

# FRIENDS OF HOCKLEY VIADUCT

## NEWSLETTER No. 11

I'm sure you'll agree with your committee that, although we've had to wait over 40 years for the restoration of our Viaduct, now that it's almost completed it seems worth the wait! This is an interim Newsletter just to let you know the latest situation in the long-running saga.

The majority of the restoration has now been accomplished and only a few "tweaks" are needed – such as finishing the mastic which can't be done till the warmer weather, and of course the information boards and a couple more seats.

The project team workers are expecting to open the Viaduct to the public in a week or so when the final safety checks have been undertaken and the Viaduct declared safe for use. However it must be said that many people have already been using it for cycling and walking (with both children and dogs), and we have received several expressions of pleasure at the end result of all the hard work.

There is expected to be an official opening, by invitation only, at the end of February when the press will be able to take "official" photos for publication. Information boards and a couple more seats are still to be decided upon and installed, but this may not be until after the official opening. The signal board and lattice post have been put in place, as well as the restoration and re-erection of an original telegraph pole which was hidden in the trees alongside the track. There are large "viewing places" along the city side of the Viaduct where one can now stand and enjoy the views across the water meadows towards St Cross and the Cathedral without the previous need to be a giraffe! All in all the whole Viaduct looks wonderful.

Your committee continues its negotiations with the City Council and Sustrans on the subject of the boards and seats and will let you know when the designs have been chosen and the installations have taken place. We hope that our funds will go quite some way towards the cost of these so that we are able to have good "bargaining powers" as to type and number.

Keep an eye on our website as we continue to update it - we've got an incredible new photo on the front page. Very soon the Friends will no longer need to take your annual subscription but we hope you'll continue to support us for a little while longer so that the information boards and seats can be as excellent as the Viaduct itself.

Contact the Secretary and Treasurer Julia Sandison on 01962 867490 with any queries or for further information, or email her on [julia@ntcom.co.uk](mailto:julia@ntcom.co.uk)

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