



Newsletter Mar 2013

Due to the recent huge increase in postal charges we are now sending the newsletter out electronically to members for whom we have email addresses; but we will continue to send a printed version to those without email addresses, or who indicate that they would prefer a printed version.

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### NEXT MEETING

#### **Monday 18th March, 7.30 pm:**

TALK at Union Chapel, corner Waller Ave & Wellington Rd, Fallowfield, when **Chris Frankland**, of **Frankland Tree Services** will be speaking.

They work in the local area, including for Sustrans along the Fallowfield Loop.

Not only will Chris be talking about the whys and wherefores of tree management, but also about how the company has researched and developed methods of creating useful products from materials traditionally considered as waste by-products.

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Sunday 17th March, 10am (till~2.30pm)

We will be holding a workday, in conjunction with SACV (Sale and Altrincham Conservation Volunteers).

We will be aiming to complete 2 projects:

1. Planting a community orchard on a site just to the west of the Wellington Road overbridge, Fallowfield. The pits for the trees were dug at a previous workday and we will be putting in stakes, planting the trees, and fixing supports and guards. We may also need to water the trees in.
2. Improving the habitat for wild flowers on the bank adjacent to the Loop alongside Sainsbury's Fallowfield supermarket car park. This will involve removing litter, clearing dead soft vegetation and removing it to a composting area, and trimming, cutting down some of the self seeded shrubs which are crowding out and shading the wild flowers (you may recall doing this on this site in November 2011).

All are welcome to attend, including friends and children supervised by parent/responsible adult, for as little or as much time as you wish. We need people to do the physical work, but also to help to keep the path clear for other users and talk to passers-by about what we are doing.

If you come along to help, please wear appropriate clothing and footwear. We will provide gloves if you have none, litter pickers and rubbish bags. If you can bring any of the following tools that would be helpful: spade/fork, water container (e.g. 12.5 or 25 litre drum), garden and/or grass rake, secateurs, bow saw, implement to cut grass etc (e.g. sickle, shears, battery powered strimmer)

Toilet facilities are available nearby at the Sainsbury's supermarket and there are also coffee shops and pubs located on Wilmslow Road between the two work sites.

Let me know if you need any further information by email or phone on 0161 224 3843.

My contact number on the day will be 077494 21 254.

Dick Venes

GREENER GREENWAYS

The May 2012 newsletter featured a piece about Hannah Lewis' work as Sustrans' ecologist, on the increasing awareness of routes like the Fallowfield Loop being havens and routes for wildlife.

She came to speak to us later in the year, and at the November meeting mentioned that she was seeing through a bid to obtain funding for a project to identify and record wildlife in the region.

Just received this good news! Please note her special offer at the end.

Hannah Lewis writes:-

After a successful funding bid, Sustrans is delighted to launch GREENER GREENWAYS, a project to find out what plants and animals are present on our land and to work to protect them and make the routes as rich in wildlife as possible.

This is the first time that Sustrans have had a funded project to conserve and enhance the wildlife on our routes, which have traditionally only been managed for access. Our funding is initially for 3 ½ years, and during that time we can offer support, resources and training, to any volunteer groups wanting to do more nature conservation work. This work is important because our greenways provide a home for all sorts of wildlife but without the right management some of the most unusual plants and animals can be lost and the routes will support less and less wildlife. Sustrans look forward to being able to better support and enhance the valued work the Friends of Fallowfield Loop already do along the route.

Volunteers will be helping to conduct surveys of the plants and animals present on the route and to do work days to manage vegetation and to restore or create valuable habitats.

Please contact Hannah Lewis, Sustrans Ecologist, to find out more about the project and how you can be involved, on 0121 633 5500.

NB another welcome development coming on the back of the 'Green to Green' wildlife recording project run by the Greater Manchester Ecology Unit – Ed

IMPROVEMENT WORK IS IMMINENT (hooray!) for two key connections to the Floop: Station Road, North Reddish, and Nelstrop Rd.

Don Naylor, Cycling Officer for Stockport Council, writes:-

Whilst LSTF (Local Sustainable Transport Fund) funded improvements to the latter can expect to enhance its credentials as a commuter cycling link, a resolution to the situation at Station Road has been sought for several years.

The agreed solution here will see a ramp reinstated to the south-west of the bridge, albeit on a slightly different line to the original ramp.

Local Community representatives and Sustrans have been working with Stockport Council to agree the best achievable design for the ramp.

NB This is near to an old reservoir (by Sandfold Lane) a good site for birdlife. – Ed

FLOOP ON VIDEO

Someone has cycled the Fallowfield Loop and posted a YouTube video at
www.youtube.com/watch?v=kSVxHpb4i2o

30 minutes long, from Chorlton to Gorton!

By the way, the area for improvements round the Station Road access are at ~ 24mins 30s into the clip.

FLOOP ON RADIO

A radio production company called *Made in Manchester* has been making enquiries in connection with the 'Blues Gospel Train' concert that took place in 1964, at the site of the disused Wilbraham Road Station (near the Atholl Road entrance to the FLoop. This is with a view to the fiftieth anniversary of the seminal Granada TV show in May of next year.

FLOOP IN TAMESIDE

There have been some queries recently come to FotFL about the state of play at the far eastern end of the FLoop, including from the Friends of Debdale and a number of user groups, who wish to try to resolve the long standing dissatisfaction with the state of the loop connection as it enters Tameside 'In particular the barrier that exists across the new Bellway estate still has not been removed to allow access and the diversionary footpath is unsatisfactory.'

Quiz, on the back page is an article from a copy of the Manchester Evening News.
When was the article published?

Prize to be decided, to the person who contacts Costel Harnasz (0161 283 7548) with the closest date.

To make it easier, I may award the prize to the person who gets the closest *year*.

FLOOP IN LEVENSHULME.

Lara Moore of *LoveLevy* is planning another workbush at 'Levenshulme Village Green' (site of the community orchard) the weekend of **April 13th 14th**.

Cyclists and developer in a spin over blocked pathway

■ Riders claim blocked route is right of way

■ It's not original course says homes company

■ BEN ROOTH

CYCLISTS and property developers have clashed over a public right of way.

Riders claim a link path off Booth Road, Audenshaw, Tameside, blocked by Bellway Homes, is a public footpath and the firm must legally keep it open.

But the company says the route they have blocked with rubble and tyres is not the path's original course and cyclists have strayed from the real route after it became overgrown.

The path leads to the Manchester Cycle Path, also known as the Fallowfield Loop, which runs from Fairfield, near Audenshaw, to Chorlton along a disused railway track. Residents say they have since

been forced to use alternative routes.

Bellway Homes, who are developing a site next to the path, say they plan to create a purpose-built footpath and cycle route to link to the Manchester Cycle Path.

But Janet Uncles, a legal executive from Audenshaw who regularly cycles along the Fallowfield Loop, said: "All cyclists can do is stay on the main road or cycle across the golf club grounds - you can't get a bike past the rubble to reach the Manchester Cycle Path."

"Cyclists have been using this path for years. It is a massive inconvenience to find it has now been blocked."

Bellway Homes have planning permission to build 97 homes on the site of the former Hepworths factory, off Booth Road.

Last week, Tameside council and the company met to discuss what could be done.

A council spokesman said: "The blocking of the path is an unlawful obstruction and we are trying to get the situation resolved. Bellway Homes were told they need to apply for a



Janet Uncles at the Bellway Homes site in Audenshaw, where a cycle route has been blocked off. Photograph: Paul Burrows

NO WAY THROUGH temporary diversion of the footpath route.

But Bellway say the land they've blocked is not a right of way. A spokesman said: "After the Hepworth depot was re-

located, the path was left to deteriorate. We have trimmed overgrown trees and hedgerow and offered to level off uneven ground. Bellway has also pointed out that the footpath

sign has been erected in the wrong place and does not correspond to that sign at the opposite end of the correct path."

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