



Newsletter July 2016

Annual General Meeting

The AGM of the Friends will take place next Monday 18 July at 7.30 at the Union Chapel, Wellington Road, Fallowfield. Reports from the officers will be considered, and officers and committee will be elected for the forthcoming twelve months. A normal business meeting will be held at the end of the AGM. All members are most welcome to attend and take part.

Barrier Opening

We are now in the middle of the extended opening trial of three months. We are assembling responses to the trial, both positive and negative, and we urge all members and friends to send in their views about the opening to our dedicated website FloopOpenBarriers@gmail.com.

Forthcoming events

A number of summer events have been organised to coincide with the opening, and are listed below. Please circulate and come and take part.

Sunday 24 July: Orchard Bike Tour organised by The Urban Orchard Project and the Friends. Start will be at the Debdale Eco Centre orchard in Debdale Park at 11 am. From there we join the Loop at our own Debdale orchard, and ride to the Quadrants orchard in Levenshulme arriving at 11.45. From there we proceed to the Fallowfield orchard and on to the Moss Cider Project and mobile orchard for a picnic lunch at 12.30 pm. After lunch we ride to Longford Park (2.30 pm) and the 60+ orchard on the Manchester Disc Golf Course. If you cannot manage the whole route, then join or leave at whatever point best suits.

Saturday 30 July: Outdoor performance of Romeo and Juliet by the Handlebards all-female cycling troupe at the Levy Quadrants, 4pm start ('doors' open at 3 pm). Bring a rug/groundsheet to sit on and dress for the weather. Pay what you can afford. The performance is guaranteed to be entertaining and 'hilariously funny' (Sir Ian McKellan).

Sunday 14 August: Festival of Bikes. Celebratory ride of all shapes and condition of bikes along the Loop from St. Werburghs to the Levy Quadrants for a picnic lunch at 1pm with music. Feeder rides will join from Chorlton Green, Alexandra Park, Platt Fields and Debdale. Precise departure times will be publicised nearer to the event.

Please note these events in your diaries and spread the word!

Secretary's Annual Report, August 2015 to July 2016

Environmental Improvement

Took part in Sustrans regular Thursday task days along the Loop

March: weeding and spreading of woodchippings on the hedge at Sherwood Street

April: woodchippings transferred to the quadrants for new raised beds path

April/May: help to Incredible Edible Levy for installation of new raised beds

May: rolling weekend clean-up of the Loop

April to July: maintenance work on the three orchards (weeding, composting etc.)

Ongoing work by our Rangers on their sections of the Loop

Information and Promotion

January: wassail celebration (with postponement due to the weather)

April: information stalls at Levy market on 2nd and 29th

April: start of trial barrier opening and closing at weekends by members of Friends

April/May: bird and plant walks along the Loop

May: contribution to cycling workshop at Chorlton High School

May onwards: barriers open for three months with response to comments

Regular monitoring of our website and Facebook and reply to queries

Bi-monthly newsletter and members' meetings

Social Rides

August: Loop and canals ride, including upgraded Bridgewater towpath

September: first Kidical Mass Ride with open barriers and picnic

October: second Kidical Mass Ride as above

May: third Kidical Mass Ride as above