

ECCLES STATION

NEWS

MARCH 2013

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

News section, Articles. Trip of the month.

NEWS

Freccles **tidy up day** will be Sunday March 3rd from 11.00 for a couple of hours. Do come along to help.



A cheering sight in the station garden this month is provided by colourful hellebores (?) on the left, and many snowdrops in the wave along the garden.

Photo: J E Rayner

*Northern Rail announced that the disruption caused by **a track defect** at a junction between Manchester Victoria and Salford Crescent has now ended. Since Monday 18 February, **services from Manchester to Salford Central and Salford Crescent towards Bolton/Wigan have been running normally.** Trains to Wigan Wallgate, Southport, Kirkby, Blackpool North and Clitheroe that were diverted between Manchester Victoria and Salford Crescent will now run as shown in timetable booklets and on station posters.*

A little reminder to our readers that the **Arriva Trains Wales offer of £19 return** for over 55s is still available, providing a great opportunity to look around more distant parts of Wales.

Warrington Bank Quay station, managed by Virgin Trains, **is to get a facelift** in a project costing some £600,000. Virgin Trains will work with Network Rail to improve facilities for customers, as part of the National Stations Improvement Programme (NSIP). The work will provide:

- A cleaner, brighter and more welcoming main subway and staircases up to every platform, featuring new lighting and CCTV
- New disabled toilet and refurbished toilets for platforms 3/4.

The work starts on Monday 18 February 2013 and is expected to last around five months. **Warrington Bank Quay station will remain open as normal** while the works are carried out.

A new multi-storey car park is to be constructed at **Stockport station** on the Grand Central precinct. It is to help with the integration of the station area into the town. The 1,000 space facility is due to be complete in Spring 2014. To allow construction to proceed there have to be alterations to the existing car parking arrangements. See www.stockport.gov.uk/grandcentral for full details of the construction programme and resultant temporary changes in car parking.

*Work is now taking place between Huyton and Roby **to clear the track beds of the long overgrown third and fourth lines**. Liverpool Lime Street to Huyton will be returned to a four track section as part of the 'Northern Hub' plan. Adjacent to Huyton station the four tracks will need a new bridge or extended underpass to link the parts of the town for pedestrians.*

Metrolink launched its **new tram service to Droylsden** on the weekend of 9th and 10th February 2013. Trams run to and from Bury via Victoria and Piccadilly. Trams are also running from St Werburgh's Road (Chorlton) **to Oldham and Shaw via Victoria**. Trams are now doing dry runs without passengers between Shaw and Rochdale station. It is expected the passenger service beyond Shaw will commence in the next couple of weeks.



A tram arrives at the bay platform at Shaw already indicating where it will run to when it reverses.

Photo J E Rayner

A reader has written in to the editor of ESN!

'Dear Editor,

I did walk 36 yesterday before going to the beer festival. It is a really long walk—at least 100 yards from Chetham's entrance gate to the Baronial Hall! **The concert was really good and good value for money.**

*There was a **Mozart oboe concerto and Bruch violin concerto** (both with piano accompaniment). The oboe concerto would have been good enough on its own (anything by Mozart is) but the highlight was the finale of the Bruch, the young violinist **Eliza Saul played perfectly and brought the house down** (Well as much as about an audience of about 15 people can). The accompanying pianists were Martyn Parkes and Hilary Suckling: both are well known concert pianists.*

I will definitely go again as the length of concert (45 minutes) is about right for my attention span (no way can I sit in a concert hall for hours on end).

Yours sincerely,

J.S. An avid reader of ESN'

Well that's a pleasing commendation so this month's chosen day out is to a Chetham's Lunchtime Concert!

A joint group of Friends of Eccles Station (**Frecbles**) and Friends of Patricroft Station (**FrOPS**) called **The Joint Heritage Group** is working to produce a timeline of significant events in local railway history. Their results so far are given in one of our articles this month. They are hoping that readers will take a critical look at this and contribute any further suggestions for inclusion in the timeline. **See our articles section.**

OUT AND ABOUT...

The editor of ESN was much amused recently by a tee shirt worn by a Manchester University student. It bore the legend: 'Lets eat Granny'. Underneath was the larger conclusion 'PUNCTUATION SAVES LIVES!'

Would a well placed hyphen help sort out this sign, seen on one of the Freccles walks at Uppermill ?



...By TRAIN from ECCLES STATION.

ARTICLES

F&FJHG.

In 2009 the Friends of Eccles Station (Freccles) formed a heritage subgroup to examine the history of the railway in Eccles. The intention was to record this important part of the story of the local community, and promote awareness of it to public and passengers. In 2010 the Friends of Patricroft Station joined the group and it is now known as **The FRECCLES and FrOPS Joint Heritage Group**. The Joint Heritage Group (JHG) continues to record and promote the history of our local railway as well as the wide and varied transport and connected social

history of the area. The overall aim is to encourage the use of both stations. We believe that anything that draws attention to the potential of the stations, including knowledge of its history, does help to achieve this, and we know that use of the rail service has increased since the Friends groups came into existence.

There are currently 9 members of the group being Elizabeth Charnley, Mark Charnley, Mary Eminson, Nina Keshishian, Andrew Leong, Bob Marshall, Ann Taverner, Andrew Whalley and David Yates and apparently William Huskisson is considered to be an honorary member. The members meet once every 2 to 3 months at The Patricroft Tavern which makes them feel historic as it was one of the first railway public houses! Nowadays it's known as the Queen's Arms, at Patricroft Station.

There have been a few by products of the drinking and talking that take place there. A series of heritage posters were created for Eccles Station and unveiled at a joint open day in 2010 to commemorate the 180th anniversary of the Liverpool-Manchester railway line. In 2011 the group took part in the 250th anniversary celebrations for the Bridgewater Canal and produced "Caked in History", a walk and interpretative booklet linking our 2 stations, the canal and the rich industrial heritage of our area. In December that year they marked the 70th anniversary of the 1941 Eccles rail crash, which was more fully commemorated by the installation of a plaque and open day in September 2012.

The group has also produced very attractive postcards of the old Eccles Station and the Patricroft Tavern, and in December 2012 a mural at Patricroft Station was designed and created by pupils of St Patricks RC High School, Eccles which complements the posters that have been on display for some time.

The JHG is very proud of its achievements so far and is now working on the "**All Our Stories**" project. Funded by The Heritage Lottery, this will be an oral history archive of experiences of local people on the railway – both as passengers, workers and neighbours of the lines. It is hoped that locals will come along to sessions to add their reminiscences to the collection. See

http://www.salfordonline.com/salfordvideos_page/41193-video_cakehole_project_to_call_on_memories_of_eccles.html



The photogenic members of the JHG are Mark Charnley, Nina Keshishian, Andrew Leong and Ann Taverner, attending the meeting at The 'Patricroft Tavern'. When they have finished arguing over whose round it is, they might consider producing another mural at Patricroft, possibly based on the timeline. Photo: Mary Eminson.

History Timeline Draft.

Here is the draft history timeline produce by the Joint Heritage Group. If you spot anything that deserves to be added then please e mail us at the address given at the end of the newsletter. Please reference your e mail 'timeline'.

Station anniversaries in chronological order

1720	Passage of the Mersey and Irwell Navigation Act enabled economically viable water-borne traffic between Liverpool and Manchester
1759	Act passed for building of canal from Worsley to Salford
1761	Opening of Bridgewater Canal
1776	Bridgewater canal opened through to Runcorn
1776	Barton-upon-Irwell Workhouse established
1815	BATTLE OF WATERLOO - END OF NAPOLEONIC WARS
1819	Peterloo Massacre in Manchester 16/08
1821	Bridgewater canal joined to Leeds and Liverpool Canal at Wigan by extension from Leigh
1821	Liverpool - Manchester Railway Company proposed

1823	Liverpool - Manchester Railway Company established
1826	Act of Parliament to build Liverpool - Manchester Railway passed. 05/05/
1828	Patricroft Tavern opens
1829	Rainhill trials started. 06/10/
1830	King George IV dies, age 67 (Ascended to throne 29/01/1820 aged 57). 26/06/
1830	King William IV crowned, aged 64 (ascended to throne 26/06/1830) 08/09/
1830	Opening of Liverpool-Manchester passenger railway line. Death of William Huskisson on <u>opening day</u>. 15/09/
1832	Manchester and Salford become Parliamentary seats under the Great Reform Act
1834	Poor Law Act passed - Creating workhouses for the poor
1836	James Nasmyth opens factory at Patricroft
1837	King William IV dies, age 71. 20/06
1837	Queen Victoria crowned, age 18. 28/06/
1838	First steam locomotive built at Nasmyth works (called "Bridgewater)
1839	George Bradshaw publishes his first 'Railway Time Table'
1841	First 'Bradshaw's Railway Guide' produced
1842	Mines act - Women and children no longer allowed to be employed
1843	Nasmyth builds his first steam hammer
1844	Friedrich Engels publishes "The condition of the Working classes in England" from observations in Weaste, Salford and Eccles
1844	L&MR petition Parliament for universal time to be adopted (presumably across railway companies?)
1845	L&MR became part of the Grand Junction Railway. 08/08/
1846	Worsley New Hall built
1846	Corn Laws abolished
1846	GJR became part of the London & North Western Railway. 16/07
1848	Migration from Ireland to Lancashire peaks in wake of failure of potato harvest throughout Europe
1848	Revolution across Europe: Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels publish "Communist Manifesto"
1850	Clifton Hall branch line opens
1851	Queen Victoria visits, reputedly stops at Patricroft Taverns which is renamed Queen's Arms Hotel
1853	New Barton-upon-Irwell workhouse opened
1864	Monton Green/Worsley branch line opens
1866	Crash on junction of Clifton Hall branch and Monton Green branch. Resulting in incline to carry Barton Hall branch over the top. 17/02/
1871	Public holidays established under Bank Holidays Act
1873	Protector Light and Lamp Company established
1877	Sir Edwin Alliott Verdon Roe born in Patricroft. 26/04
1881	Eccles station buildings open
1885	Patricroft "Old shed" opens
1885	Eccles becomes a Parliamentary seat
1885	Act passed for building of Manchester Ship Canal
1887	Bridgewater Navigation Company bought by Manchester Ship Canal Company

1892	Eccles incorporated as a Municipal Borough
1894	Manchester Ship Canal officially opened by Queen Victoria 21/05/ (Opened to traffic 01/01/1894)
1894	Completion of Thirlmere Aqueduct
1898	L. Gardner & Sons Ltd (est 1868) open their new Barton Hall Engine Works in Patricroft. 22/04/
1900	Mitchell, Shackleton and Company established at Vulcan Works, Patricroft
1901?	Barton-upon-Irwell Workhouse becomes Bridgewater Hospital
1901	Queen Victoria dies, age 81 (64 years on the throne) 22 Jan
1905	King Edward VII crowned, age 60. 15 Mar
1905	Patricroft "New Shed" opens
1905	New Monton Bridge built to accommodate electric trams. 1 Jun
1910	King George V crowned, age 45
1914	FIRST WORLD WAR 1914 - 1918
1923	Eccles and Patricroft Stations come under control of London and Midland and Scottish Railway Company 1 Jan
1926	General Strike
1936	King George V dies, age 70
1936	King Edward VIII crowned, age 42 and ruled for 325 days, abdicated and married Mrs Wallis Simpson
1936	King George VI crowned, age 41
1937	Salford and Patricroft receive Basque children as refugees from Spanish Civil War
1939	SECOND WORLD WAR 1939 - 1945
1939	Last steam locomotive built at Nasmyth works
1940	<u>Nasmyth's</u> works becomes Royal Ordnance Factory
1941	Accident causing 23 fatalities 30th December
1948	All railway companies nationalised as "British Rail" - should be red.
1952	King George VI dies, age 57
1952	Queen Elizabeth II crowned, age 26
1953	Clifton Hall branch line closes
1961	Last 'Bradshaw's Guide' produced. xx/05/
1967	Beeching report
1968	Patricroft sheds close
1969	Monton Green/Worsley branch line closes. 5 May
1971	Eccles station buildings destroyed by fire
1971	M602 opened to Eccles
1974	Eccles becomes part of City of Salford under local government reorganisation
1984	Accident at Eccles causing 3 fatalities. 4 Dec
1989	Royal Ordnance Factory closes
1994	Gardner's cease engine production
1997	British Rail privatised. 1996?
2005	Friends of Eccles Station formed
2009	Friends of Patricroft Station formed
2011	Bridge work in preparation for electrification divides Eccles for 5 months
2012	Electrification work starts on Liverpool-Manchester railway line

Provision for Rainy Days.

The Office of Rail Regulation's quarterly performance monitor highlighted the impact of **extreme weather** on train performance. Network Rail chief executive David Higgins said: "We recognise that this has been a difficult period for passengers, with disruption on many lines due to extreme weather. **Our staff worked tirelessly, often in difficult circumstances, to get the railway back up and running** and we would like to thank passengers and train operators for bearing with us during this time." It is still worth pointing out that despite these problems the railway still managed to move more than 3m people a day by train during this period, with **almost nine-out-of-ten trains arriving on time.**



Whole lines were closed by flooding and tracks came close to being washed away by rivers which burst their banks. On the worst affected parts of the network torrential rain caused up to sixty landslides in a single day. Photos: Network Rail

"This has been a **wake-up call for the whole industry**, which we ignore at our peril. As we set out when we launched our strategic business plan in January, **we are playing catch up on decades of under-investment.** Nowhere is this more apparent than with the embankments, cuttings, bridges, tunnels and other structures which have struggled to cope with extreme weather... Our submission to our regulator for the next five-year funding settlement reflects our plan to tackle this." Network Rail is bidding to spend £300,000,000 on such assets.

Also see Office of Rail Regulation: <http://www.rail-reg.gov.uk/server/show/ConWebDoc.11118>

TRIP OF THE MONTH.

This month the chosen trip is number Thirty Six:

MANCHESTER– CHETHAM’S SCHOOL, LIBRARY & LUNCHTIME CONCERTS.

Situated quietly in a bustling corner of Manchester, Chetham’s occupies late medieval buildings and has a library that was established in the 17th century. The school educates some of the finest young musicians in the United Kingdom.

Take the train from Eccles and alight at Manchester Victoria. Cross the road outside the station concourse and go left. Turn right onto Long Millgate and proceed along the side of Chetham’s School to the porter’s lodge on your right. *The buildings were originally part of the collegiate church but in 1547 such colleges were dissolved (Henry VIII). Eventually they were bought by the trustees of the wealthy Manchester merchant Humphrey Chetham to establish a hospital school for forty poor boys and a free library ‘for the use of scholars and others well affected’.*

Lunchtime concerts: These classical music concerts take place Monday to Friday during term time and last about 45 min. They are usually in the ‘baronial hall’. Students of Chetham’s Music School perform the music to a very high standard. Tea & biscuits are served afterwards. *This is a very pleasant way to pass the lunchtime. There is no charge to attend these concerts – an essential aspect of learning to be a professional musician. Report to the porter’s lodge at approximately 13 .25 for a concert that starts about 10 or 15 minutes later.*

Chetham’s Library: This is still a working library (where Karl Marx did much of his work). *The ancient rooms and books are well worth a visit – but there are modern books too! Report to the porter’s lodge stating that you wish*

to visit the library. The library is open Monday to Friday 09.00 –12.30 & 13.30 – 16.30. There is no charge for the visit. Guided tours are available by appointment.

Wednesday – combined lunchtime concert & library tour*: These take place on Wednesdays during term time. **This combined visit is probably the best thing for a first time visitor to Chetham's. Report to the porter's lodge at about 13.25 for a concert that starts about 10 or 15 minutes later.*

More information (and term time dates) can be had from: Chetham's, Long Millgate, Manchester M3 1SB Tel 0161 834 7961

Also see www.chethams.org.uk. And <http://www.chethams.com/whats-on/lunchtime-concerts>

CLASSIFICATION: A DODDLE. ARCHITECTURE, MUSIC, HISTORY.

RAIL FARE: Adult cheap day return is £2.30

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

