



## March 2009

[www.cycleroutes.org/fallowfieldloopleftine](http://www.cycleroutes.org/fallowfieldloopleftine)  
meetings every two months

**WELCOME!** David Beetham, the Hon Secretary, is away on a well deserved break. He hopes to be back for the *next meeting*, **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March** at **Union Chapel**, corner of Waller Avenue and Wellington Rd, near the Sherwood Rd access to the Loop in Fallowfield, just off Wilbraham Rd. Tea and biscuits provided. Our heartfelt thanks to FotFL member Eileen Land who helps run this grand place. Please do try to come, join in, or just see what it's all about, **7.30pm**.



The FLoop continues to go from strength to strength, with a lot of work going on behind, and in front, of the scenes! The committee has been gaining expertise in applying for grants for different projects, thanks particularly to David doing a lot of the detailed filling in of forms and treasurer Dick Venes ensuring that the flow of monies has a relatively smooth ride.

We see the benefit of this already in the form of the lecterns which provide information along the cycleway. Shortly, signs will be going up on the bridges – these will be in the form of the familiar street signs, and will tell you what road is passing overhead. Personally speaking, I used to like the sense of not quite knowing exactly where I was on the Loop, it seemed an exciting sensation to be experience as a city dweller. However, I see now that it may encourage more people to take the plunge and explore – especially in connection with the ‘finger

post’ signs the council have been placing which indicate how far it is to various local suburbs, and perhaps more importantly links to the NCN (National Cycle Network) of which the FLoop forms an important traffic free part.

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**On Sunday March 1<sup>st</sup>**, the sun came out to greet us as Sale and Altrincham Conservation volunteers came to work on ‘habitat management’ near Chorlton Brook (see front of newsletter with FotFL members Julian Fox, Charlotte Abbas and Dave Bishop also pictured). Further down the line bramble bashing, bush pruning and litter picking round the newly surfaced access from Mauldeth Road took place, where we had our stall under the gazebo Dick Venes had erected. We gave out leaflets to passers by, explaining what we were doing. It became warm and it felt like spring had arrived.

### some more **Environmental News** –

From time to time we see trees felled along the Loop. The following is from a response by Paul Thomas to an enquiry from a Ranger about why recent tree work has been done. Paul is Cycle Path Land & Maintenance Manager, based at Sustrans’ office in Manchester. He explains:-

*Near Yew Tree Rd* – Five birch trees leaning toward properties felled (dangerous).  
*Athol Rd* – Mature tree, branches overhanging garden (limbs removed only).

*Slade Lane /Carson Rd* – Trees felled in this area because they were

1. a risk to the Errwood Rd bridge
2. a risk to a retaining wall/underground chamber
3. one leaning tree (dangerous)

*Ramp at Ladybarn Lane / Sainsbury’s* – Sycamore tree felled on advice by Police to improve light & sightlines - incidents of attacks.

*United Utilities* also have similar work done along the Loop. This is because the Thirlmere Aqueduct follows the route of the old railway track the cycleway now runs along, and care has to be taken because of the danger tree roots pose to this water supply. The last time United Utilities carried out treework to the Loop was over a year ago adjacent to Lindleywood Rd bridge (1 mature popular).

Work that will be forthcoming...

*I met with our tree surgeon after our warden Tom expressed concern over a section of trees on the Fallowfield Loop. We all walked the section from Yew Tree Rd west to the brook. There are many poplars along this section, particularly alongside the Bethnal Drive estate. As a result I will be contacting the council about some of the mature trees on their land and we will be carrying out some work on ours. There are several dead / dangerous trees that require immediate felling and some more that are relatively stable at the moment but due to excessive leaning will be problematic in the future when they would be more difficult / more expensive to deal with - these will be reduced.*

*I realise that your members have concerns over excessive treework but I feel this needs to be carried out for the good management of the route.*

*Thanks*

*Paul*

STOP PRESS Paul has just changed jobs! He is now moving on to overseeing bridges in the region, but we gather he will still be based at *SUSTRANS* office in town. Our very best wishes to you and thanks for all the hard work you've put in! AND also to Maya Stratton-Brook who is leaving to pursue a career as a teacher.

.....AND NOW FOR SOMETHING (NEARLY) COMPLETELY DIFFERENT!

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**THE FALLOWFIELD LOOP SCULPTURE PROJECT**

The Friends of Fallowfield Loop have been funded by the National Lottery through *Awards for All* for Local Artist Rachel Ramchurn to create a series of public sculptures for the Fallowfield Loop in Levenshulme.

These Sculptures will be installed at the beginning of May 2009.

The following FREE events celebrate these sculptures and the local environment.

**Art in the Park**

Join in as Community members, professional artists and passers-by construct amazing sculptures using natural materials from the park.

Two workshops are being held in Highfield Park inspiring and energizing people to care for and protect Highfield Park, The Fallowfield Loop and Levenshulme.

Float your sculpture on the pond, hang it from a tree, hide it in the grass or show it off!

(See her recent sculptures [www.rachelramchurn.blogspot.com](http://www.rachelramchurn.blogspot.com))

*Dates:* Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April and Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2009.

*Venue:* The Picnic Area, Highfield Park, Levenshulme.

*Time:* 12.00 Mid-Day until 3.00pm. FREE to All ages. Bring a picnic and your wellies.

**Find a site for the Sculptures**

Bring your bike and come and help decide where to site the sculptures whilst enjoying an invigorating cycle on the Fallowfield Loop.

Suitable for cyclists of all ages and abilities.

*Date:* 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2009

*Venue:* Meet at the Lattice Bridge on the Fallowfield Loop (just east of Broom Lane bridge)

*Time:* 11.00am, Free event.

**Teachers Workshop**

FREE one off session for teachers working in Foundation Stage, KS1 and KS2 offering practical skills and guidance on how you can plan and develop creative sessions for your summer term of teaching which link into other curriculum areas and use the local environment.

To book your place, or for more information about events please contact Rachel Ramchurn, 079606 13786 or email [rachelclementine@gmail.com](mailto:rachelclementine@gmail.com)

And also coming up...

**Easter Monday April 13<sup>th</sup> Social Ride**

Assemble

11am Chorlton Park, Beechwood Rd entrance (off Sandy Lane)

11.30 Sainsbury's

11.45 Highfield Park

onto the *Vale Cottage* (bottom of Kirk St just off Hyde Road), Gorton, for LUNCH.

This is a comfortable, cycle and family friendly inn, well worth checking out if you don't already know it, very near Debdale Park.

**The first Chorlton Green Festival**

This is April 4<sup>th</sup>, Saturday.

The venue will be St Clement's Church and grounds nearby down Edge Lane.

Starting 11am, FotFL will be having a stall to help publicise the FLoop – anyone wishing to come and help run it turn up and maybe we can organise a rota! We

have been told bikes and bikers will feature in fancy dress. Check local paper and the internet for details.

**Pond Life**

We have been interested in having the continuation of the old railway line westwards as an extension of the Fallowfield Loop through to Trafford, even though it has been 'bagged' for the tram. However, you may be interested to know that MPT (the consortium constructing the Manchester Metrolink extensions) are looking at a number of sites for new ponds.

They want these to be reasonably large (of the order of 30-40 sq m), close to the line, and to be maintained. One of the sites under consideration is between Manchester Road and Brantingham Road. A good sized pond could be built on this site, and it's immediately adjacent to the line. Subject to approval from the landowner (it's still at the informal stage) MPT will build a temporary pond on the site in the Spring.

But did you know that there are already two ponds near the cycleway? Both are indicated on the Greater Manchester cycling map number 8 (Manchester). One is where Sanfold Lane bends (marked as reservoir) the other is on the opposite side of the Fallowfield Loop, at the end of Station Road near Fir Tree Primary School. Both very close to the boundary with Stockport.

A national pond creation scheme was announced end of 2008.

See [www.pondconservation.org.uk/millionponds/](http://www.pondconservation.org.uk/millionponds/)

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Bike week is June 13 to 21, and already the annual TPT-FLoop ride in conjunction with the Mersey Valley Ranger Service is pencilled in.

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Do check the website, see front for other useful links

Best wishes, Cos Harnasz, FotFL archivist [costel.harnasz@gmail.com](mailto:costel.harnasz@gmail.com)

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