



STOP PRESS

A **major event** is taking place along the Loop this Saturday morning (17 September). The national cycling organisation, Sustrans, is this week holding a supporters' ride from Cambridge to Preston to celebrate 10 years since the inauguration of the National Cycling Network, and to mark the first 10,000 miles of the Network opened. The riders will be camping overnight at the Burnage RFC in Heaton Mersey, and will ride along the Loop on Saturday morning on their way into Manchester, and thence to Bury, Accrington and Preston. Sustrans is appealing to local groups along the route to support the event by accompanying the riders for part of their route. Despite the short notice (precise details of the route are only now available), we are asking members and friends of the Friends to join the ride for a section of the route on Saturday to show our support. This could be for a few miles or longer as you prefer. Possible joining points are as follows:

9 am Join Steve Keeney and others for the start of the Manchester section at the Burnage RFC, Battersea Road, Heaton Mersey (for details tel. Steve 861 8899)

10 am Join an escort party of Friends led by David Beetham waiting to meet the riders as they enter the Loop at the Longford Road West entrance between North Reddish and Levenshulme (details tel. David 445 1524)

10.30 am Join another group of Friends assembling at the Athol road entrance in Whalley Range, where drinks and refreshments will be available, and from where Mark Stevenson, the Manchester City Cycling Officer, will lead the riders into Castlefield to inaugurate National Cycle Route 6.

For those who want to ride further lunch will be provided in Bury from 12.30 to 1.30, and those returning from there can expect to be back on the Loop by 3.30 at the latest. The weather is expected to be cool but dry – ideal cycling conditions. Forget petrol queues and rising fuel prices, and enjoy your pedal power for free!

Monday 19 September: Members' meeting, Union Chapel Fallowfield, 7.30 pm

Saturday 8 October: Family ride along the Loop and back, starting 11 am at Debdale Water Park, riding to Jackson's Boat Chorlton for lunch (contact Sandy 432 0376)

At the Friends AGM in July, the officers and committee members were reappointed for the coming year, with Charlotte Abbas replacing Frances McCann on the committee. Thanks were expressed to Frances for her work and support. The

Secretary's report for the year 2004-5 is reproduced overleaf. You can keep up to date with our website: www.cycle-routes.org/fallowfieldloopleftine/