



## Newsletter July 2014

### **Annual General Meeting**

This year's AGM will take place on Monday 21st July at the usual time and place: 7.30 pm at the Union Chapel, Wellington Road, Fallowfield. This is an important meeting at which we consider reports from the officers, and elect officers and other committee members for the coming year. It will be followed by a normal members' meeting, at which we shall discuss our priorities for the next twelve months, and plan events for the remainder of the summer and the autumn. All members are welcome – please come if you can. The Secretary's annual report for the year 2013-14 forms the second page of this Newsletter. The current officers and committee member are: Chair, Pam Flynn; Secretary, David Beetham; Treasurer and Membership Secretary, Dick Venes; Minutes Secretary, Steve Keeney; Webmaster, Julian Fox; Archivist, Cos Harnasz; additional members: Colin Bennett and Linda Moulding.

### **Widening Participation in the Friends' Activities**

We are grateful to all our members for your contribution to the Friends through the annual subscription (vital to our funds) and in many other ways. Yet we are also aware that the activities listed in the Secretary's report overleaf have depended on a relatively small number of people. It would be good if we could widen the participation in these activities, as well as achieve a modest expansion or renewal in our list of committee members. So if you feel able to assist in any of the following, please get in touch with our Chair, Pam Flynn:

- Become a member of the committee, which meets about six times a year to monitor and plan activities
- Act as a Ranger, to keep an eye on a small section of the Loop and deal with litter
- Help with the rolling clean-ups or other regular activities
- Help maintain one of our three community orchards (spring/summer only)

Pam's contact number is 0161 249 0943.

### **Secretary's Position**

At this year's AGM I will have completed ten years as Hon. Sec. of the Friends. Looking back over the ten annual reports I have compiled during that time I am struck by how much we have achieved together and how worthwhile our work has been, and continues to be. At the same time it would be good to find someone from our members, if not to replace me, then to provide assistance in some of the secretarial duties, which currently involve: compiling the bi-monthly Newsletter, preparing the agenda for meetings of members and the committee, dealing with correspondence and queries, and keeping track of our activities and priorities. As before, please get in touch with Pam Flynn if you feel able to help.

## **Secretary's Annual Report, July 2013 to June 2014**

### **Environmental improvement**

August, Peter Rowley surveys Himalayan Balsam and removes main concentrations  
6-7 September, joined LoveLevy to improve quadrant site and install noticeboard  
October, grant of hedging plants from Woodland Trust for Sherwood Street entrance  
16-17 November, Rolling clean-up of the Loop from Sainsbury's eastwards  
6 April 2014, additional workday to improve the Levy quadrants site  
26-7 April, rolling clean-up of the whole Loop, with help from scouts and others  
Regular clean-up by Rangers on their sections throughout the year

### **Community orchard events**

5 January 2014, Twelfth Night Wassail celebration at the Levy orchard  
16 February, preparation of the Debdale orchard site with help from SACV  
16 March, planting of 14 fruit trees at the Debdale site, led by SACV  
May to July, maintenance and weeding of orchards at Levy and Fallowfield  
22 June, Levy orchard staffed for the Open Gardens event

### **Community relations and promotion**

26 September, Friends awarded partnership medal in Spirit of Manchester awards  
13 November, meeting with Sustrans and U U over Levy quadrant tree felling  
December, circular distributed to Levy residents about felling and future plans  
April 2014, information circular to residents living near the Debdale orchard  
3 May, Commemoration event of the Blues and Gospel Train concert of 1964  
Regular bi-monthly Newsletter for members and website  
Ongoing responses to queries on our website

### **Talks at members' meetings**

Talks from: Eleanor Roaf, Northwest regional organiser, Sustrans; Abbie Kempson, IncredibleEdible Levenshulme; Lara Moore, LoveLevy; Wendy Eaden, Manchester Beekeepers; Mark Atallah, Manchester Uni, Environmental Sciences

### **Social rides**

21 July, 4 canals ride  
14 June 2014, repeat of 4 canals ride to mark start of Bike Week  
20 June, adult evening social ride