

ECCLES STATION NEWS

AUGUST 2011

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

News section, Articles, Trip of the Month, Fare tip,
Bargain fare, Editorial.

NEWS

The **FRECCLES 'Trip of the Month'** is to York Railway Museum. Admission to this huge museum is free and it is right next to the station. Almost anyone can enjoy this place and the train ride to it making use of the connections mentioned in our CHANGING TRAINS article.

***It is the Southport Flower Show on the 18th to the 21st of this month.** It's a great show even if you don't do gardening. So read our article about what's on, and find out about the bargain for travellers on Northern trains.*

This month's **bargain fare article** is about a good value rover ticket for days out into North Wales, the Wirral and the Peak District. It could give you the main four days out during a one week break.

*The next **gardening day** at the station is at 11.00 Sunday Aug 7th. As well as maintaining the gardens the heavy brigade will be moving a large amount of rubble up the embankment ready for transfer to a skip. Many passengers comment on the improvements achieved. **It is nice that this is appreciated.***

Northern Rail has listened to our suggestions about litter. There are now two litter bags on each platform - one near the steps and the other near the further bench. They are all well used and seem to have improved the tidiness of the platforms.

*The railway bridges in Eccles have now been replaced. Throughout July work continued on the substantial new road decks. At the Chadwick footbridge work continued on the approach slopes. Pavement and road surfaces are being put in and the bridges should be open for use in early August. The Albert Road Bridge will have an **official reopening ceremony at 09.00 on Monday 1st August!** If space allows we shall run a pictorial about the work in next month's ESN.*



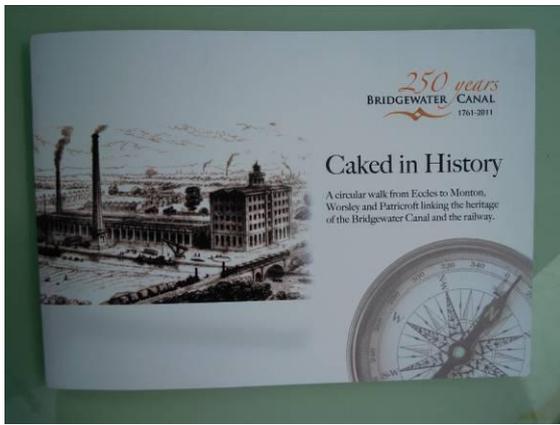
At **Tate Liverpool** the entire fourth floor is given over to an exhibition called '**The Pleasure Principle**' covering the work of **Rene Magritte (1898 – 1967)**. Magritte is renowned for his unusual and disturbing surreal imagery which has influenced many artists in diverse media. He is also a famous Belgian!

This is a good exhibition with a large number of his paintings. It runs daily until 16th October. Admission is £11 (concession £9).

Ceci n'est pas une Magritte.

*Freccles volunteers did the **annual passenger count at Eccles station on Tuesday 12th July.** Five hundred and thirteen passengers arrived or departed from the station on that day and this represents **a massive 17% increase on last year's figures.** Interestingly almost all the increase was in commuter numbers at morning and evening peaks to and from Manchester. This news is welcome but indicates that Eccles Station remains significantly underused as a leisure facility. **Many thanks from us to all the volunteers who helped with this census.***

In July the Bridgewater Canal was two hundred and fifty years old. As part of the celebration of this anniversary, **Freccles and FrOPS** members devised a circular walk, and produced a truly excellent illustrated route guide for it. As might be expected it rained on the inaugural day but a group of hardy people set off anyway. The walk, titled '**Caked in History**' will be repeated on the Saturday and Sunday of Heritage Weekend of 10th & 11th September and we shall carry more details in the September edition.



Participants of the organised group walks in September will receive a free copy of this splendid illustrated guide.

Photo courtesy J E Rayner

If you can't wait for the next guided walk to receive your printed copy, it's now available to download via the Visit Salford website: click on this link:

http://www.visitsalford.info/documents/Caked_in_History_2011.pdf

The south Manchester line of Metrolink opened to passenger traffic on Thursday 7th July. The trams run at a 12 minute frequency from Victoria calling at Shudehill, Market Street, St Peter's Square, Deansgate, Cornbrook, Trafford Bar, Firswood, Chorlton, and St Werburgh's Road. En route there is an open view of the large new tram depot at Old Trafford. We know it is not a railway but it is good to see public transport options improving.

Changing trains 6

So far these articles have covered connections when travelling west from Eccles. Now we shall begin to examine **the large number of possibilities when travelling east from Eccles.**

The daytime service (Sundays excepted) to Stalybridge provides connections to a further nine destinations - all of them east of Manchester. Hourly departures between the 09.36 through to 17.36 all go to Stalybridge.

At Stalybridge go over to platform one (where the famous bar is) and wait a few minutes for a First Trans Pennine express going to Huddersfield, Leeds, York, Malton and Scarborough. There are suggestions for days at Huddersfield, Leeds and York on the Freccles website: <http://www.freccles.org.uk/trips.asp> Malton is an old country town and Scarborough is a famous enough seaside town. There are trains from that station to Filey and Bridlington. Outside the station there are frequent buses to Whitby.

Half an hour after arrival at Stalybridge from Eccles there is a stopping train to Huddersfield calling at Mossley, Greenfield, Marsden and Slaithwaite all of which are pleasant small Pennine towns.

The return connection for Eccles leaves Stalybridge hourly from 08.22 until 16.22. This involves a longer wait of 36 minutes after arrival by FTP express, or 30 minutes after arrival by Huddersfield stopper. However this provides time to nip over to the welcoming station bar for half a pint, and the half hour too easily turns into an hour and a half for a connection! After 16.22, simply stay on the return trains to Victoria for Eccles connections.

More train connections from next month!

SOUTHPORT FLOWER SHOW.

This great independent flower show returns in 2011 from 18-21 August. As well as more flowers than ever there will be over 200 trade stands, an extended food village, celebrity guests including gardeners and chefs, and even a luxury cinema in a 1960s bus. This year's show theme is 'VINTAGE', taking influence from design classics of the 50s, 60s and 70s.

In the main arena there will be jousting medieval knights, free flying birds of prey, dog displays featuring dogs of all shapes and sizes, including rescue dogs, and the fun of what happens when sheep dogs meet Indian Runner ducks.

Travellers by Northern trains can save £5 on the admission charge when travelling from Manchester area stations including Eccles. The add-on price is £18.35 adult (or £2.35 for accompanied children) paid when you buy the cheap day return ticket to Southport. This fare includes the link bus from the station to the show ground. You can go from Eccles via Victoria (or via Oxford Road on the Sunday). However it can be quicker to go by bus to Salford Crescent station where there are more trains in the direction of Southport.

For full details of the show see: www.southportflowershow.co.uk

SNAP WEEK

SNAP stands for Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan carried out by Salford City Council in partnership with [Greater Manchester Police](#), [Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service](#), local housing providers and the [Probation Service's community payback team](#). They are part of making Eccles (and the rest of Salford) a better place to live and work (and to visit by train we would hope!)

Each lasts one week and brings intensive focus on the area concerned. It is a way of bringing people together to deal with local problems - aiming to clean up areas and target criminal activity, depending on the specific needs of your neighbourhood. Included are things like:

- collecting large items of rubbish
- cutting back overgrown trees
- education programmes in schools about drugs, alcohol and crime
- fire and community safety initiatives

- tackling anti-social behaviour
- crime reduction
- removing graffiti

They have already brought many small but very effective lasting improvements in various parts of Eccles and now **the next SNAP will be in Eccles Ward in week commencing 8th August 2011**. Houses should receive a leaflet detailing all the activities to take place. For example of a SNAP see: <http://www.salford.gov.uk/patricroftsnapblog.htm>

TRIP OF THE MONTH

This month we recommend **trip No 62** which is

YORK – NATIONAL RAILWAY MUSEUM

A wonderful railway treat is this one, involving a good train ride out and a visit to the largest railway museum in Europe. Its collections of engines, rolling stock and documents illustrate the rise of railways and how this helped to shape the life of the British Isles.

The journey takes about two hours and the adult day return fare is £25.70. Children travel half price and there is a third off for holders of various railcards.

So just buy your ticket at Eccles station and off you go whenever you fancy!

For the itinerary see:

<http://www.freccles.org.uk/pdf/Railway%20trips%2062.pdf>

FARE TIP

If you have a Greater Manchester senior citizen's pass or hold a valid GM 'Bus Card Extra' or 'County Card', you are covered to Stalybridge. Ask at Eccles for a Stalybridge to York return and this will cost £21.90 only, and do similar for any of the destinations in our Changing Trains article. N.B. on returning you must use a train that calls at Stalybridge for this ticket to be valid!

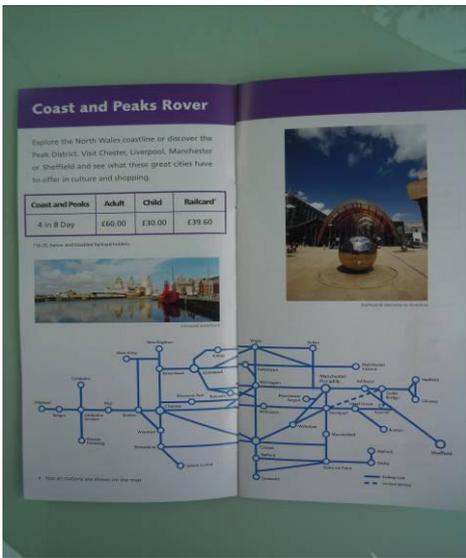
AUGUST FARE BARGAIN:

COAST AND PEAK ROVER.

This ticket covers a great big holiday area allowing four days out for only £15 a day (less for concessions). Travel is allowed after 08.45 on four days in an eight day period (you write in the dates yourself each day that you decide to use it).

The tickets can be purchased at Eccles station booking office and cost:

Coast and Peak Rover	Adult	Child	Railcard
4 days in 8	£60	£30	£39.60



There are so many possible destinations in North Wales and the Peak district that you need to zoom in on the accompanying photo to see the possibilities for yourself.

EDITORIAL

BANK HOLIDAY TRAINS

Casual observations made by ESN indicate a great drop in station usage on Bank Holiday weekends. Now we know that many workers will take a holiday but this drop seems to apply to all the trains. Additionally ESN is often asked if there is to be a train service!

The buses in Greater Manchester now run a Sunday service on Bank Holidays, after several years when no services were run! We speculate that from the above facts there has arisen

a general presumption that public transport almost ceases on Bank Holidays and going out is not worth the effort.

It would be a great pity if this were to be repeated on the August Bank Holiday weekend (Sat 27th, Sun 28th and Bank Holiday Monday 29th) because Northern Rail runs a normal service on most Bank Holidays, and Eccles station is a gateway for some great holiday days out.

This August Bank Holiday there will be a full service including all the normal rush hour trains.

Would readers of this editorial please tell everyone that the trains are providing a normal service?

Can Freccles do something to counter the misconception about Bank Holiday trains, and the resulting drop in passenger numbers?

TAPPED!

Once again ESN finds itself commenting on the low standards found in parts of journalism. Unfortunately in this case the shortcomings are not just matters of journalistic quality but stray into the murky realms of immoral, unnecessary and even criminal acts. Much of the resulting brouhaha between press and politicians has the verbal bitterness of a family argument! As a result the News of the World has ceased to publish, with many newspaper employees losing their jobs.

Let ESN assure its readers that its entire team adheres to impeccable standards of journalistic behaviour. We have never employed private detectives or 'hacked' phones to gather our information.

However we must admit that everyone we speak to is hoping to find that they were victims of the phone tapping. Just how fragile does one's ego need to be to justify the amounts of compensation that are being discussed? These are truly scandalous!

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 or e mail us at info@freccles.org.uk

