



Newsletter July 2012

Annual General Meeting

This year's AGM will take place on **Monday 16 July** at 7.30 pm at the Union Chapel, Wellington Road, Fallowfield. All members are invited to attend. The main items of business will be officers' reports for the past year and the election of officers and committee for the forthcoming one. Current officers are: Chair, vacant following the decision of Sandy Broadhurst to stand down after many years in the post. We are really grateful to her for all her work on behalf of the Friends. Secretary, David Beetham; Treasurer and Membership secretary, Dick Venes; Minutes secretary, Steve Keeney; Website manager, Julian Fox; Archivist, Cos Harnasz. Other committee members, Colin Bennett and Linda Moulding. We are currently short of one committee member as well as the Chair, and any member willing to be considered for these positions is encouraged to contact Dick Venes in advance of the AGM (tel. 224 3843).

Secretary's Report (see overleaf)

Our main effort over the past year has been devoted to the community orchard project in Levenshulme. Bringing the main phase of the project to a successful conclusion has involved much more work than is apparent from the items listed overleaf, and we are grateful to the many helpers who have made this possible. Under the terms of our grant we are committed to maintaining and enhancing the orchard into the future, and this will be an item for the normal meeting which follows directly after the AGM. More generally, we are committed to the on-going improvement of the environment of the Loop and its bio-diversity, and should put on record the major contribution of the Manchester office of Sustrans in partnership with ourselves in promoting this objective, along with the continuing work of warden Tom.

Future Newsletters

Due to the increased cost of postage, future newsletters will be circulated electronically via email, and only in hard copy to those members who are not on our email list. Anyone from the email list who still wishes to receive a hard copy should contact the Secretary.

Forthcoming Events

Sunday 5 August: 4 canals and 2 football grounds ride, involving side roads to Salford Quays, canal towpaths through the City centre to Sports City and back via the Loop. Start 10.30 am at Sainsbury's in Fallowfield, 11 am at the Beechwood Avenue entrance to Chorlton Park, lunch stop at the Vale Cottage Inn or similar venue, return by 3 pm. (Postponed from 7 July)

Sunday 19 August: Whole Loop ride to join up with Debdale groups. Details to be circulated nearer the time.

Secretary's Itemised Report, July 2011-June 2012

Organised rides

- 21 August, TPT ride west to Heatley and back via Bridgewater Canal
- 23 October, family ride to Debdale in association with St. Andrew's School
- 2 January 2012, New Year social ride from Chorlton to Debdale
- 12 February, Chorlton Wanderers' ride led by Dick Venes to Denton area
- 17 June, Mersey Valley ride to Reddish Vale to launch bike week
- 22 June, evening adult social ride, including six pub stops

Environmental

- 23 July, second plant identification walk led by Dave Bishop on east of Loop
- 10 October, won grant from Big Tree Plant Fund for community orchard
- 2 November, knotweed-busting day with chemical injection guns
- 6 November, major clean-up of the bank by Sainsbury's
- 3 December, orchard site visit with local residents, initial purchase of trees and launch of tree sponsorship programme and publicity through local groups
- 19 February 2012, completion of clearance of orchard site with help from Sale and Altrincham Conservation Volunteers, following work by Community Payback
- 1 March, work begun by Sustrans to renovate the Lattice bridge, one of our long-standing priorities for improvement of the Loop
- 18 March, orchard planting day with SACV, and first grafting workshop led by Colin Bennett
- 1 April, second grafting workshop
- 19 May, clean up of Loop in Levenshulme and flower planting on orchard site

Community relations and promotion

- 7 August, stall at Velodrome for Skyrides event
- 27 August, stall at Velodrome for Reg Harris day
- 23 October, stall and 'Dr. Bike' maintenance facility at Levenshulme festival
- 31 March 2012, stall at the Chorlton Big Green Festival
- 12 April, secured two-page spread on the orchard in the South Manchester Reporter
- 20 May, organised official openings of the community orchard and renovated Lattice Bridge
- 25 May, delivered Loop maps/leaflets to new estate at Rider Brow
- Improvement of our website with interactive element introduced
- Six bi-monthly newsletters to members and stakeholders