



August Rides

The Manchester Skyrides organised in August between Sky News and British Cycling, to encourage cycling across all age groups, including families, proved a huge success. All were led by riders trained by British Cycling, and three of them involved the Fallowfield Loop in their route. The main event on Sunday 2nd August attracted huge numbers, and members organised a stall to publicise the Loop and distribute our standard guide/map to those attending. Other Skyrides involving the Loop took place on 19th and 23rd of the month.

On Sunday 16th August we organised our own ride from Chorlton Park along the Trans-Pennine Trail (TPT) going westwards towards Lymm. It is worth recording that the surface and signposting across Carrington Moss have been greatly improved, as also the surface of the old railway line from Broadheath to Lymm. This makes the route a much more attractive proposition for a day out, mainly off-road though there are a few connecting road sections. Although two of the pubs along the old railway part of the route are now closed and boarded up (Rope and Anchor at Dunham and the Railway at Oughtrington), we found the Green Dragon up the road from the closed Railway in Heatley, and had an enjoyable lunch in the garden there. We came back along the Bridgewater Canal, where the towpath surface has also been improved, partly thanks to the Sustrans Connect2 programme. This round ride is much to be recommended, and can also take in Dunham Massey for those who wish to visit there (though bikes are not welcome in the park itself). Anyone who would like more details about this route can contact David.

Increased use of the Loop

Members will know that one of the aims of the Friends is to encourage more people to use the Loop. We do this through our organised rides, through distributing the Loop map/guide to homes along the route, by running stalls at events taking place near the Loop, and by working to make the environment as attractive as possible for users. After much delay our latest initiative, to have permanent street signs put up on all the bridges, will be completed in early October. All these efforts have contributed to greatly increased use of the Loop by all categories of users – walkers, joggers, dog-walkers, cyclists, cross-country skiers, and others. Some unusual sightings have been made recently – a monocyclist, a skateboarder pulled along by two dogs, even a cycling juggler! However, this increased use has led to some tensions between different users, for example between dog-walkers and cyclists. Our view is that the Loop is there for everyone, but needs consideration for other users. In particular, we

would appeal to cyclists to use their bells when approaching walkers going in the same direction, and suggest that walkers try and keep to one side of the path.

Sculpture gone missing?

A number of Levenshulme residents and Loop users have been alarmed to discover that one of the new wooden sculptures has gone missing from its position in the open area near the lattice bridge. Apparently it had been torn from its concrete base, but thankfully not appropriated for someone's private property. Tom, the Sustrans warden, discovered it lying in a nearby ditch, and now has it in safe keeping preparatory to providing an even more secure foundation for the whole sculpture group.

July AGM

This year's AGM was largely taken up with a welcome to the new Sustrans Maintenance Manager, Peter Green, and with a fruitful exchange of views with him about current issues affecting the Loop, and about continuing the good cooperation we had enjoyed with his predecessor, Paul Thomas. In the business part of the meeting, the current officers were reappointed for another year, and Linda Moulding was appointed as a new member to the Committee. The Committee was asked to review our priorities for the coming year, and draw up a programme of activities for the autumn. We plan a clean-up at the Chorlton end of the route for a weekend day towards the end of October. The support of members for our clean-ups is important to their success, and we will be circulating details by email nearer the time, and hope you will be able to join in if only for an hour or two. We are also committed to carrying out an opinion survey of users of the Loop once the street name plates are in place on the bridges, and again the help of members will be welcome once dates for this have been arranged. Among other developments, a new lectern showing our standard map of the Loop will shortly be installed at the Sherwood Street entrance.

Next members' meeting

The next bi-monthly meeting will take place at the Union Chapel, Wellington Road, Fallowfield on **Monday 21st September**, at the usual time of 7.30 pm. All members are welcome. If anyone has comments to make about any of the issues mentioned in this newsletter, or about issues relating to the Loop more generally, or suggestions about future activities, the members' meeting is a good place to air them. Alternatively, you can contact the secretary by email at the address given overleaf, or tel. 445 1524.