



Welcome to the September Newsletter. We hope you have all had a good summer, with a chance for more extended cycling and walking despite the indifferent UK weather in August. This newsletter comes shorter than usual: not much has happened since our AGM in July; and your editor is pushed for time before a late holiday break! So this will mainly be letting you know of our plans for the autumn. But first two items of note:

Metro extension

Approval for the Metro extension to Chorlton/St. Werburghs from Trafford Bar has now definitely been given. We have assurances that the exit from the Loop to Sidbury Road and Wilbraham Road in Chorlton will be preserved. We continue to push for the section of the old track to Didsbury to be developed for cycle and pedestrian use ahead of some future Metro extension, especially as this would encourage access by potential Metro users to the new terminus in Chorlton. We are also campaigning for a cycleway alongside the new Metro section to Trafford Bar.

Sustrans Manchester Office

Sustrans is opening a new office in Manchester for the North and Northwest of England, to support rangers throughout the region, oversee maintenance, etc. This is particularly welcome to us as the Loop is one of Sustrans' flagship developments. The newly appointed maintenance office, Paul Thomas, will be attending our next members' meeting on September 18, and will brief us on his work and the new office. The Sustrans Board is meeting in Ashton as I write this, and a group of our members and rangers is due to accompany them on a ride round the Loop to mark their visit.

Autumn events

Saturday 16 September: Clean-up-the-World event, organised by MCC Environmental Campaigns and Community Service Volunteers, to take place at the Loop entrance to Highfield Country Park, from 11 am to 3 pm. Volunteers from the Friends will be very welcome to take part in the different activities, involving the Loop, and will be rewarded with a free tee shirt and refreshments. Contact person, Joanne Rhodes, tel. 953 2611 or mob. 07766 777359.

Sunday 24 September: Social ride organised by the Friends from the Loop via the Transpennine Trail to Dunham Massey and back, with pub stop for lunch: 30-35 miles depending on joining point. Joining points: Debdale 10.15 am, Sherwood Street

10.40, Chorlton Park Beechwood Avenue entrance 11 o'clock. All welcome. Contact person, David, tel. 445 1524.

Sunday 22 October: Family ride taking in part of the Loop, Highfield Country Park and beyond, with lunch stop; distance 15 miles. This ride forms part of the Radio Manchester-sponsored Levenshulme Festival, and we hope that a number of Festival goers will join us. Children are very welcome - under 16s should be accompanied by an adult. Joining points: Debdale and Sainsbury's Fallowfield 11 am, converging on the main joining point at the Loop entrance to Highfield Country Park at 11.15. Contact person, Sandy, tel. 432 0376.

Sunday 12 November: Chorlton Wanderers ride led by the Friends to Werneth Low via the Loop, starting from Chorlton Water Park. Details of times to be circulated later. Contact person, Dick, tel. 224 3843.

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Monday 18 September: bi-monthly members' meeting at Union Chapel, Wellington Road, Fallowfield, 7.30 pm. Paul Thomas, the newly appointed maintenance manager for Sustrans in the North-West, will be joining us to explain his work and join in a discussion about our future plans. All members are welcome.