

A Few Personal memories of.

ECCLES STATION,

Before the Motorway cut a great swathe through Eccles , literally cutting the town in half , the Station and Eccles Bridge was always a scene of great bustle, The railway horses and carts stood there for loading. The 64 and 66 buses stopped there

Either side of the station entrance were shops, Owens Estate Agents and a wonderful Tobacconists , it had a smell of its own, then there was the Wool shop that sold knitting patterns , wool , baby clothes The other side of the entrance was an electrical repair shop .

Late Saturday afternoon, the pink paper gave all the football results, The lad that sold the papers out side the station would shout ' Final – Final all the latest ' This was mimicked by the parrot across the road in Roberts' Pet Shop.

I attended Clarendon Road School, and so passed the Station most days, what a wonderful Victorian building it was, wrought iron and polished brass , woodwork , steeped in decades of smoke . There was the Parcels Office , Ticket Office with the great flights of steps going down to the Waiting Rooms, (the Ladies Waiting room had a fire burning in the grate) then edged in white , the platforms, here the steam trains came thundering through or stopped, great panting smoking monsters. .Carriage doors slamming , guards whistle shrilling ,green flag waving

Oh!, to be going on a 'Day Trip' was so exciting , then returning 'Home ' in the evening, tired but happy. When it was Wakes Week there would be great queues of people and luggage waiting for the trains for North Wales , Rhyl, Colwyn Bay , Llandudno , or off to Blackpool ,most of the town went on holiday

As I got older I was allowed to take our dog for a walk, I think the dog 'Teddy ' took me. Down a pathway that ran along side the steep bank of the Gilda Brook on the right hand side , and Ennismore House (a home for un married mothers) on the other , then to 'Tan Pit Lane, over Cock Robin Bridge. This was a wonderful vantage point to see the Station and watch the trains coming and going , our Teddy loved to chase the trains, he would run back and forth across the bridge, lost in clouds of smoke and steam . Having seen the train out of sight, Teddy, well pleased with himself, tail awagging ,would then go along the lane that went passed the back of the old White Horse pub before turning for home . Via Gilda Brook Road , Eccles Bridge then down through the Church Yard , College Croft, cross Regent Street and. back home.

An amusing little scene , one 5th November , a group of youngsters had their Guy set up on the prime spot on Eccles Bridge, after dinner another group came along and decided they wanted to stop there too, something of a disagreement ended up with the 'Jonny cum lately' Guy being thrown headlong over the bridge

The 1-40 train to Llandudno was just pulling out of Eccles Station, the driver slammed on the brakes when he saw the 'body ' plummeting off the bridge.

All the kids took to their heels