

# ECCLES STATION

# NEWS

APRIL 2011

The contents of this month's e issue are as follows:

News section, Articles, Editorial FRECCLES 'Trip of the Month'.

## NEWS

*The April day out itinerary is **a country walk around Glossop**. Some of it is on quiet roads, it's of moderate length, but none of it is difficult underfoot, and it reveals some lesser known aspects of this area on the edge of the Dark Peak.*



Our next working day at the station will be on Sunday April 3<sup>rd</sup> starting at 11.00.

Those attending do various activities (at their own pace) including: Litter picking, sweeping, pruning, light weeding, planting, watering, clearance, and construction of the compost compound. *Courtesy of J E Rayner*

**Please do come along and introduce yourself if you fancy doing any of the above – it is pleasant, healthy and rewarding work.**

**Extra help is needed over the summer period with light weeding and watering of the gardens on the Liverpool platform. This need not be on Sundays but as required. If you are interested in helping occasionally on this project please send your name and e mail address to [info@freccles.org.uk](mailto:info@freccles.org.uk) quoting "garden helper".**

**Eccles station receives acclaim** on a list of public facilities, in the April edition of the **Society of Arts & Design Journal**. The writer comments very favourably on the design of the frontage (the booking office and entrance area) saying: "The asymmetric composition is strongly horizontal, and the verticals of the fence and cabin columns provide a piquant contrast."

When interviewed by ESN the S.A.D. chairman said **"It is a classic piece of 1970s functional minimalism. Its unusual quality typifies the era."**



The grand west frontage of Eccles Station, yesterday.

*The new portaloo is probably not in keeping with the austere principles of the original design.*

*Courtesy of J E Rayner*

**Despite original optimistic signs, the Rail Regulator has not given approval for Alliance Rail's proposed London Service from Eccles Station.** The reasons given include capacity issues on the West Coast mainline which is intensively used by Virgin services.

However the Office of Rail Regulation has said that it would welcome some competition on the route, and believes that a reform of the WCML timetable can produce the train paths needed for the proposed services. It wants this

*completed for introduction in 2013 when the decision will be reviewed. **Alliance Rail will continue to work for the service to be introduced.***

**Bridge replacement work at Eccles commenced on March 15<sup>th</sup>.** The three bridges that will be replaced were built when the line was widened to four tracks in the 1880s, so they have served well. It is over 120 years since the railway last did work in Eccles on this sort of scale.

The work is taking place in readiness for the electrification of the Liverpool & Manchester route - the headroom will increase to allow for the catenaries, and the two new road bridges will be constructed on deep piles to cater for the oversized and overweight lorries we allow to penetrate our towns. Apart from Albert Road and Old Wellington Road bridges, Chadwick's bridge (more usually known as 'four bridges') will also be replaced.

Work will last a maximum of twenty weeks. An alternative pedestrian route will be provided across the railway. Road traffic will divert via Gilda Brook Road and a temporary level crossing will give access to Lyntown industrial estate. Monton buses will still run to the bus station but not Eccles library. Emergency services have planned how they will cope with the disruption.

The railway itself will continue to operate normal services except on three weekends to allow demolition and then placing the new spans. A rail replacement bus service will run on these days. For greater details (including the Network Rail letter to residents see [www.freccles.org.uk/news.asp](http://www.freccles.org.uk/news.asp)

***The 2011 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Friends of Eccles Station was held on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March at 19.00 in Eccles Gateway. Chris Hanks of Alliance Rail spoke about the proposed two hourly service to London, and Dwayne Wells of Northern Rail spoke about potential small improvements to the 28 stations between Liverpool, Manchester and Glossop.***

*The incumbent officers were re-elected: Professor David Yates – chairman, Elizabeth Charnley – Secretary, and Eoan Edwards – Treasurer. Captain J.*

*Dawson will once again be the auditor. The annual membership fee remains unchanged at £5. This has been a great help in furthering our work.*

**FRECCLES** teamed up with **Lancashire Eccles Cakes Ltd** on Saturday 19th March to treat everyone who caught a morning train to or from Eccles station (the 9.36am departure onwards) to a free Eccles Cake. Arranged in partnership with the **Association of Community Rail Partnerships** it was to show that rail travel is for local journeys as well as long distance travel. However Ecclesians did not travel back and forth to Patricroft to get numerous Eccles cakes each!

**From Eccles station you can travel to Manchester very quickly** for work in the city or to visit major attractions within a few minutes' walk of Victoria such as MEN arena, Market Street shops, Royal Exchange, the Printworks, Manchester Cathedral and historic Deansgate.

## ARTICLES

### **WALKER ART GALLERY**

It is well worth considering a visit during April - There are **two special exhibitions** on. The Walker is just across the road from Lime Street station so you can be there in about one hour. There is a cafe in the entrance hall and a sumptuous array of sculpture and paintings forms the permanent displays.

At the back right of the entrance hall is the door to the *Craft and Design Gallery* that opened three years ago. It is an Aladdin's cave of beautiful (and sometimes useful) products. Also in this room is the temporary exhibition "**Dare to Wear**" **Glass Dresses** by Diana Dias-Leao (who of course hails from Bridlington!). These are without doubt elegant, eye catching, fashionable constructions, but your reporter must confess to misconstruing the artistic message of the glass and barbed wire Basques.

Upstairs is a large display of **very fine paintings** (mainly portraits), all in tip top condition. These are on temporary loan to the gallery from the **Schorr private collection**. Admission is free and attendance is compulsory for culture vultures! See [www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/walker/](http://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/walker/) for more details.

## **HOLIDAYS BY RAIL**

Last month ESN listed railway holidays at:

[www.canadianaffair.com](http://www.canadianaffair.com)

[www.milestonetours.com](http://www.milestonetours.com)

[www.GreatRail.com](http://www.GreatRail.com)

[www.pageandmoy.co.uk/rail](http://www.pageandmoy.co.uk/rail)

[www.travelsphere.co.uk](http://www.travelsphere.co.uk)

[www.aagetaways.co.uk/times](http://www.aagetaways.co.uk/times)

This month we add to the list Diamond Rail Holidays who of course specialise in the business. Take a look at [www.diamondrailholidays.co.uk](http://www.diamondrailholidays.co.uk) to see what they offer.

Trailfinders provide an interesting site at <http://rail.trailfinders.com/> It opens with a map of the world where you can click on the various continents or countries to find what exotic trains run there. If you select a train then a suggested itinerary is given for a holiday or you can contact Trailfinders to amend it to suit your taste (and budget too?).

## **Changing trains 2**

A fourteen minute journey on one of the Liverpool trains takes you to **Newton le Willows**. This is the first point west of Eccles for connecting trains. After eleven minutes wait on the same platform a Chester/North Wales train arrives. It is run by Arriva Trains Wales and makes a further fourteen destinations available to passengers from Eccles. During the day these are Warrington Bank Quay, Runcorn East, Frodsham, Helsby, **Chester**, Shotton, Fflint, Prestatyn, Rhyl, Abergele, Colwyn Bay, Llandudno Junction, Deganwy\* and **Llandudno**. In the evening the trains terminate at Chester. This route offers you great potential for your leisure time! Suggested itineraries for five of these destinations can be found at [www.freccles.org.uk/trips.asp](http://www.freccles.org.uk/trips.asp)

For your return journeys again change at Newton le Willows and wait on the same platform. During the day it is a long wait (about fifty minutes – which the timetablers should deal with!). However at the time you are most likely to be returning from a day out (post 16.50) the wait reduces to nineteen minutes.

## ***DERBY BEER FESTIVAL.***

During the last four days of February the Derby Winter Beer Festival was held on the site of the old Midland Railway works adjacent to the railway station. ESN attended the event purely to provide a report for readers. Admission was £2 and there were 170+ cask conditioned beers in barrels around the walls. There were also foreign bottled beers and a cider and perry stall (which seemed to sell out very quickly).

There was a stall selling a selection of good cheeses with biscuits, another with locally produced burgers and sausages on buns, and there might have been something vegetarian. All of this contributed to a very good atmosphere indeed.



Inside the roundhouse hoists once used for loco repairs above the turntable.

The buildings of the once famous Derby Loco Works now house the college.

The buildings made the event something special. The Festival was held in **The Derby Roundhouse** which was built in 1839 for the North Midland Railway. A roundhouse is a circular engine shed with a clock face type of plan – a turntable in the centre and roads for storing engines radiating from it. The boarded turntable now acts as a central revolving stage and above it are two twenty ton travelling hoists, once used for loco repairs.

Above the whole is a reconstructed conical roof. The high windows in the walls and the ceiling, plus the use of old wood make for a light and very pleasing space for events. Adjacent is the old Carriage shop (now a library) and a fine

modern insertion at right angles links this to a small longitudinal engine house which is now teaching rooms and offices. The work is sympathetically done and provides fine accommodation for Derby College.

## EDITORIAL.

### FIRST AND SECOND CLASS?

In his March budget statement the Chancellor of the Exchequer displayed his sympathy for the 'poor' motorist by cancelling the scheduled rise in motor fuel duty. He also froze the flight tax. This sympathy did not extend to the environmentally friendly travellers who use our rail and bus services. Rush hour rail travellers are facing annual large fare increases that could drive commuters back on to the roads. Unless there is some political 'smoke and mirrors' going on here it hardly squares with government claims to be greener.

Perhaps Mr Osborne thinks that increases in fares don't hurt as much? Does he believe that public transport passengers are wealthier? Perhaps he feels they are less likely to vote? This could be nearer the mark. Public transport users seem to lack an effective collective voice – they do not **as yet** make such voluble and nakedly self-interested representations to politicians as does the first class of traveller. The problem for the second class of travellers is how to achieve a similar clout!

ECCLES RAILWAY STATION

# **A DAY OUT BY TRAIN!**

## **APRIL**

This month The Friends of Eccles Station recommend:

### **No. 19 OLD GLOSSOP & MOORFIELDS.**

This walk, without being difficult or long, gives a taste of every aspect of the Dark Peak area. There are dramatic views of bleak moorland, hills, streams, farms, and more gentle panoramas.

EASY. MEDIUM LENGTH WALK.  
ARCHITECTURE, COUNTRY VIEWS

**RAIL FARE: £3.50 day return**

#### **GLOSSOP – OLD GLOSSOP AND MOORFIELDS.**

Take the train to Manchester Victoria and from there a tram to Manchester Piccadilly Station. From here catch the train (usually platform two) to Glossop. Alight at Glossop.

At the front of the station The George Inn is facing you and to the left of you is The Star. *This is a Good Beer Guide Pub with an excellent range of real ales.*



Turn left towards the Star and follow the road uphill for about a quarter of a mile or so.

At the rather complex set of road junctions turn right (as per the sign) to Old Glossop.

Follow this road until it becomes a pavement (Church Walks) through the schoolyard.

At the churchyard gates cross the road and turn right for a short distance. *Note the old cross opposite.*

At the Queen' Arms turn left and follow this road, keeping beside the stream, through a factory area. Beyond this, keep on by the side of the stream out into the countryside.

Eventually you come to two stone bridges. *This is a quiet spot with all round views. Picnic? A path goes off to the left for the dramatic walk up Doctor's Gate.*

Cross both of the bridges and follow the road uphill (signed to Glossop).

At the main road turn right and go downhill for a quarter mile or so. *This bit is rather busy – note the usual evidence of reckless driving.*

Turn left along Hurst Road opposite the Royal Oak.

Now follow this quiet country road for over a mile until you are passing an estate wall on the left. *There are pleasant views and cottages all along this road. The new development down to the right shows that it's not possible to build unobtrusively on this landscape.*

Turn right onto Kidd Road. *This is opposite the rather grandiose gates to 'Moorfield'.*

Follow Kidd Road as it meanders down the hill. *There are moorland views, and the impressive Cown Edge over to the left*

As you enter the built up area notice a chapel ahead. Ignore Whitfield Lane and walk by the right hand side of the chapel.

Just beyond the chapel is The Hague School building with its commemorative plaque. On the right is 'The Beehive'. *Its signs claim that it sells Taylor's beers but it appears to be closed during the day.*

Then turn left down Whitfield Cross. Follow this down heading towards a church spire at the main road.

You come to the main road opposite 'The Crown'. *This is a popular Samuel Smith's pub with a good interior. It appears in the Good Beer Guide.*

Turn right and follow the main road down into Glossop. *You pass a number of interesting buildings that have found new purposes and notice the attractive Town Hall on the left. Opposite this, the Glossop Café is an option for refuelling.*

Go over the crossroads past the side of The Norfolk Arms and the railway station is on your left. *Over half of what was once a fair sized country railway station is now the Coop Supermarket.*

**Maps: OS 1:50 000 sheet 110  
Manchester.**

**Phillip's Street Atlas – Greater**

***Why not join Freccles?*** It is only £5 a year and this contribution helps us to improve the gardens and tubs at the station as well as to campaign for a better station and services.

To find out more about **FRECCLES** or to make contact see our **website:** [www.freccles.org](http://www.freccles.org) or e mail us at [info@freccles.org.uk](mailto:info@freccles.org.uk)

