

ECCLES STATION

NEWS

AUGUST 2014

Welcome to Eccles Station News. There is a new itinerary for Trip of the Month - just the job for scorching hot August days!

NEWS

In the third week of July work commenced on **replacing the bridge over the railway on Rochdale Road** in Manchester. This work is required to accommodate overhead electrical lines underneath it as part of the **electrification of the railway between Manchester and Stalybridge**, and is a part of Network Rail's £1bn+ investment in the north west. There will be a half road closure in place until 20 August 2014 and then a full road closure from 20 August 2014 to 15 January 2015. Ian Joslin, area director for **Network Rail**, said: "I apologise for the disruption this essential rebuild will cause and can assure local people that we have done all we can to plan the work for the shortest and safest amount of time.

*Passengers are being reminded that **train services between Chorley and Leyland will be disrupted from Saturday (19 July) until the end of August** as part of the same £1bn+ investment to provide a faster, more reliable and efficient railway. The **track through the 113metre Chorley tunnel will be lowered** to accommodate overhead line equipment which will power **electric trains between Manchester and Preston** from December 2016. The famous flying arches that keep apart the high cutting walls in the area have already been replaced.*

*To make the most of the closure **three bridges will also be rebuilt** at Harpers Lane (Chorley), Railway Road (Adlington) and Lockstock Lane (Bolton) as well*

as the River Chor aqueduct. Two bridges at Station Road (Blackrod) and Chorley Road (Adlington) will be modified in preparation for reconstruction in 2015. For information about the amended train service during the work visit www.nationalrail.co.uk/chorley

Eccles passengers can say goodbye to the replacement buses at the other end of the line (at least for a while!). The line between Liverpool and St Helens reopened on time on 14 July following a nine-day closure to install a new third track in the Huyton and Roby area. This will increase capacity and allow faster journeys between Liverpool and Manchester as part of the £1bn+ Northern Hub and North West Electrification Programme. Other improvements included new signaling, and better customer information systems, new lifts and easier access via subways at **Huyton and Roby stations**.



Installation of the elliptical girders to support the new curved roof is progressing well at Manchester Victoria Station.

Photo courtesy of J E Rayner.

Meanwhile at **Eccles station** there has been improvement on a more modest scale with **patch pointing** of the retaining wall on the Liverpool platform. This makes a change following at least 50 years of neglect. The work has included the brick pilaster that was detaching itself from the wall.



*An estimated 2.5 million spectators took to the glorious countryside and cityscapes of Yorkshire to cheer on the cyclists in this year's **Tour de France**, and Northern Rail is saying a great big thank you to all their customers, staff and industry colleagues for the support, patience and sheer hard work over the two days. The event involved the railway in:*

- 50% planned increase in capacity*
- 215 planned additional services with even more delivered on the days*
- Over 243,000 passengers through Leeds station on Saturday*
- Over 150 volunteers at stations providing advice and water at stations*

- *30,000 bottles of water given out to keep spectators hydrated*
- *11,000 sets of yellow bang-bang sticks to keep kids and adults alike entertained*
- *100 foam fingers to help guide the way*

HS2 has announced that its head office, which will employ about 1500 people, will be situated in **Birmingham**. London employees will be relocated but most of these posts will be new jobs connected with execution of the project.

***Christian Wolmar** the prolific railway writer and journalist **is seeking the Labour Party nomination** for Mayor of London elections. The ESN editor thinks that a railway expert in politics would be as welcome as it is rare, but this is tinged with a worry that party politics may now affect the analysis in his articles.*

On 22nd of July **the third line and bidirectional signalling at Huyton was proving its worth**. On the way to Liverpool from Eccles, the train was held for a few minutes in the Liverpool platform at Huyton, while a Trans Pennine express overtook through the 'Manchester' platform (now bidirectional), and a fast Northern Train to Manchester went through the third (new) platform. **On the return journey** the Eccles train called in on the third platform allowing a Trans Pennine to pass. **Planning permission is needed for the fourth line** to be laid through the fourth (new) platform as some land will need to be reclaimed from the bus station area.

LEISURE ON LINE.

Mondrian and his Studios is a special exhibition at Tate Liverpool open from 6th June – 5th October 2014. Admission charges are: Adult £11 (without donation £10), Concession £8.25 (without donation £7.50). An audio guide is available: £3.

Tickets for *Mondrian and his Studios* also include admission into *Nasreen Mohamedi*.

Review: What can one say? Mondrian was clearly obsessed with tiling rectangles and some of the compositions are quite bold and colourful. The great eye opener is how well these ideas transfer to furnishing – see the two recreations of Mondrian's own studios in the gallery. In contrast Nasreen Mohamedi's work is colourless, showing an obsession with ink lines on graph paper – altogether too cerebral and unemotional for ESN's taste. It was interesting to note Mondrian influence outside the gallery:



See: <http://www.tate.org.uk/whats-on/tate-liverpool/exhibition/mondrian-and-his-studios>



This is not by Nasreen Mohamedi (it is by the famous eastern European artist Semaj Renyar) but would fit in well in that exhibition.

ESN's money is on some inspiring art being in The Walker Art Gallery between 5 July and 30 November 2014 with the 'JOHN MOORES PAINTING PRIZE' exhibition. See:

<http://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/walker/johnmoores/jm2014/index.aspx>

Previous leisure items:

The Lady Lever Art Gallery: 'Rossetti's Obsession: Images of Jane Morris'.

<http://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/ladylever/exhibitions/rossetti/index.aspx>

Museum of Science and Industry (MOSI) on Liverpool Road, Manchester.

1 **'OPEN FOR BUSINESS'** is on between 23 May and 3rd August Entrance is free. <http://www.mosi.org.uk/whats-on/open-for-business.aspx>

2 **'WELLCOME IMAGES AWARDS 2014'** is on until 7th September. Entry is free. <http://www.mosi.org.uk/whats-on/wellcome-image-awards.aspx>

OUT AND ABOUT...

Travel to and from York is now faster with a train connection at Manchester Victoria every hour. This should make it feasible to visit places outside York centre without being in a rush. ESN decided to give it a go and was pleased with the result.

A short walk left outside York station is bus stop EM, for Stephenson's buses 29 to Easingwold and 31 to Helmsley. The 29 can be caught at 09.45 or 11.45 and stops in the village of Newton on Ouse only twenty minutes later. This village with its grand church and old pub is by the Ouse - though you have to search for it!



A pleasant and undemanding walk takes you through a gatehouse and along the drive (note the Giant Sequoias, *well eventually!*) to Benningbrough Hall.





This early 18th Century hall has splendid panelled rooms housing many paintings on loan from the National Portrait Gallery. The current special exhibition is of Royal portraits including the Andy Warhol 'stamp' like ones.



On top of this treat there are the wonderful gardens and an excellent cafe. Just beyond there is the estate farm (with its own cafe too) and woodland walks.



The return bus departs for York at 17.05 from Newton on Ouse (although on Saturdays there is a 15.15 departure as well). Plenty time then for a draught of real ale at the Maltings (next to Lendal Bridge) and a choice of trains back.

All photos in the above article are courtesy of J E Rayner.

For details of trains see <http://www.tpexpress.co.uk/travel-information/train-timetables/>,

of buses see <http://www.stephensonsofeasingwold.co.uk/images/uploads/2014-04-21-orange.pdf> and National Trust for Benningbrough Hall see <http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/beningbrough-hall/visitor-information/>

...By TRAIN from ECCLES STATION.

EDITORIAL

WHO SPEAKS FOR ECCLES?

ESN notes with some disgust that Eccles station still has only an hourly train service and we have lost the popular through service to Ashton and Stalybridge – this latter change contributing to a significant fall in leisure travel from Eccles Station. Research being undertaken for future articles in this journal shows that other stations on very busy lines (e.g. Irlam) are given two trains an hour, and that Wigan and Bolton area seem to have been given the Ashton and Stalybridge through service taken off Eccles. **It seems necessary, therefore, to ask if these other areas are getting effective representation at Transport for Greater Manchester that Eccles is not?**

TRIP OF THE MONTH

Here is a new itinerary for you to try. You can choose whether to make it a long, medium or short seaside stroll to suit.

HOYLAKE – A SEASIDE STROLL TO WEST KIRBY

The wide flat vistas of this coastal stroll take on an almost surreal quality as you look to other distant coasts – anything vertical (be it light house or lamp post) seems to take on a special significance. Ideal for a quiet sea, sun and sands day.

Book a return to West Kirby. Catch a train from Eccles to Liverpool Lime Street. Alight there and descend lift, escalator or stairs to the Liverpool Underground.

Go right on to the Wirral Line and board a train to West Kirby.

Alight at **Moreton** for the long stroll, **Meols** for the medium stroll and **Hoylake** for the short one.

HOYLAKE: (short) Leave the station and go left to the roundabout and cross to go along The King's Gap. Turn left at the coast and follow the itinerary from ***

MEOLS: (medium) Leave the station along Station Approach and then go right along Dovepoint Road. At the coast you will see a slipway and moored boats to your right. Turn left along the coast joining the itinerary at **

MORETON: (long) Turn right outside the station along Pasture Road. *Notice the architecture of the Typhoo Tea Factory and how the stream and little balconies above echo the waves of the roof pattern. Burton's biscuits are also on this site.*

Either take the footpath left by The Birket stream to eventually get to the coast or continue along the road till you come to the sea wall. To your right is the mouth of the Mersey and you can see the Formby sand hills. Turn left along the sea wall. *This area is Leasowe Common a part of the North Wirral Coastal*

Park. Note the gentle slope of the sea wall and the occasional wavy baffles added to it. There is a disused lighthouse that is in fields behind the sea wall.

Eventually you come to a busy slipway at Dovepoint. *Lots of small vessels are anchored around and there is much mud on the sands.*

Continue along the sea front. ** You pass a linear recreation area (*tennis, bowls and garden*) shielded from winds and view by a brick and wood panel wall.

Next is the new Hoylake Lifeboat Station and high tech rescue vessel. *There is also a paddling pool-this is the site of the old baths! Note also the Victorian drinking fountain and the former school building across the road. At the corner of this bit of projecting land is a fun 'pirate galleon' constructed from driftwood and other debris deposited on the sands.*

*** Look out to sea and there are two wind farms *and you will see shipping heading into and out of Liverpool.* From this point onwards it is safe to walk along the sands as there is very little mud. (*Please ignore this instruction at high tide.*)

If the tide is well out you next come to Red Rocks on the corner of the Dee Estuary. *To your left is a former coast guard station with light house, cottages and surrounding sandstone wall.*

Now look at that view ahead! *Ahead of you is Hilbre Island whose vertiginous cliffs rise up to 50 feet out of the sands: it is a nature reserve with various buildings including a former life boat station. Across the Dee estuary are the XXXXXXXX hills of Wales. To the left of Hilbre Island is Little Hilbre Island (uninhabited) and then a little tuft of land called Little Eye.*

N.B. Despite appearances it is **NOT SAFE** to walk from here to the Hilbre Islands. The safe path is from the slipway at West Kirby via Little Eye.

Bear left past the coast guard station *and to your right you might just be able to pick out the Great Orme; beyond that Bardsey Island, and the hills of Anglesey beyond that. The buildings of West Kirby are ahead of you.* Either follow the dunes path from the slipway or walk direct across the sands. You

come to a slipway and a sizeable marine lake. Go left up Dee Lane (past Morrison's) into West Kirkby. *There are lots of tea shops to choose from, a Wetherspoon's (The Dee Hotel) right along GXXXXX Road and another pub left.* Across the main road is West Kirby railway station for you to catch a train back to Lime Street.

CLASSIFICATION: EASY

SEA, SAND, VIEWS, ISLANDS, HILLS, PUB, CAFES,
SHOPS.

RAIL FARE: category four (£15.70 adult day return)

Maps: OS 1:50 000 sheet 108 Liverpool A-Z

Philip's Street Atlas Merseyside.

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

