



## Newsletter July 2017

### **Annual General Meeting 2017**

This important meeting will take place on Monday 17 July at 7.30 pm at the Union Chapel, Wellington Road, Fallowfield. Chief business will be considering reports from the Secretary, Treasurer and other officers, and electing officers for the coming year. The Secretary's report, showing a substantial record of achievement by members, is on page 2 of this newsletter. The AGM will be followed by an ordinary members' meeting to discuss priorities for the next period and other business. All members, including those recently joined, are welcome at both meetings.

### **Officers**

Holders of the current positions are: Chair, Pam Flynn; Secretary, David Beetham; Treasurer and Membership Secretary, Dick Venes; Minutes Secretary, Steve Keeney; Website and Facebook Convener, Julian Fox; Record Keeper, Cos Harnasz. Other committee members: John Brown and Linda Moulding. Frances McCann has agreed to serve as Secretary in David's place from this AGM. Volunteers for any of the other positions are always welcome and should either email David or raise it at the AGM.

### **Distribution of the new map and guide to the Loop**

We have an ambitious plan to distribute the new map and guide to all homes adjacent to the Loop, as we have done with its predecessor. But we need help. Would you be able to deliver some to a section of houses near where you live? If so, please get in touch with Dick by email and we will provide you with the copies.

### **Stall at the Donkey Sanctuary**

We will be running a stall at the Donkey Sanctuary Open Day in Abbey Hey on Saturday 22 July from 10 am to 3 pm. Offers of help, please, to Frances.

## **Orchard Ride**

An orchard ride including our three orchards on the Loop and many more in its vicinity is planned for Sunday 13 August. Fruit lovers, book the date. Further details will be posted nearer the time.

## **Attacks on the Loop**

Facebook posts and local media have highlighted recent attacks on cyclists on the Loop in the region of Athol Road. We deplore these incidents and extend our sympathy to all those affected. The police have made arrests and are patrolling the area, but members and other users will naturally remain concerned. However, we urge users not to abandon the Loop, as the best safety lies in numbers. If you feel vulnerable about entering a particular stretch, we suggest you wait for other cyclists to join you and accompany you on your ride through.

## Secretary's Annual Report 2016-2017

### 1. Regular activities

- Members' contribution to twice-monthly Sustrans task days maintaining and enhancing the environment of the Loop
- Publicising and taking part in monthly wildlife walks with Sustrans 'wildlife champions'
- Rangers looking after specific sections of the route
- Maintaining three community orchards, with an annual Wassail celebration
- Holding members' meetings in alternate months, with a regular newsletter
- Maintaining Facebook and website facilities, and answering queries raised
- Liaising with other voluntary groups, with MACC and with Sustrans

### 2. Exceptional activities

- i. Working to achieve the lifting of all internal barriers along the Loop. This involved: preparing a fully worked-out proposal; arranging pilot openings at weekends; conducting feed-back assessments of these online and face to face; using the results to justify permanent opening of the barriers by Sustrans; producing a final report. (Lorenza and Giselle were the lead members).
- ii. Producing a new guide and map to the Loop. This involved: preparing a draft text and template; working on the design with Nick Scarle of the Manchester University Cartographic Unit, including provision of photos; arranging printing of 10,000 copies; securing a grant for half the cost from TfGM cycling unit; liaising with them and Sustrans on the design and text. (David and Cos were the lead members).
- iii. Planting willow arches at the orchard and raised-bed quadrants in Levenshulme, with the help of the Sale and Altrincham Conservation Volunteers.
- iv. Combining with Sustrans volunteers to achieve a spring clean-up and litter-pick of the whole eastern section of the Loop from Debdale to Sainsbury's.
- v. Helping prepare the NW Levenshulme quadrant for a performance of Romeo and Juliet by the Handlebards in August 2016.
- vi. Preparing a grant application to install fifteen tree boles on the NW quadrant to enhance its play and educational capacity.