



Newsletter July 2013

Improvements on and around the Loop

After years of campaigning it is a pleasure to report that the path through the Bellway estate at the Fairfield end of the Loop is now free from obstruction, and forms a well sign-posted route through the estate to Fairfield station and beyond. Sustrans is now preparing a durable surface across the few metres of grass on the Loop side of the estate so as to complete the connection. Congratulations to all who have worked to achieve this result, but our efforts should not have been necessary if the company had recognised its planning obligations in the first place.

At the same time the Friends of Debdale Park have won a grant to surface the path round the two Gorton reservoirs, and this will provide an attractive extension to walks and rides at that end of the Loop. The new path, which has now been completed, will be officially opened by Gerald Kaufman MP on Friday 26 July at 2.30 pm. The Floop Friends will be represented, and any members free on that day are welcome to join the celebration. Congratulations to Paul Kirkham and the other Friends of Debdale for this welcome improvement.

Forthcoming Events

Monday 15 July: Annual General Meeting, 7.30 pm, Union Chapel, Wellington Road Fallowfield. This is an important meeting to consider reports on the past year and to plan priorities for the forthcoming one. The Secretary's report on the year is on the next page. We also elect officers and committee members, and are always on the lookout for volunteers and new nominations for these positions. The current holders are: Chair, Pam Flynn; Secretary, David Beetham; Treasurer and Membership Secretary, Dick Venes; Minutes Secretary, Steve Keeney; Webmaster, Julian Fox; Archivist, Cos Harnasz; Additional committee members, Colin Bennett and Linda Moulding. At the end of the meeting we will inspect the new fencing at the Sherwood Street entrance and fruit progress at the Wellington Road orchard. All members are welcome, and a special welcome to recently joined members.

Sunday 21 July: Four canals ride, taking in Salford Quays, off-road through the city centre, out on the Ashton canal to Sports city and Debdale, and returning via the Loop. A pub or other lunch stop is included, and if time allows a cycle round the new reservoirs path at Debdale. The route is mainly on canal paths, but with some quiet road sections near the start. Joining points: 10.30 am Sainsbury's Fallowfield car park, 11 am Beechwood Avenue entrance to Chorlton Park. Return by 3.30 pm. Details from David on 0161 445 1524.

Saturday/Sunday 7-8 September: Lara Moore of LoveLevy is organising another work weekend with the Challenge group of young people to improve the Levenshulme Green site and create a play area. Volunteers to help are most welcome.

Secretary's Annual Report, July 2012 to June 2013

Social rides and walks

- 5 August, 4 canals ride through city centre
- 23 September, TPT ride to Heatley and back by Bridgewater Canal
- 30 September, Walk around Highfield Country Park
- 6 January 2013, New Year social ride
- 16 June, Mersey Valley ride with Greater Manchester Cycling Campaign (GMCC)
- 21 June, Adult social ride with GMCC

Clean-up work

- 15 September, Clean-up of Levenshulme Green site
- 17 March 2013, Clean-up and shrub clearance of bank by Sainsbury's
- 20 April, Further clean-up of Levenshulme Green site
- 4-6 May, Rolling clean-up along whole length of the Loop
- Regular clean-up work by Rangers on their sections

Orchard events

- 15 and 29 September, Laying woodchip path through Levenshulme orchard
- 6 December, Initial preparation of Fallowfield orchard site
- 12 December, Won commendation in Community Empowerment Awards Ceremony for the Levenshulme orchard
- 6 January 2013, Wassail event at the Levenshulme orchard
- 17 February, Full preparation of the Fallowfield orchard site with SACV
- 17 March, Planting of 14 trees on the Fallowfield site with SACV
- May-June, Clearing undergrowth at both orchard sites

Community relations and promotion

- 16 September, Stall at LoveLevy community play day
- 28 October, Stall and Dr. Bike repair facility at Levenshulme Festival
- Six bi-monthly newsletters to members and stakeholders
- Regular email contact with members
- Website redesigned and many queries answered
- Contact maintained with other Friends groups and Community associations