

ECCLES STATION

NEWS

JANUARY 2011

I hope you all had a good New Year celebration and stand ready for whatever 2011 might bring! Here is the first station news of the year – so that is good news already. *Editor.*

NEWS

NEW OLD TIMETABLE - The timetable alterations on December 12th 2010 made no changes to the Liverpool – Eccles – Manchester – Stalybridge route. This was in line with our recent expectations and has advantages. It is not a bad service at all and if times are not fiddled with the regular passengers get used to the pattern of services.

The old town centre in Stockport is a delight to visit, especially on the three market days – Tuesday, Friday and Saturday. If you have not been then you are missing out! See our Day Out by Train itinerary at the end of the newsletter.



A view on the market square in the old town at Stockport. The fresh produce hall is on the right of this fine row of buildings.

Courtesy J E Rayner.

Our next **station tidy up day** will be on January 9th at 11.00. If you have some spare time then do come along to help out.

A £25,000,000 refurbishment of Victoria Station is to take place during 2011. Originally intended to be twice this sum, at least some has survived the cuts to allow this overdue improvement to take place. Here are the editor's suggestions for this project:

The gents' toilets are dilapidated and need replacing.

The designers need to consider partial segregation of the passengers going onto and leaving the platforms – these contra flows currently interfere with each other and can lead to people missing trains.

Some signals half way along the through platforms would allow them to be used as genuine “a” and “b” platforms increasing the train capacity and reducing waiting at signals outside the station.

We shall try to keep you updated on this project.

Rail fare increases took place on 2nd January. The increases average some 6% (based in a formula of RPI inflation plus 1% per annum). However this is now an average figure rather than applying to all fares so there will be variation around this –some fares might not increase but others could go up even more to make up for these. I checked out some local off peak return fares from Eccles on the web:

Destination	Old fare	New fare
Stockport	£3.00	£3.30
Chester	£13.20	£14.50
Glossop	£3.30	£3.60
Ashton Under Lyne	£3.00	£3.30

Manchester	£1.90	£2.00
Huddersfield	£14.50	£10.90

(Notice the last one! I expect this service will get busier!)

TIMETABLE PATTERN FOR ECCLES STATION (i)

This review deals with departures in the Manchester direction only. The details apply until 21st May when the Summer timetable comes in.

*Monday – Saturday: The basic scheduling is that trains depart hourly to Manchester **Victoria** from 06.36 until 19.36 in the evening. After that they are hourly from 20.02 to 23.02 and the last one is at 00.08(handly for those wanting to go clubbing!). The journey takes about 10 minutes. The last train comes back from Manchester at 23.09.*

*All the **trains from 09.36 to 17.36 continue to Ashton under Lyne and Stalybridge** with a journey time of about 35mins. This is very good for shopping at Ashton market or visiting the bar at Stalybridge Station. Each of these trains connects at Stalybridge with an express train (13 minutes wait) calling at Huddersfield, Leeds, York, Malton and Scarborough.*

There are extra trains at rush hour. In the morning there is the 08.06 for Manchester and all stations to Huddersfield. In the afternoon the additional trains are at 17.06, 18.01 and 18.25. The 16.36 and 17.36 trains continue from Stalybridge calling at all stations to Huddersfield.

*On Sundays the trains run hourly from 08.49 until 23.49 in the evening and go to Manchester **Oxford Road** instead of Victoria. From the 20th Feb they extend to Piccadilly and then on and from the 3rd April they all call at Oxford Road, Piccadilly and Manchester Airport. The last train back from Manchester is 22.53 at Oxford Road.*

A DAY OUT BY TRAIN!

No. 16 STOCKPORT – A TOUR OF THE OLD TOWN.

Stockport Old Town is full of interesting old buildings. It's full of life on market days (Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays). Visit once and you're bound to come again.

MODERATE – ONE STEEP STREET, MEDIUM LENGTH.

SHOPS, MARKETS, ARCHITECTURE, LOCAL HISTORY, PUBS, CAFES.

RAIL FARE: £3.30 day return

Sixteen STOCKPORT – A TOUR OF THE OLD TOWN.

Take the train to Manchester Victoria and from there a tram to Manchester Piccadilly Station. From here there are many trains that stop at Stockport.

Option: - turn right as you get off the tram and on Fairfield Street use the lift on the left to the link bridge lounge.

Alight at Stockport. At the bottom of the platform steps turn right. Go left down the station approach road.

Cross Wellington Road, go left and then right at the library.

Walk along St Petersgate. On your right is the Prudential Building. On the left is The Parish Church of St Peter. *Dating from 1768 the church is open 11.00 – 14.00 on Tuesdays and Fridays, and between 11.00 and 13.00 on Saturdays.*

Continue along St Petersgate. On the right is St Peter's Chambers. Then there is the Calvert's Court. Just beyond turn right onto High Street.

The building on this corner was the deaf and dumb institute – it says so.

Ahead you will see Frederick Robinson's brewery building.

U turn to your left down onto Lower Hillgate. You now pass the brewery and brewery tap (The Spread Eagle) on your right.

Lower Hillgate becomes Little Underbank a narrow street with many shops. On your right you will see the impressive Winter's clock façade. *Winter's is now a Holt's pub but it was once a clockmaker and jewellers.*

Go under the bridge. *Notice the fearsome steps that lead up to market level at both sides.*

On your left immediately after the bridge is The Queen's Vaults. *It's a tiny gem – do go in! This former wine cellar still has all the (defunct) tasting taps at the bar but now sells excellent Sam Smith's beers.*

Continue down to the circle. Just off to the left you will see The Three Shires. *This is a black and white building from 1580. It became a real ale pub and restaurant but is currently closed.*

At the circle go right onto Great Underbank. On the left you will see Underbank Hall. *It's a fine black and white building now serving as the National Westminster Bank. Go in (during banking hours only!) to see the amazing interior.*

Carry on to the end of Great Underbank and turn right up the steep Bridge Street and onto the market area. Immediately on your right is the Produce Hall. *Do go in for a look and a shop. There is a café at balcony level as well.*

Opposite the Produce Hall is the old iron and glass market hall. *This is a great asset and survival. Yes in the 1970s they did want to demolish it.*

Go to the left-hand side of the market hall and on your left is a row of old shops. *Some of these buildings still contain ancient timber crook frames inside the brickwork.*

One of the shops is called Staircase House. This is now the local history museum. *Free admission and open Tuesday to Sunday. Tel 0161 480 1460.*

Further up on the left is the large church of 'St Mary's in the Market' with its graveyard and across the road is the Pack Horse.

U turn to the right down the other side of the market hall.

At the end of the market hall go left onto St Petersgate. This takes you over the bridge you saw earlier.

Now follow St Petersgate to get back to the railway station.

Maps: OS 1:50 000 sheet 109 Manchester A-Z Philip's Street Atlas – Greater Manchester.

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

