



Newsletter September 2012

This month's Newsletter is appearing early as both the secretary and membership secretary will be away for the first fortnight of the month, and circulation has to be arranged before they go. As reported in the July Newsletter, members on our email circulation list will now all receive it electronically, unless they request otherwise. Because of the short time since the last Newsletter there are only two items of news to report, and most of the space is taken up with forthcoming events. Please note these for your diary.

July AGM

At a well-attended AGM the existing officers and committee were reappointed with the exception of the Chair, as Sandy Broadhurst was standing down after many years in the post (see July Newsletter). Pam Flynn, a former committee member, had agreed to take the position and she was unanimously welcomed as our new Chair.

Four canals ride

On 5 August we covered a by-now familiar route through the city centre, taking in the ship canal, the Bridgewater, Rochdale and Ashton canals, and returning via the Loop. As Sandy pointed out, this should properly be called the 'five canals', as the route from the Ashton canal to the Loop follows the line of the former Stockport canal, which a group in Stockport is working to have restored. A welcome piece of news is that the Bridgewater canal towpath from Stretford through to Castlefield is on a list of improvements agreed under a new Transport for Greater Manchester sustainability programme. We have long campaigned for this, as it will make the towpath from Altrincham and Sale through to the city centre a viable commuting route, with easy access also from Chorlton via Hawthorn Lane.

Autumn events

Saturday-Sunday 15-16 September: Levenshulme Green weekend event (Crayfield Road and Kersh Avenue entrances to the Loop). A group of mums from Levenshulme (the 'LoveLevy project') has been organising to improve the green spaces at this site, which includes the community orchard, in collaboration with Sustrans and ourselves. Saturday 15th will be a work day, to clean up and clear the site, and to lay a wood-chip path through the orchard. Volunteers to help with this work are welcome any time from 10.30 onwards. Sunday 16th will be a family day on the site open to the public, with a play area for children and a barbeque. You are invited to drop by any time during the day. In the longer term it is hoped to develop one of the four quadrants as a play and picnic area, and another with raised beds for soft fruit and vegetables, to complement the community orchard.

Monday 17 September: Bi-monthly members' meeting, 7.30 pm, Union Chapel, Wellington Road, Fallowfield. All members welcome.

Sunday 23 September: Social ride out on the Trans-Pennine trail westwards to the Green Dragon pub in Heatley and back by the Bridgewater canal towpath. Almost entirely off-road. Start time 10.30 at Sainsbury's car park, Fallowfield, 11 o'clock at the Beechwood Avenue entrance to Chorlton Park. Return by 3-3.30 pm.

Sunday 30 September: Walk around Highfield Country Park and pond area, jointly with the Friends of Highfield Country Park, starting from the Crayfield Road entrance to the Loop. Times to be confirmed by email.

Thursday 25 October: Climate change talk by Prof. Terry Callaghan at the Baptist Church opposite the Sidings pub in Levenshulme, time to be confirmed.

Sunday 28 October: Information stall and 'Dr. Bike' cycle repair surgery at the Levenshulme Festival, Levenshulme Green, 10.30 to 1 pm. Family bike ride to Debdale and back, starting at 11.30.

We expect to hold another work day some time in October as well as another 'knotweed busting' day. These will be among items to be discussed at the forthcoming members' meeting on September 17th, and details will be circulated nearer the time.