) that the next ATSA event would take place 13 months later as COVID-19 took hold across the world. A week after St. Michael's won this event, schools closed to most children and there was the birth of remote home learning. At the end of March 2020, work on the 'All Being Well' project was put on hold. In August 2020, we received the news that our Community Investment Fund application was unsuccessful. Therefore, we started to look at how we could continue to develop the 'All Being Well' project without this funding.

Staff in schools had to think of creative ways to motivate children to keep physically fit at home and in school during this time and over the course of the Summer Term, different images were shared by ATSA staff online to promote physical activity:



In August 2020, we met with representatives of the newly formed 'For Tyldesley' group for the first time as we were set the challenge of developing a project for schools that would help to support and promote the town centre. Our idea was to create a piece of mosaic artwork that would be in place at the large bus stop on the guided busway in Tyldesley. Our financial bid was successful and schools were asked to submit designs for this. Once all the designs were collated, a 'version 1' design was put together by artist Tracey Cartledge:



ATSA events formally re-started on Monday 10th May 2021 when five schools came to St. George's Central Primary School and Nursery for the Girls' Football Competition. It was great to see the children come together again to compete against each other.

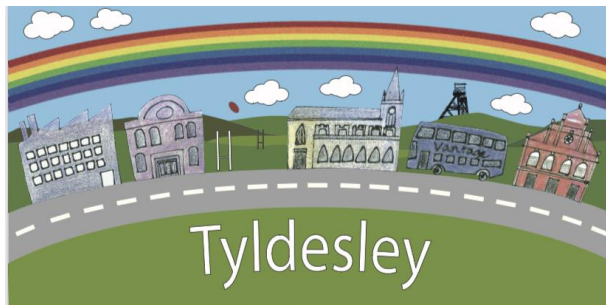


Time was taken during the summer of 2021 to plan for the 'full offer' of ATSA events for 2021-2022. Although schools returned to more of a 'normality', COVID-19 remained a concern for many. Therefore, subtle amendments were made to ensure that the children were able to fully access the wide range of events on offer.

September 2021, saw the launch of an annual 'ATSA Award'. This gave schools an opportunity to work towards a Gold, Silver or Bronze standard based on a set criteria, communicated to schools at the start of the year. Zumba Taster Sessions were also new in 2021-2022 as we looked to not only broaden our offer of sports, but also make further community links in a new area.



Feedback was used to create a 'version 2' of the mosaic design and in May 2022, children from the schools involved, came together to create the final design.



The mosaic project took a 'back-burner' at the start of the 2022/2023 school year and so a return to the 'All Being Well' events of 2019 took place as visits to Hillcrest Residential Home and community litter picks re-started in January 2023. The vision is that these two activities become an inherent feature of all schools. I view it as a positive that children should look after and care for their locality as well as supporting older members of their community. Working with schools to promote these activities is something that we are looking to do with the creation of an 'Intergenerational Range of Activities' being something that we are looking to develop.



In July 2022, ATSA celebrated 10 Years of organising events for local school children. Click the link to see '10 Years of ATSA':

[10 Years of ATSA](#)

Celebrations for children took place at the end of June 2022, in the form of the hugely successful, 'Tri-Kidz' event. Children from 16 schools took part in the week-long event, which involved a team of eight KS2 children running, cycling on a static bike and then finishing with a further run! The level of determination and commitment from all the children who took part was amazing to see and after a close final event, it was Holy Family who were crowned the 'ATSA 10 Year Event' Champions.



On the evening of Friday 1st July 2022, it was time for the adults to celebrate as the 'ATSA 10 Year Celebration Event' took place. ATSA reps, headteachers, teachers, local coaches, community group members and former ATSA participants came together as guest speakers, Luke Joyce, Dave Morris and Rachel Hornby all gave a different insight into their sporting life. Click the link to see:

[ATSA 10 Year Celebration Event](#)



It was during 2022/2023 that events in two new strands of ATSA were developed. Our 'Access to Success' events were borne out of a successful meeting in November 2022 with Rowan Tree Primary School Deputy Headteacher, Mrs Oliver. The vision was to provide specific inclusive events for the children across all our schools and, in January 2023, the first of these event took place with a joint team of St. Ambrose Barlow and St. John's winning the Access to Success 'Boccia' Competition. Three further 'Access to Success' events took place in 2023. These events now form part of the annual ATSA offer and ensure that all children are now able to access more events.



ATSA saw an opportunity to build on the success of the ATHOS Consortium events from 2019 and so four events in the new 'Active Minds' strand were planned. These events provided children with an opportunity to compete against other local schools in 'non-sporting' events. In March 2023, the first 'Active Minds' events took place with Holy Family winning the Road Safety Quiz. A Spelling Competition, a Times Table Competition and a Team Building Competition also took place during the Summer Term of 2023. The uniqueness of the Team Building Competition was that Sports Council members from eleven schools came together in February 2023 to plan and organise this event. Therefore ATSA now has its first event for children, that was created by children.



It was also early in 2023 that discussions about a collaborative music events for schools took place with Miss Gray (Music Leader at St. George's Central). This conversation originally took place with Miss Gray in 2019, however our plans for this event were put on hold. After securing a venue, meeting with music leaders and organising performers, it was pleasing that on Thursday 25th May 2023, the first ever 'Let's Play!' music events took place.



ATSA was proud to be behind the first ever 'Let's Play!' music event which took place in May 2023. The success of this event provided the appetite for further 'cultural events' and after a meeting at The Snug in June 2023, two Poetry Performances events were added to the calendar of events, to take place at the Atherton venue, on National Poetry Day and World Book Day each year.

It was also in the Summer Term of 2023 that the Tyldesley Mosaic project 're-started' with the construction of the wall for the mosaic.



Artist Tracey Cartledge and father and son tilers, Andy and Andy Carroll, spent a weekend in June 2023, putting the mosaic design in place with all stakeholders coming together on Thursday 22nd June 2023 to celebrate the unveiling of the mosaic.



Thanks to the 'For Tyldesley' group for their support with this project, which started as an idea for Tyldesley in 2012, continued with a funding bid in 2019 and became reality in 2023.

As we moved into the 2023/2024 school year, ATSA developed a link with Everton FC and football events were organised for Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3 children. In the same month, a successful meeting with Leigh Miners American Football Club meant a Flag American Football Taster Session and Competition was added to the ATSA offer. In October 2023, our first poetry event also took place at The Snug.



Friday 15th March 2024 saw the Tyldesley Mosaic finally fully completed:



In March 2024, in preparation for the first ever ATSA Orienteering Competition, an opportunity was provided for ATSA staff to undertake training with The Orienteering Company. News of ATSA's desire to evolve had started to spread as Leigh Film Factory offered to organise and host a Young Film Makers Event, to be held at their cinema in Leigh Spinners Mill. In June 2024, this same venue hosted ATSA's first ever Art Exhibition. It was also in June 2024 that the first ATSA Chess Competition for schools also took place.



In the Summer of 2024, an opportunity for ATSA to add a further 'cultural event' to its annual offer was presented and so a decision was taken to formally recognise these events within the ATSA offer. Therefore, the ATSA 'Arts Event' and ATSA 'Community Care' strands were added, which meant that all the elements that were included within the original 'All Being Well' project now fell within the ATSA offer.



It certainly was a busy year for ATSA, its busiest yet.....

2023/2024 WHOLE YEAR STATISTICS:

105 events at 37 different venues, in 45 different sports/areas with 34 community club links

30 primary schools and 3 secondary schools

3840 children (2024 new/different children) 57 adults (36 new/different adults)

WHOLE YEAR TOTAL PARTICIPANTS:

3897 children/adults (2060 new/different adults and children)

Click the links below to view events from 2023/2024:

[Autumn Term 2023 events gallery](#)

[Spring Term 2024 events gallery](#)

[Summer Term 2024 events gallery](#)

Click the link below or search for 'ATSA 2023-2024' on Vimeo to see a short film celebrating the events of 2023/2024:

[ATSA 2023-2024](#)

For this year, many events are planned, which will broaden the opportunities that our children have and for me this is what ATSA is about – providing **OPPORTUNITIES**. As we move into our **14th year** I think about the many **opportunities** we are providing through sports, and its many benefits, and I reflect on some of my reading:

“We like to think that sport is a meritocracy – where achievement is driven by ability and hard work – but it is nothing of the sort. Think of the potential table tennis champions not fortunate enough to live in Silverdale Road, with its peculiar set of advantages. Think of the thousands of potential Wimbledon champions who have never been fortunate enough to own a tennis racket or receive specialised coaching. Think of millions of potential Major-winning golfers who have never had access to a golf club.

*Practically every man or woman who triumphs against the odds is, on closer inspection, a beneficiary of unusual circumstances. The delusion lies in focusing on the individuality of their triumph without perceiving – or bothering to look for – the powerful **opportunities** stacked in their favour.”*

Pages 8 – 9 from ‘Bounce – How Champions are Made’ by Matthew Syed

When people ask me why did we create ATSA? What’s its aim? I respond by saying that we are providing children with a sporting **opportunity** (not just a sporting opportunity anymore!), one that they may not have had before. I would not want any child to leave an Atherton or Tyldesley primary school saying, ‘we never had a chance to do that!’. Through attending some of our events we are primarily aiming to instill a life-long love of sports and keeping active in order to promote a healthy lifestyle. However, through providing these **opportunities**, we are also looking to unearth those potential Wimbledon champions or world champion boxers!

To support the ATSA offer, since 2019/2020, we have taken formal feedback from ATSA stakeholders to support our continued improvement. Click the link to view this: [Annual stakeholder feedback](#)

As a final comment, I will reinforce the message given each year about our strapline of ‘Friendship Through Sport’ – this is ideal for our young people as no matter what colour school uniform the children wear, no matter what team they represent, they are all members of the Atherton and Tyldesley community and, for me, our events should form the basis of lifelong friendships. This is the same for the staff, many of whom have become ‘friends through sports’.

“Friendships born on the field of athletic strife are the real gold of Competition. Awards become corroded, friends gather no dust”.
Jesse Owens

Have a good year and I hope to see you at one of our events.



Mr M Grogan

Headteacher, St. George’s Central CE School and Nursery – Tyldesley

Founder and lead teacher for Atherton and Tyldesley Sports Association (ATSA)

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Friendship through sport