



Next meeting

7.30-9.00pm

Monday 19th

March 2018.

at

Union Chapel
Wellington Road
Fallowfield
M14 6EQ

Welcome to the March Newsletter of the Friends of the Fallowfield Loop. Despite the challenging weather of recent weeks there continues to be plenty of activity on The Loop and planning taking place for exciting developments we hope will be happening over the coming year.

- **WILDLIFE CHAMPIONS – BIRD SPOTTING SUCCESS!**
- **FRESH SWEEP OF YELLOW BRICK ROAD - POSTPONED**
- **THURSDAY TASK DAYS – SO FAR THIS YEAR**
- **PUBLIC EVENT ON THE LOOP - NEXT PLANNING MEETING DATE**
- **LET'S RIDE! NEXT RIDE ALONG THE FALLOWFIELD LOOP**
- **STOP PRESS**

- **JANUARY WILDLIFE CHAMPIONS – AN ENJOYABLE AND REWARDING SUNDAY MORNING**

Sunday 28th January, Tony O'Mahoney led the group on a fascinating bird identification walk.

A total of 26 species were recorded:

Magpie, Blackbird,
Dunnock, Song Thrush
Black headed gull, Robin,
Jackdaw, Bullfinch,
Sparrowhawk
Grey Wagtail

Goldfinch, Bluetit,
Woodpigeon House
sparrows,
Ring necked Parakeet,
Mallard, Starlings, Crow.
Lesser black backed gull,

Wren, Common gull, Feral
pigeon, Great tit, Long
tailed tit, Coal tit,
Collared dove.

Following the walk a member of The Friends sent us the following:

"Dear Dick, I really enjoyed your wildlife event last Sunday and would like to thank Matt for leading the walk and Tony for his extensive local knowledge and amazingly sharp senses!

Best wishes"

The walks take place on the Fourth Sunday of the month 10.30am-12.30pm

For more information, email volunteers-north@sustrans.org.uk – or contact:

Volunteer Coordinator (staff)	Abigail Pound	0161 9236053
Group Leader (volunteer)	Matt Holker	07769691536
Wildlife Champion (volunteer)	Ray Dumpleton	07564623530

Below are the details of the next two walks.

March 25/03/2018	Athol Road Access Point Map	Signs of Spring	More information at http://www.naturescalendar.org.uk/
April 22/04/2018	Meet on the bridge at the entrance to Debdale Allotments (Entrance to the Loop from Alston Road)	Spring flowers	Dave Bishop Ray to bring grassland plant and woodland plant ID guides provided by Sustrans.

(Details of all the 2018 walks are on the Fallowfield Loop website).

➤ **FRESH SWEEP OF YELLOW BRICK ROAD – POSTPONED**

In the November Newsletter we reported on the success of the clean up weekend along the Old Stockport Canal Path/ Yellow Brick Road that took place despite the wild winds of Storm Brian. Early in 2018 year Charles started planning a follow-up winter litter sweep. This was to take advantage of the winter dieback pull out the debris (mostly can, bottles and takeaway/food packaging) that was inaccessible in the flourishing undergrowth along the route.

All necessary arrangements had been made with Gorton Community Centre, SUSTRANS and the litter pick up service, and publicity was sent out for Saturday 1st MARCH – and then it started to snow and freeze, and freeze and snow.

However The Great Litter Sweep has only been postponed
Come and join in when a new date has been set .

➤ **THURSDAY TASK DAYS – SO FAR THIS YEAR**

The Thursday task days are another regular feature for the newsletter. So far this year Ian has both led and fed the Thursday volunteers in the following activities:

- The Athol Road entrance – general improvement work.
- Abbey Hey – further maintenance work on the little woodland and work on the Dog Park.
- Habitat improvement work in the Lattice Bridge area.
- Work on the Quadrants – including removing the metal guards on the Orchard Trees.
- Habitat development work on the sandstone outcrop near to Sainsburys.

To get latest information about the task days and to register to join in contact volunteers-nw@sustrans.org.uk or telephone 0161 923 6050.

Once you are registered you will receive the fortnightly notifications about the up and coming task day, then all you need to do is to let Ian know if you are intending to come along.

➤ **LET'S RIDE! - REGULAR GROUP RIDES ON THE FALLOWFIELD LOOP -**

Remember the “**SKY RIDES**” on the Fallowfield Loop during National Bike week? This bike ride project is now under the name of “Let's Ride” and sponsored by British Cycling and HSBC UK. The Fallowfield Loop has become a regular route on the schedule of rides organized in Greater Manchester.

The next ride will be **Saturday 24th March**. **Starting from** – The National Cycling Centre, [M11 4DQ](#) at 10:30am. Total length of the ride is 16 miles with a picnic break at Chorlton Park. It is promoted as being easy going and suitable for all bike types and for younger riders. On the Let's Ride website the ride is given a 4.5 rating (41 reviewers). Check out full details at:

<https://www.letsride.co.uk/rides/discover-the-fallowfield-loop-6>

➤ **PUBLIC EVENT ON THE LOOP - NEXT PLANNING MEETING DATE – from Jo Phillips.**

On the 15th of February a dozen Friends and Floop Volunteers met to begin discussing possibilities for a public engagement event on the Loop on Saturday the 15th of September. At this first gathering people began to put forward their thoughts about the nature, location and target audience for the event.

It is hoped that a wide range of people will be able to participate in making the 15th September an engaging and enjoyable afternoon and that an outcome of this will be to have encouraged new users of all kinds to the Loop.

One of the themes of the afternoon will be to ask people participating, and the general public passing through, for their input into ideas for improvements to entrances and access points along the Fallowfield Loop.

We also hope people will share thoughts about a stronger public identity for the route. In addition we hope to better understand why people might hesitate to use the route, and look to them for ideas for solutions to these barriers.

We want everyone to have a really good afternoon out, and to feel welcomed into and attracted by the space and the route..

The next planning meeting will take place at the **Union Chapel Wellington Road Fallowfield at 7 pm on Monday the 26th March**. We will be forming a steering group and firming up a project plan at this meeting; please do feel free to join in.

Jo Phillips is leading up on the planning and organization of the event in September. If you would like more information, or have any ideas or queries, you can contact her by email joanne.phillips@mmu.ac.uk

➤ **STOP PRESS**

The next members meeting will be at Union Chapel, Wellington Road Fallowfield on Monday
19th March at 7.30pm.

Amongst other items of business we will be talking about will be: the outcomes of funding applications we have submitted, the progress of the "Points of Interest Project", and updates on the activities described in the newsletter.

**Also we will be setting the date for the annual
Fallowfield Loop Spring Clean
We will let you know when it will be taking place
Do join us if you can**

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.