

## Reports on Previous Events

**January Floop Clean up** - the plan was to clear from Debdale back to Shillingford Road to link up with where we got to last time. We knew there was a lot of litter so weren't sure whether we would manage it and the weather forecast wasn't great. In the event, 9 volunteers showed up despite the cold and we managed to clear the Floop as planned, and also the area at the head of Debdale Water and the southern part of the Yellow Brick Road up to Alston Road. In all, we filled 26 bags of litter so a good result all round.

**January Yellow Brick Road (Old Stockport Canal) Clean up** - we started at the Ashton Old Road bridge and cleared the cobbled entranceway there. This is a favourite spot for me as at one time it was a magnet for the worst littering and fly-tipping. I remember the time there were seven or so supermarket trolleys dumped there within a few days of us clearing it! I am pleased to say that that was then and now it is much more manageable. Having cleared this spot, we headed in both directions along the Yellow Brick Road and the eleven of us filled 54 bags of litter plus we removed 2 washing machines and a mattress which had been dumped at various points on the path. As you can imagine, this was thirsty work so afterwards some of us felt we had to retire to The Strawberry Duck for a re-fill !

## Future Events

The monthly litter picks are usually planned for the second Thursday of each month (Floop) and the following Saturday (YBR).

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

### 2020

Feb 13th/15th

Mar 12th/14th

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

The April dates have deviated from the norm to fit in with the Keep Britain Tidy Spring Clean Campaign. We will be doing a 'Big Clean-up' of the Floop on Saturday 4th April i.e. the whole of the Floop in one day. We can then celebrate the fact that on one day at least there will be no litter anywhere on the Floop ! So please put this date in your diary and help make this happen. More details will be made available nearer the time.

## Other news

The Friends of the Fallowfield Loop volunteer group which is very supportive of these litter picking events, was awarded a 2019 Paths for All Volunteer Group award by Sustrans in January. This was in recognition of the work done by the group in conjunction with Sustrans over many years to improve the Fallowfield Loop path for all users. Only two other groups in the country got a similar award, so well done Friends!

'Enhancements to the Fallowfield Loop' is one of four schemes recommended to receive funding (£4.9m) from the Greater Manchester Mayor's Challenge Fund. Plans are being drawn up now on what to spend the money on - improved access and lighting being two possibilities. The aim is to help people make walking and cycling natural choices for as many journeys as possible which is vital if Manchester is to become a zero-carbon city by 2038 as is proposed. I shall be writing to Sustrans with my wish list and I urge you to do the same while there is a chance to influence things.

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