

December Yellow Brick Road (Old Stockport Canal) Clean-up - there was another good turnout (8 volunteers, mainly from the Old Stockport Canal Society) and we decided to concentrate initially on the stretch running along the back of the houses on Longford Street including re-doing the alley way entrance done in November. This area is one of the most littered parts of the route often including dumps of bags of domestic rubbish, old furniture, etc. Helped by the fact that the brambles were at their most benign, we were able to remove most of the litter especially the larger items including a fridge and many bags of rubbish around the aqueduct. For the first time in my experience, this area of the path including the three alley way entrances was essentially clear of rubbish - a great achievement. Some keen souls even had time to litter pick up to the Ogden Lane bridge! A total of 44 bags and a large number of larger items were left for Biffa to collect.

At the end of November, Ian Barker and I met with the two Council employees who are responsible for maintenance of the north and south sections of the Yellow Brick Road. We walked the entire length of the route and noted how successful the recent verge cutting had been. We raised issues around the removal of more of the intrusive saplings that border the route - best done while they are small - and on ownership questions relating to the alley ways and the path beside the railway leading to Gorton station. All in all, it was a useful first meeting.

Thanks for your interest and support during 2018. Volunteers made a real difference in the year collecting to my knowledge over 1200 bags of litter from the Floop and the Yellow Brick Road combined. This is in addition to the many unsung individuals quietly doing their bit to keep the litter and littering down on the routes. Let's make 2019 the year when we really get on top of the litter and littering ?! Although as I am constantly reminded, you can never win....or can we ?