



Next meeting
7.30-9.00pm
Monday 16th July
2018.
at
Union Chapel
Wellington Road
Fallowfield
M14 6EQ

July is our AGM month – so if you can join us at Union Chapel on 16th July you would be very welcome.

Welcome to all Members and Friends of the Friends of the Fallowfield Loop. There continue to be quite a number of exciting developments along the Loop, some initiated by the Friends Group, and others by community groups and enterprises. We also continue to work closely with Sustrans staff in their work.

Sustaining a healthy sized membership group is important to our credibility in continuing public interest and investment in the Fallowfield Loop. So we hope you will be able to continue to support us at whatever level of involvement you feel able to offer. Read on to learn more about what's going on..

- **FLOPFEST – A SUSTRANS LED EVENT – Saturday 15th September.**
- **THE HANDLEBARDS PERFORM SHAKESPEARE ON THE QUADRANTS – 25th and 21st July.**
- **WILDLIFE CHAMPIONS – 3rd Sundays of the month.**
- **THURSDAY TASK DAYS - 1ST and 3RD Thursdays the month.**
- **POINTS OF INTEREST GOOGLE MAPPING – ongoing.**
- **SANDSTONE CUTTING – RIGS Status assessment.**
- **ORCHARDS PROGRESS REPORT.**
- **EILEEN LAND – obituary and tribute.**

Flopfest – a Sustrans led event – update from the project lead Jo Phillips

Sustrans would like to invite you to ***Flopfest***, an 'open day' on the Fallowfield Loop, on **Saturday 15th September, between 12 noon and 4 pm.** If you have friends or family who don't know about or use the Loop, please do suggest they come along. There will be things to eat, drink, see and do, and a chance for them to find out what the Floop is, where it goes, and why starting to use it could be a wonderful thing.

There will be maps, quizzes, music, food and drink, creative activities for all ages, wildlife walks, guided bike rides and more, for all ages.

Find us next to St Werburgh's road tram stop, easily accessed from Whalley Range and Chorlton. If you would like to get involved in helping to plan or run the event on the day, there is still time to make us an offer of help, expertise or equipment. Please contact Joanne Phillips.

There will soon be a link to the event on the Sustrans website - just not quite ready yet.

The Handlebards perform Shakespeare at the Levenshulme Quadrants.

We are now hosting two Handlebards performances (Free events) at the Levenshulme Quadrants. We will need some volunteers for each performance to help set up the event.

To find out more contact: Ian Barker. Sustrans volunteer.

Twelfth Night

Wednesday July 25th Quadrants. Doors 5:30pm, Curtain-up 6:30pm.

Romeo and Juliet

Tuesday July 31st The Quadrants. Doors 5:30pm, Curtain-up 6:30pm.

HELLO! WE'RE THE HANDLEBARDS!

We are a troupe of cycling actors who carry all the set, props and costume needed to perform extremely energetic, charmingly chaotic and environmentally sustainable Shakespeare plays across the globe.

We specialise in outdoor theatre, as we love performing in the open air, but really, we're happy performing almost anywhere.

In Summer 2018, both our all-male and our all-female troupes are touring the UK. The boys with [Twelfth Night](#), and the girls with [Romeo and Juliet](#).

We hope to see you there. And if you see us cycling by, give us a wave!

Ride on!

<https://www.handlebards.com/>

Wildlife Champions

Below is Ray's report from the Wildlife Walk on Sunday 24th June.

“On this month's Wildlife Walk we came across this gnawed /clawed tree and wondered what creature had done it. There was no similar damage in the nearby trees.

We recorded 25 bird species. Many of the waterbirds on the reservoir had chicks, but we also spotted 3 large terrapins basking on logs for whom an egg or young bird would make a tasty snack. Summer butterflies are now emerging : we saw plenty of meadow browns and small skippers.”

Details of the Wildlife walks are on the Fallowfield Loop Facebook and website pages.

The next one will be **Sunday July 23rd** and the theme of the walk will be “Flowers and Butterflies” Meet at the Avian Drive entrance (just off Yew Tree Road) to the Fallowfield Loop at 10.30am.

For more information contact Ray, or Abigail at the Sustrans office **0161 923 6053**.

Thursday Task Days - 1ST and 3RD Thursdays the month.

Ian Barker plans and leads the volunteer work mornings on the Fallowfield Loop on the first and third Thursday each month. There is a clear plan for each morning's activity which is linked in with the development of the Fallowfield Loop as a sustainable urban green corridor

There are usually around 10 people turning up to each work morning, all materials (and refreshments) are provided.

To get latest information about the task days and to register to join in contact volunteers-north@sustrans.org.uk (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.

Points of interest google mapping.

This project is continuing to progress well, and we are learning more about the Google map features that can be used to create a multi-layered map. Currently there are 6 Layers that can be viewed individually or in combination. They are The Fallowfield Loop, Access Points to the Fallowfield Loop, The Fallowfield Loop Railway Route (historic), Natural History and Ecology, Historic Features and Public Amenities. We hope to have the Map available for use in time for the **Floopfest** on 15th September.

Sandstone Cutting

The identification of the sandstone cutting visible on the stretch of the Loop between the Fallowfield Sainsburys and Lindleywood Road access points as a point of interest meriting further investigation arose from the mapping project. We had a site visit in March with Robin Grayson who shared his expertise and knowledge of the geology of the Northwest and geological and ecological features in evidence in the area. with us. He also supported us in approaching the appropriate people so that the site can be formally assessed to identify

whether it meets the criteria necessary for the designation as a Regionally Important Geological Site (RIGS). It is hoped that, in the longer term, some of the other ecological and historic features in evidence in this area can also be investigated.

Orchards Progress Report – as of May 2018

Almost all of the trees at the three orchard sites have been weeded and composted, and undergrowth removed from around the trees. The Fallowfield site needs frequent clearance as the soil there is exceptionally fertile. The Debdale site could do with some more clearing around the trees. There are a total of 57 trees in the three orchards, of which 43 currently have blossom and fruit setting. The orchard trees include apples, pears, cherry, medlar, plum walnut and crab apple.

Development – The Debdale site has a large space (25x8m) in which more trees can be planted. Fofl and Sustrans have agreed to this development in principle. Efforts to get funding, to be complemented by funds of our own, are continuing. In addition we need to hang notices on the trees to discourage early cropping.

Eileen Land (Union Chapel) – obituary and tribute.

In June we were contacted by O&A Admin.Team (Union Chapel), letting us know that Eileen Land, founder member of O&A and long-standing member of the Union Chapel congregation, died peacefully at her home in Didsbury on Tuesday morning, June 5th. Eileen was an early member of the Friends of the Fallowfield Loop. Below is part of the tribute that Cos Harnasz wrote of Eileen.

“I was on the tram coming back to our apartment [.....] when I picked up the message. I spent the rest of the journey quietly thinking of Eileen, remarkable and wonderful woman. My mind went back to first encountering her at the inaugural meeting of the Friends of the Fallowfield Loop. It took place in the remaining part of the original station, a bar at the time, in Fallowfield, when she came up to us at the end and offered us Union Chapel as a venue for further meetings. I am a little subdued, as I try to find the right words to express what she meant to me. I used to go and visit her, drop off the newsletter sometimes and always be invited in. She understood how things worked, and how people ticked and was an attentive listener. I had to be careful what I said - she always saw the good in people and I could have got the wrong impression of myself!”

STOP PRESS

The 2018 AGM and next members meeting

Monday 16th July at 7.30pm.

Union Chapel, Wellington Road Fallowfield