



Next meeting  
7.30-9.00pm  
Monday 20<sup>th</sup>  
March 2017.

Union Chapel  
Wellington Road  
Fallowfield  
M14 6EQ

Hello and welcome to our second newsletter this year. We have already seen lots of activity and developments on the Fallowfield Loop over the first 10 weeks of 2017 and anticipate that this will continue over the coming months.

**Willow Planting at the Quadrants with Sale and Altrincham Conservation Volunteers**



This year's input on the Fallowfield Loop by Sale and Altrincham Conservation Volunteers was the planting of willow arches in and around the community orchard at the Levenshulme Quadrants. Friends of the Loop joined the SACV's on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February to provide additional labour and to learn about the skills involved in willow planting and design. Two arches were built using willow previously harvested from the Loop. Some weeding and general maintenance was also done around the fruit trees. The presence of members of Incredible Edible Levenshulme working on their raised beds of herbs and fruit on the Quadrants, gave the morning a great feel productive and creative community action.

**Sustrans Wildlife Champions Programme.**

Sustrans Wildlife Champions currently have a planned programme of monthly walks along the Fallowfield Loop focusing on a different topic each month. The next event is

on **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March**, meeting at the Sherwood Street entrance to the Loop at 10.30am.

Ray's report about the January event:

The first walk of 2017 was to look for birds in the Gorton Reservoir area .We had the good luck to meet a local birding expert who accompanied us round the reservoir sharing his detailed knowledge of the locality, so that by the end of the walk we had seen/heard over 30 species including goldeneye , and siskin and most memorably, a kingfisher flying low over the water and perching for several minutes on a wall.

To round off the morning, Matt Holker, our Volunteers Co-ordinator, introduced us to his friends at Gorton Allotments, who warmly welcomed us with cups of tea and showed us the nest-boxes they have set up with cameras.

All in all, a great start to our 2017 programme.

To get details of the programme for 2017 follow this link

<https://friendsofthefallowfieldloop.files.wordpress.com/2016/11/schedule-of-wildlife-surveys-2017-fallowfield-loop.pdf>

or look on the Fallowfield Loop website forthcoming events page.

To learn more about the Sustrans Wildlife Champions Project go to

<http://www.sustrans.org.uk/volunteer/our-volunteers/wildlife-volunteers>

### **Many hands make great work on Sustrans Volunteer Task mornings**



It was great to have an opportunity to get more connected with the eastern part of The Loop on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March when Loop and Sustrans volunteers met up with a couple of Sustrans workers to plant a spiral maze of privet and hawthorn saplings at Abbey Hey.

Ian Barker's twice monthly programme of Task Days (10.00am–1.30pm, 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays of the month) on the Fallowfield Loop are really taking off. Ian is a Sustrans volunteer who has initiated this great work along the Loop. Ian plans and coordinates the morning's activity. He cycles to the work location with his bike trailer packed with tools and gloves, food, drink, (and first aid kit). If you want to take part he recommends you wear wellies or sturdy boots,

warm long sleeved top & trousers and waterproofs depending on the weather, and if you have one, your hi-vis vest.

Contact Abigail at [volunteers-nw@sustrans.org.uk](mailto:volunteers-nw@sustrans.org.uk) or telephone 0161 923 6050 for more information or to find out the meeting point for the next task day.

### **WI women on Wheels event and Ride**

Friends of the Fallowfield Loop supported the Levenshulme WI with the promotion of their participation in the Transport of Greater Manchester “Women on Wheels” event at the Velodrome on Saturday 1th March. Below is their letter to the Friends after the event.

*Dear Frances*

*Thank you for attending our Women on Wheels event which was supported and funded by TfGM. It was great to have your support and input. Thank you for providing a range of maps and information, especially the maps of the Loop. They were instrumental in helping us plan our ride and illustrate the route to participants.*

*We had in the region of 25-30 attendees over the course of the morning, including Dr Bike, local cycle maintenance volunteers, WI members and the general public, who all found your stall interesting and informative.*

*We look forward to working with you again in the future. I am interested in receiving information about FotFL meetings and events.*

*Best wishes*

*Sharon,*

*Secretary, Levenshulme WI*

### **Stop Press**

Next Monday (20<sup>th</sup> March) is our regular member’s meeting at Union Chapel, Wellington Road Fallowfield at 7.30pm.

Amongst other items of business we will be talking about will be: next steps in the development of the Levenshulme Quadrants, future activities on the Loop including ideas about a summer festival along the Fallowfield Loop, the distribution of the new map and guide, and re-visiting the possibility of some solar powered lighting.

If you have ideas, suggestions or comments you would like us to hear about but can’t get to the meeting let us know through the contact page of the Fallowfield Loop website.