

# ECCLES STATION

## NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2010

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

**News section,      Open Day,      Exhibitions      Book launch,  
Book review,      Bargain fares,      Fare tip,      ‘Trip of the Month’**

This month’s itinerary is a walk near Stalybridge – so it’s quick and very cheap to get there. The walk is neither difficult nor long, the views are good, and half way round is a very pleasant roadside public house!

### **SADDLEWORTH HOPPER**

This is a new bus service from Greenfield station on Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays. It goes across the valley to Dove Stone Reservoir (“Dovestones”) which is a starting point for some serious Pennine walking. (I can see a future Freccles ‘trip out’ itinerary in my mind now!)

It is not far to Dovestones from Greenfield but this bus means you don’t have to walk a mile and a half along the very busy A635 Holmfirth road! The buses are half hourly from late morning up till about 16.30. The fare is £1 for the day but free with an over 60 pass or a valid rail or bus ticket to Saddleworth. The timetable is at [www.saddleworthparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.saddleworthparishcouncil.org.uk) under the tourist information section.

# **180 YEARS OF ECCLES STATION!**

On September 15 this year, Eccles station will have been open for 180 years. We intend to celebrate this by holding a **station open day on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> September between 11.00 and 14.00**. We would like to hear from you if you want to help us on that day. Here is the programme:

## **Celebrating 180 years of railways in Eccles**

**Eccles Railway Station Open Day**

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2010**

**11am to 2pm**

Station Forecourt, top of Church St, Eccles

**Organisers: Freccles, Friends of Eccles Station**

**To be opened by the Mayor of Salford at 11am**

**Discover Freccles: past, present & future**

**see our 2010 national award shortlisted Station Garden**

**Brass Band, Street Theatre, stalls, displays, games & raffle**

**GRUMPY** Badge Making Workshop & children's colouring competition

**Miniature Railway Locomotive "in steam"**

**Discover 50 new trips out from Eccles Station**

**Refreshments by Smiths Restaurant**

**Salford City Radio hosting & broadcasting live**

## **PLUS**

### **EVEN MORE IDEAS FOR DAYS OUT!!!**

The Station Open Day will see the **publication of a companion volume** to the popular '**50 Trips Out from Eccles Station**' and a related display.

This new book will contain a further fifty itineraries for you to choose from and they are just as good as (maybe better than!) those in the first volume. It is not a case of scraping the barrel for more - the author has got better with practice at finding and describing good places to go for the day!

Once again the emphasis is on **value for money ideas**, with clear directions to guide you – get your copy and go travelling! Both volumes will be on sale for **£4** each at the Station Open Day (and afterwards) plus there will be a display relating to the complete 100 itineraries.

# SO COME TO THE STATION OPEN DAY!

**SATURDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> September 11.00 to 14.00**

To find out more about **FRECCLES** or to make contact see our **website**:  
[www.freccles.org](http://www.freccles.org) or e mail us at [info@freccles.org.uk](mailto:info@freccles.org.uk)

## RELATED EVENTS

**LIBRARY EXHIBITION:** From the 6<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> September there will be an exhibition in Eccles Library about railway history relating to Eccles station, covering from 1830 to the present day.

**PARISH CHURCH EXHIBITION:** An exhibition of photographs, old and new, and more details of the history of the station and the current work of Freccles can be viewed in Eccles Parish Church from 8th to 19th September.

**MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY (MANCHESTER):** At the time of going to press full details of a proposed event are not yet available. However it will be from 14<sup>th</sup> September till the 18<sup>th</sup> (probably) and should include the steaming of 'ROCKET' – a replica of the original – from the National Railway Museum. Keep an eye on [www.mosi.org.uk](http://www.mosi.org.uk) for updates on this one.

## **BOOK REVIEW.**

### **MALLARD – ‘How the blue streak broke the world speed record. ‘**

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1938 the streamlined steam locomotive ‘Mallard’ earned its place in the history books by achieving a speed of 126mph with a train on the east coast main line. This is still the world record for a steam locomotive.

This short, paperback is a story, not a dry history, of this event. It is ably told by Don Hale: we read of the personalities and setbacks involved; the discoveries by Bugatti (of racing car fame), Chapelon and Gresley, and the international nature of the engineering research.

We also discover something of the life of the designer, Sir Nigel Gresley, whose career path led to this event and wonder what Mallard might have achieved if all had gone smoothly that day.

*‘MALLARD’ by Don Hale.            £7.99 Aurum press            Available at Eccles Library.*

### **SEPTEMBER FARE BARGAIN:**

## **OFF PEAK DAY RETURN TICKETS.**

Often one of these tickets will cost only 10p more than a single fare! So you get close to half price travel. They are valid for travel after 09.30 on Mondays to Fridays and all day long on Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holidays. You can return on any train up to and including the last one of the evening.

The off peak return to Manchester is £1.90, which is less than the one way bus fare! The train takes about 10mins.

Buy at Eccles station or on the train when the booking office is closed.

### **FARE TIP!!**

The off peak return to Manchester allows use of the trams in the city centre, so hold on to the ticket when you get there. You can travel between Victoria, Piccadilly and G-Mex (Manchester Central) at no extra charge.

# **A DAY OUT BY** **TRAIN!**

## **SEPTEMBER**

**This month The Friends of Eccles Station recommend:**

**No. Four**

### **STALYBRIDGE – MATLEY LANE**

This walk gives some very fine views of hills and open country. At the halfway point is The Rising Moon on Matley Lane. This is a pleasant roadside pub open from noon. It serves good hand pumped beers by Robinson's Brewery and has a range of cooked food and sandwiches on offer.

**MODERATE, MEDIUM LENGTH WALK, COUNTRYSIDE, FOOD & DRINK,**

**RAIL FARE: £3.30 off peak day return**

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

#### Four STALYBRIDGE – MATLEY LANE (Rising Moon).

This walk gives some very fine views of hills and open country. At the halfway point is The Rising Moon on Matley Lane. This is a pleasant roadside pub open from noon. It serves good hand pumped beers by Robinson's Brewery and has a range of cooked food and sandwiches on offer.

Take the train from Eccles Station to Stalybridge Station.

Leave the front entrance of the station and walk down to Market Street. Turn right under the Railway Bridge and walk through the town. (*'Q' – Hydes, 'White House' – Hydes plus guest beers.*)

Continue along Market Street until you come to the façade of the once very impressive town hall. (*Who on earth was responsible for demolishing this fine building?*).

Ignore the small continuation of Market Street; instead bear right to the War Memorial and Victoria Bridge. (*Note the smaller addition for the fallen of The Second World War*).

Cross the River Tame and go up Trinity Street.

In succession on your left you will see: *the post office, Astley Cheetham Art Gallery and Library (well worth popping in if only to see the splendour of the computer room!), and then the impressive former Market Hall.*

Past the large stone church you will come onto Armentieres Square and the canal side.

Cross the Huddersfield Canal and proceed by the left side of 'The Millpond'. (*The Millpond serves Lees hand pump beers and food*).

Go to the traffic lights and cross over High Street.

Go up Hough Hill Road, which is slightly to your right.

Follow Hough Hill Road past the 'British Protection' and the school. It veers to the left by the side of a green after it crosses Astley Street.

Then keep going to the very top of Hough Hill Road where it becomes more like a track or bridleway.

Now you just follow this rough stone road with Cheetham Park wall on your left. (It's called 'Early Bank Road' further on).

The road moves away from the hillside and descends slightly to the left to pass some houses. At the end it comes out on Matley Lane and the 'Rising Moon' is on your left.

*(Notice the various footpaths offering walking opportunities in the countryside. The one down the side of the pub offers an alternative way back to Stalybridge town.).*

From the 'Rising Moon' retrace your steps on Early Bank Road to where it forks.

Take the left fork rising up along the hillside.

Where you come to some houses follow the track to the right of them (It's known as Range Road). Range Road meanders alongside the hill.

It has an S-bend at one farm area, then another opposite S bend where it is also briefly a narrow path past Lower Hough Hill farm.

Descend past some stone houses on your right and continue ahead, crossing over Oak Tree Crescent.

You will rejoin Hough Hill Road. Follow it left to descend back in to Stalybridge town centre once more.

CLASSIFICATION:            MODERATE, MEDIUM LENGTH WALK, COUNTRYSIDE,  
FOOD & DRINK,

RAIL FARE – category one

Maps:            OS 1:50 000 sheet 109  
Atlas – Greater Manchester.

Manchester A-Z    Philip's Street