



## Newsletter July 2015

### **Annual General Meeting**

All members are cordially invited to take part in this year's AGM on Monday 20 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 officers, and elect officers and other committee members for the coming year. It will be followed by a normal members' meeting, at which we will discuss priorities for the next twelve months, and plan activities for the remainder of the summer and autumn. We also hope to welcome Beverley Budgen, the new maintenance manager for Sustrans owned cycle routes, who has recently taken over this important role from Peter Green.

For information the current officers and committee members are: Chair, Pam Flynn; Secretary and Newsletter Editor, David Beetham; Treasurer and Membership Secretary, Dick Venes; Minutes Secretary, Steve Keeney; Webmaster, Julian Fox; Archivist, Cos Harnasz; additional committee member, Linda Moulding.

### **Secretary's Annual Report**

The Secretary's report is on the next page. You will see that much of our activity comes under the heading 'Environmental Improvement', of which maintenance is an important element. This aspect has been enhanced over the past year by the work of Paul Burroughs, who coordinates volunteers from different Manchester companies and organisations for work days on behalf of Sustrans. Members of the Friends also contribute to these work days both by participating directly and by helping identify sites needing attention. Now is an appropriate time to thank all our members who have contributed to the activities detailed in the report. As was mentioned last year, we are keen to increase the numbers who take part in these activities, so please do respond when you receive an email inviting your participation in an upcoming event. Everyone will be made welcome.

Two aspects of the report show a clear decline from previous years. One is our organised social rides, which have failed to attract much interest, apart from the adult social ride (or

cycle pub crawl) taking place in national bike week. Our conclusion is that people prefer to enjoy the Loop and its environs in their own way, or already take part in other organised rides (Sky rides, Chorlton Wanderers, etc.). The other decline is in the talks by invited speakers at our members' meetings. This has not been intentional, and is a feature we would gladly revive in the coming year.

## **Secretary's Annual Report, August 2014 to July 2015**

### *Environmental Improvement*

September: raised beds installation at Levy quadrants with Incredible Edible  
October: crab apple tree planting at Debdale orchard (Rivers of Flowers)  
November: weekend rolling clean-up of the Loop from Debdale westwards  
December: pruning and tree identification day at the Levy and Fallowfield orchards  
January: launch meeting of the Greener Greenways project for the Loop  
February: work day with SACV to plant a hedge at the Sherwood Street entrance  
March: recording and reporting fly-tipping on the Loop  
April: weekend rolling clean-up, eastern section, with Whalley Range scouts taking the western end.  
May: work day at the Levy orchard, weeding and improving paths  
May to July: ongoing maintenance at all three orchard sites  
June: completion of hedging work at Sherwood Street entrance  
June: Loop survey ride identifying sites for future work parties  
July: members joined Co-op volunteers for work day at Sherwood Street entrance  
Regular work by our Rangers throughout year on their sections of the Loop

### *Information and Promotion*

October: notices posted at key entrances Please Share with Care  
November: stall at Levy market for the Levenshulme festival  
January: wassail celebration at the Levy orchard  
April: first bird walk led by Tony O'Mahoney  
May: plant walk led by Dave Bishop  
June: Open Gardens event at the Levy orchard, with stall and orchard plan  
June: second bird walk led by Tony O'Mahoney  
Bi-monthly members' meetings and newsletter  
Regular monitoring of our website and responding to queries  
Opening of a facebook facility

### *Social Rides*

June: adult evening ride in national bike week