

## **Reports on Previous Events**

### ***February Floop Clean up -***

Despite a very dubious weather forecast, an impressive 11 volunteers showed up and got stuck into clearing the litter from around The Quadrants and then eastwards up to Longford Road. Thank goodness that Victor had previously spotted a large dump of expanded polystyrene packaging near Longford Road and was able to clear this before it got blown around and shredded into a thousand pieces !

After returning to The Quadrants for a refreshment break, we headed in the other direction and this will be remembered as the time Liz made a bid for freedom and had to be called back with a mobile phone call ! (I almost got as far as Slade Lane bridge – got a bit over-enthusiastic!)

Our tally for the day was 36 bags of rubbish which were collected by the Council the next day.

Thanks to Emma Krinjen-Kemp at the Council for facilitating this new arrangement.

### ***February Yellow Brick Road (Old Stockport Canal) Clean up -***

Storm Dennis was due to sweep the country over the weekend but I decided on Friday that we should go ahead with the litter pick anyway. If only a few showed up, that would be fine. However this was to underestimate the amazing commitment of the regulars (mostly Canal Society volunteers). In the event, there were eight of us raring to get stuck in despite the weather. We started at Sexa St (near the canal) and cleared the entrance and the path up to the canal and even part of the adjoining park area which was in a dreadful state. The littering was very bad - we removed 49 bags in total - and so when I got home I checked when we had last cleared it. This turned out to be 9 months ago and illustrates the problem of concentrating on the busy Debdale end of the path at the cost of neglecting the quieter, and in my opinion, nicer canal end.

## **Future Events**

### **The GB Spring Clean campaign**

Wednesday 25th March (10am - 4pm) : volunteers from the Council are organising a litter pick on the Floop starting from St Werburgh's Road tram stop and finishing at Wellington Road. Equipment and refreshments will be provided. All are very welcome to join them for all or part of the day.

Saturday 4th April (10am - 5pm) : We shall be clearing the whole of the Floop east of Wellington Road in an all-day event (though we don't expect you to come for the whole day!).

Wouldn't it be nice to have one day a year when the whole of the Floop is free of litter? This is your chance to help make it happen. If you are interested, why not put it into your diary now ?

10am : Sainsbury's Car park - some will head East and some will head West

1pm - 5pm : The Quadrants, Levenshulme - will head west as far as the diversion

(N.B. This event replaces the usual monthly litter pick on the second Thursday of the month).

## **Monthly Litter Picks**

The outstanding 2020 dates for the Floop/YBR events are as follows - note the special dates for April.

2020

Apr 4th (Floop) / 9th (YBR) - Note : non-standard dates so we can participate in the GB Spring Clean campaign

May 14th/16th

Jun 11th/13th

Jul 9th/11th

Aug 13th/15th  
Sep 10th/12th  
Oct 8th/10th  
Nov 12th/14th  
Dec 10th/12th

### **Other news**

We have had a good start to 2020 with 60 bags collected from the Floop and 85 bags from The Yellow Brick Road in the first two months. This compares with the average of approximately 60 bags per month from both paths over the last 3 years. One of these days I am expecting the haul to drop but it isn't happening yet.

### **Acknowledgements**

We thank Sustrans (the cycling charity), Friends of the Fallowfield Loop, The Manchester and Stockport Canal Society and Manchester City Council (The Neighbourhoods Service) for their continuing support.

Last but not least, thanks to everybody who has given some of their precious time to come and help keep our wonderful city paths clean and pleasant for everybody.

Many thanks to Charles Kinniburgh of Sustrans for this report.