

ECCLES STATION NEWS

AUGUST 2010

Here is our August newsletter. The contents are as follows:

News section,

Exhibition review,

Bargain fares,

Fare tip,

FRECCLES 'Trip of the Month' itinerary.

This month's itinerary is to West Kirby – a very attractive seaside spot. In the past year or so there have been large adverts on the sides of some buses exhorting us to visit the Wirral. The eye catching pictures are of the Hilbre Islands on this itinerary.

Well the hosepipe ban has solved the water shortage very quickly. Do you remember the appointment of Denis Howell as 'Minister for Drought' having a similar effect in the past? Hopefully the weather will be better this month for your day out!

STATION TIDY UP DAYS.

If you fancy some easy exercise and good company come along to one of our **tidy up days**. These are held at the station on the first Sunday of each month starting at 11.00am and finishing when you've had enough!

What do we do? We get rid of any stray litter to make the station look smart for the passengers. On the gardening side we do some gentle weeding, planting, pruning and watering. There is informal talk about ideas for the future, what people are up to, and a fair degree of banter in some cases!

FRECCLES GARDENS SHORT LISTED FOR AWARD

ACoRP (Association of Community Rail Partnerships) has just published the short list for this year's awards and Freccles has been shortlisted as a candidate with five others in the "Best Station Garden or Floral display" section. The winner will be announced at an awards ceremony in Westcliffe - on - sea on 24th September.

180 YEARS OF ECCLES STATION.

On September 15 this year, Eccles station will have been open for 180 years. It will also be five years since the inception of 'Freccles.' We intend to celebrate this by holding a **station open day on Saturday 11th September between 11.00 and 14.00.**

Celebrating 180 years of railways in Eccles

at

Eccles Railway Station Open Day

Saturday 11th September 2010

11am to 2pm

Station Forecourt, top of Church St, Eccles

Hosted by Freccles, Friends of Eccles Station

Discover Freccles: past, present & future

Brass Band

Street Theatre at station and Eccles Parish Church

· plant sale · station history display · raffle · tombola ·

tours of our 2010 national awards shortlisted

Eccles Station Garden

GRUMPY Badge making workshop

children's' games & colouring competition

Refreshments by Smith's Restaurant

Free return train trips Eccles to Patricroft 11am to 2pm (*ticket on event flyer*)

To be opened by the Mayor of Salford at 11am

Salford City Radio hosting & broadcasting live

To find out more about **FRECCLES** or to make contact see our **website:** www.freccles.org or e mail us at info@freccles.org.uk

EXHIBITION REVIEW

'ON THE MOVE' is the latest exhibition at Peel Park Gallery and well worth going to see.

It is a timeline based story of transport in the local area up to the present day. The simple, clear narrative is illustrated with images and artefacts relating to boats, turnpikes, horse coaches, railways, canals cars and aeroplanes – all of which have featured prominently in the story of Eccles. There space is informal with activities for children interspersed around the gallery. The adjacent room has a 'selection from the collection' of paintings and photographs relating to transport –these are on display until 31st October.

'On the move' runs up to 7th November. Admission to Peel Park Museum is free. Opening hours are 10.00 – 16.45 Monday to Friday & 13.00- 17.00 Saturday & Sunday. Tel: 0161 778 0800. www.salford.gov.uk/salfordmuseum

AUGUST FARE BARGAIN:

GREATER MANCHESTER evening RANGER TICKET.

This takes you anywhere on the Greater Manchester Rail Network for the evening. It also covers travel on the tram in Manchester city centre.

Use it for travel after 18.30 in the evening all week. You can return anytime in the evening.

You can buy this ticket on the train or at Manchester Victoria between 18.30 and 21.00.

Please note that a ticket is valid after 21.00 but cannot be bought then. Tickets purchased after that time are charged at normal fares.

The price is only £2.00 for adults and £1 for children. Children under 5 travel free.

You can visit places at or near Stockport, Rochdale, Wigan, Ashton, Stalybridge, Altrincham, and Bolton and Glossop.

For some ideas of where to go see 'Trips Out from Eccles Station' on the Freccles Website, or ask to see the book at Eccles, Winton or Hope library.

Travel as far as Patricroft, Glazebrook, Hale, Manchester Airport, Cheadle Hulme, Bramhall, Middlewood, Rose Hill (Marple), Strines, Glossop, Hadfield, Greenfield, Littleborough, Bromley Cross, Blackrod, Appley Bridge, Orrell or Bryn.

See www.gmpte.com for full details.

FARE TIP!!

If you are going for an evening somewhere outside the Greater Manchester travel area, consider buying the evening ranger ticket and also a return from the boundary to your destination. To be valid your train must actually stop at boundary station. You can check this with the guard before you purchase.

This will usually be cheaper than the normal fare and will include use of tram in city centre!

A DAY OUT BY **TRAIN!**

AUGUST

This month The Friends of Eccles Station recommend:

No. Forty two

WEST KIRKBY – DEE ESTUARY

Pick a nice day for an easy day out to enjoy sunshine, sea breezes, great views, sandy beaches, and a little gentle walking at this quiet seaside town. Bird watchers will presumably wish to go out to the Hilbre Islands.

SHORT, EASY. (But more challenging to Hilbre Island itself).

SANDY BEACHES, MARINA, GREAT VIEWS, SHOPS, BIRDWATCHING, CAFES, PUB.

RAIL FARE: £13.10 day return

Get a copy of the itinerary, and a ticket at Eccles station and off you go.

Pick a nice day for an easy day out to enjoy sunshine, sea breezes, great views, sandy beaches, and a little gentle walking at this quiet seaside town. Bird watchers will presumably wish to go out to the Hilbre Islands.

Catch a train from Eccles to Liverpool Lime Street.

Alight at Liverpool Lime Street and descend lift, escalator or stairs to the Liverpool Underground. Go to the Wirral Line platform and board a West Kirby train.

At West Kirby (terminus) cross the road outside the station and go right then left down Dee Lane at the side of the Barclay's Bank.

Pass Morrison's on your left (Café available). Continue to the sea front. *Ahead of you is a splendid view of the Dee Estuary and North Wales hills behind. Slightly to the right you will see the Hilbre Islands in the estuary, and on the extreme right the old lighthouse.*

To walk round the marina – go along promenade to your left and then turn right to follow the lower sea wall round and back to your starting point.

To visit any of the Hilbre Islands - first check the tide tables and warnings on the notice board (you need at least 2hrs clear for the smallest island and 4hrs clear for the larger two).

If conditions are right then walk onto the beach and almost directly ahead to the smallest island known as "little eye". *The two larger islands are to the right of this (do not be tempted to walk direct to these).*

To visit the larger Middle Eye - walk directly to it from Little Eye.

To visit Hilbre Island (the largest) - go directly to it from Middle Eye.

On Hilbre Island follow the road from the tip. It becomes a path. Ahead down below the cliff there are very slippery rocks – the best route I found to avoid most of these is along the right hand edge of the large pool to the left of the rocks. On this furthest part of the island the warden lives and there are the remains of an old lifeboat and coastguard station.

To return to West Kirkby you must retrace your steps via each island – do not attempt to go in a straight line there.

At West Kirby go back up Dee Lane and right onto the main road. *There is a very attractive Wetherspoon's – the Dee Hotel 150yards further ahead.*

Cross the road to the station and catch an underground train to Liverpool Lime Street.

Ascend to the mainline station to catch the return train to Eccles.

CLASSIFICATION: **To the marina:** SHORT, A DODDLE.

To Little Eye: SHORT, EASY.

To Middle Eye: MEDIUM LENGTH, EASY. **To Hilbre Island:**
MODERATELY LONG AND A MEDIUM CHALLENGE (*ONE SHORT
STEEP UP AND ONE STEEP DOWN AND ROCKS THAT WILL BE
SLIPPERY WHEN WET*)

SANDY BEACHES, MARINA, GREAT VIEWS, SHOPS,
BIRDPWATCHING, CAFES, PUB.

Maps: OS 1:50 000 sheet 108 Philip's Street Map: Liverpool & Merseyside.