

ECCLES STATION

NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2012

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

News section,

Articles.

Preston Guild

Editorial

Hello to you all once again from the editor of ESN. Doubtless sports fans and many others will have enjoyed the Olympic Games, and the associated razzamatazz. There is no doubting the good atmosphere created and ESN is well pleased that such a high cost, high risk event could work so well. As a nation often we can be too self critical and fissiparous. Presumably you have also enjoyed the record rainfall?

Unusually our trip of the month is to try Preston during the guild because so much is on offer. We have asked our arts correspondent to analyse the new work at the station.

NEWS

Freccles will be gardening again on Sunday September 2nd at 11.00. We shall also be tidying up. Do come and help. You will be most welcome.

*Salford Central, Manchester Oxford Road, Blackburn, Blackpool North, Ashton under Lyme, Hazel Grove and **Eccles** stations are to get secure and safe cycling sheltered storage facilities with swipe card access. **There will be provision for up to 50 bikes at Eccles station.** (Probably thirty - Ed)*

In addition at Manchester Victoria and Bolton there will be cycle hire, cycle repairs and cycle sales at a dedicated facility adjacent to the stations as well as space for 200 bikes at each. The total cost of the project is £1.1million. For fuller details see: <http://www.northernrail.org.uk/news/6982>

Transport for Greater Manchester has published passenger count figures for 2011. These are taken on one day in November. **At Eccles**, am peak (07.30 - 09.29) usage was up by 21% from 120 to 145, am off-peak (09.30 - 13.29) usage was up by 5% from 86 to 90, compared to 2010 giving an overall increase of 14%. The 2010 figures showed zero increase from 2009 and so these are certainly consistent with the increase we recorded with the Freccles count, and reported last month.

*ESN used the **22.39 replacement bus back to Eccles** during August. Staff at Victoria ensured that passenger found the bus and it left punctually. It called (without prompting!) at the designated spot at Eccles. **Eight passengers were called over from the forecourt** to travel towards Liverpool. ESN welcomes this improvement in the service and hopes it is now the norm. Will readers please e mail Freccles with any recent experience of using the replacement buses.*

It is reported that **Hebden Bridge has a new drinking establishment**, and it is on the railway station! **The Parcel Office Bar** sells artisan ciders as its main offering but there are also real ales and Belgian beers. This is a **'pop up' business** making practical use of some of the station accommodation and promoting a traditional style of British drink, so it is an experimental project that might just result in a great success. What a pity we don't have empty buildings at Eccles station!

For a picture and short article see:

<http://www.hebdenbridgetimes.co.uk/news/local/there-s-a-draught-on-platform-2-1-4814018>



*There is still time to see 'We Face Forward' at Manchester City Art Gallery. This exhibition of intriguing, **and sometimes bizarre**, art out of Africa is on till September 16th. There are other longer running exhibitions also worth seeing.*

Of particular note is this exhibition which is on till 2013:



*The posters are not only **superb pieces of graphic art** but also significant historical documents that provoke reflection on our changing society.*

The gallery has over 300 of these – only a few are on display though.

Get the train up to Manchester and take a look. The gallery is open every day and now has late sessions till 21.00 on Thursdays which can make for a very pleasant evening out along with bars and restaurants in Manchester.

OUT AND ABOUT...

Here is an update from a recent tour of Stockport Edgeley These changes and a new discovery will eventually be incorporated into the online edition of the walks.



The Grapes which sold excellent Robinson's beers in pleasant surroundings has closed. Fortunately The Armoury across the main road is still available for a thirsty traveller.

However others are taking on real ales (board to left of door). The most eccentric pub – the Olde Vic is now open in the evenings only.



Just beyond the end of the shopping street on the Edgeley itinerary is Edgeley Cottage of 1889 vintage, and just beyond that is the pleasant urban green space of Alexandra Park. At the bottom of the park is Sykes' Reservoir – a former mill lodge – that is popular with anglers.



...By TRAIN from ECCLES STATION.

ARTICLES



2012

PRESTON GUILD YEAR

The main Preston Guild period is in the ten days from AUGUST 31st to SEPTEMBER 9th.

There is a vast offering and we produce the list in full on the next page:

Friday 31 August

- [Moments that Matter](#)
- [Preston Light Night](#)
- [Preston Tringe Festival](#) (not a spelling mistake)

Saturday 1 September

- [A Vintage Guild Weeked](#)
- [Championsheeps](#)
- [Square Food Festival](#)
- [The Guild of '22 \(Tickets now available\)](#)
- [The Soul of '72 \(Tickets now available\)](#)
- [The Spirit of '42 Ball \(Tickets now available\)](#)
- [Third and final proclamation. 10.30 am](#) (Two earlier proclamations take place on 18 and 25 August)
- [Trades Procession 11.00am \(Tickets now available\)](#)

Sunday 2 September

- [A Rockin' 1952 Guild \(Tickets now available\)](#)
- [A Vintage Guild Weeked](#)
- [Championsheeps](#)
- [Disco Guild '92 \(Tickets now available\)](#)
- [Ecumenical Service](#)
- [Guild Mayor's Civic Procession and Divine Service at the Minster 10.00am](#)
- [Human League Headline the Vintage Weekend \(Tickets now available\)](#)
- [Square Food Festival](#)

Monday 3 September

- [Championsheeps](#)
- [Churches Procession 2.00pm \(Tickets now available\)](#)
- [Cie bam Presents Switch \(Tickets now available\)](#)
- [The Guild Court 10.00am](#)

Tuesday 4 September

- [Mayoral International Reception 7.30pm \(Tickets now available\)](#)
- [Rise 2012](#)

Wednesday 5 September

- [Guild Mayoral Ball 7.00pm](#)
- [Rise 2012](#)

Thursday 6 September

- [Piaf \(Tickets now available\)](#)
- [Rise 2012](#)
- [The Lancashire Inter-League T20 Cricket Tournament](#)

Friday 7 September

- [Abandon Normal Devices: Mobile Republic](#)
- [Abandon Normal Devices: The Humble Market](#)
- [Community Procession 11.00am \(Tickets now available\)](#)
- [Emoto: Visualising Online Emotion](#)
- [Metropolis \(Tickets now available\)](#)
- [Proms In The Park \(Tickets now available\)](#)
- [Rise 2012](#)
- [WE PLAY: Handprint 2012](#)
- [WE PLAY: Why We Play](#)

Saturday 8 September

- [Abandon Normal Devices: Mobile Republic](#)
- [Abandon Normal Devices: The Humble Market](#)
- [Adjournment of the Guild Court 11.00am](#)
- [Blaze Festival](#)
- [Emoto: Visualising Online Emotion](#)
- [GFest \(Tickets now available\)](#)
- [Torchlight Procession 8.00pm \(Tickets now available\)](#)
- [We Play: Handprint 2012](#)
- [We Play: Why We Play](#)

Sunday 9 September

- [Emoto: Visualising Online Emotion](#)
- [Guild Mayor's Civic Procession and Service of Thanksgiving at the Minster.10.00am](#)
- [Lakes Alive: On the Night Shift](#)
- [Sacrilege](#)

The timing of Guild Week has been the same since 1562. The Guild Court must be opened on the Monday after the feast of the decollation of St John the Baptist on the 29 August. The civic events are our link with the rich and unique history of Preston Guild and all those people who have celebrated it before us.

Control click on any of the above links to find out more and see our trip of the month section where we cover some of the other Preston attractions to combine into your visit.

See: <http://www.prestonguild2012.com/?OBH=413&ID=903> for full details. **For full events list at the Preston Guild, see the website <http://www.prestonguild2012.com/whats-on>**

Frodsham Rescue.

Network Rail has completely refurbished the former station master's house at Frodsham, which dates back to 1850. Following the granting of listed building consent, the work was carried out by Spence Refit Ltd in keeping with the heritage of the Grade II listed building.



The listing describes the building as having such things as 'Flemish bond brown brick' and 'rusticated rock-faced quoins'. It concludes by calling it 'a substantial, little altered and relatively little damaged mid 19th century main station building'.

Consequently, all the work that carried out had to be sympathetic to the original design. In effect, the building is brand new inside because all the structural timbers affected by rot have been replaced, along with the concrete and wooden ground and first floors and the stairs linking them. The Welsh slate roof was removed temporarily to renew the underlay and insulation and the chimney stacks have been re-pointed using a traditional lime mortar. External doors and windows were renewed on a like-for-like basis to match the Victorian originals using materials agreed with the local conservation officer. Finally, all the external masonry was cleaned and repaired with isolated patch re-pointing, again using lime mortar.

The £400,000 project was completed during June and Network Rail is now looking for a tenant. Possible future uses might be offices, a restaurant and/or bar (subject to planning consent and licensing), art studios/workshops or some form of community use. Anyone interested should call the Network Rail property helpline on 0800 830 840.

ESN welcomes this small scale improvement to the railway estate and notes that there are still many more places in need of it! It is almost as important as larger scale works such as the Stone flyovers covered in a previous edition. See this month's editorial for a view on rail investment.

Changing trains 19

Another service from Piccadilly that heads south to Stockport and then branches off is the Cheshire Lines Committee route to Chester. The trains are hourly (2 hourly on Sunday) and call at Stockport then head west to Navigation Road, Altrincham, Hale, Ashley, Mobberley, Knutsford, Plumley, Lostock Gralam, Northwich, Greenbank, Cuddington, Delamere and **Chester**. The line used to have its own terminus at Chester Northgate (closed and demolished) but now run into Chester General station.

Travellers from Eccles can go to Piccadilly, or use the tram to Altrincham, to join trains on this line. Hale is an upmarket Cheshire commuter village, and Knutsford is a classy market town whence came King Canute. At the opposite end of the town is the gatehouse to Tatton Park with extensive paths around the estate and the National Trust owned house. Northwich is a workaday town with many timber framed brick buildings (even modern ones) because of all the subsidence from salt mining. The Trent and Mersey canal runs nearby with the Anderton Boat Lift connecting it to the River Weaver. You can visit the Lion Salt Works museum there.

Further along the line is Delamere. Delamere forest is dense and extensive with many paths (take a map!) – Scots pine and birch on sandy ground that has been quarried from place to place. On the opposite side of the line are walks taking in Eddisbury Hill Fort, and Kelsall – a country town with a number of pubs and shops, and Kelsborrow castle hill fort.



The old sandstone station building at Delamere remains in use as a very good cafe and an ice cream shop, so it is an ideal start and finish point for the many walks in the area.

Finally at Mouldsworth you can wander the country lanes and visit the famous the Motor Museum at the hamlet of Stonehouse.

On Sundays the trains from Eccles usually run direct to Piccadilly and on to the airport (but check – electrification will alter this on some Sundays). On weekdays take the train from Eccles to Victoria and transfer by tram to Manchester Piccadilly. From the tram platforms you can ascend to the main concourse for your train.

Brompton Dock cycle hire in Manchester

Since Tuesday 3rd April 2012, residents, commuters and visitors to Manchester have been able to hire a British, hand-made, Brompton bike from a Brompton Dock located just outside Piccadilly station. Up to 40 Brompton bikes take only a single car parking space. The bicycles are folding so there are no restrictions on public transport and train operators allowing them on their network during peak hours – you can use them on your commute or take one by train for a ride around the countryside.

You need to have a mobile phone to use the automated bike docks. Join by visiting <http://www.bromptondock.co.uk/> and choose a suitable tariff. Once registered, members will be sent a personal four-digit pin number. To take out a Brompton bike, all members need to do is send a text to 07800 008 078, including the dock number and their personal pin, following which they will receive a text with a bay number and an access code to take their bike out. Members can then keep the bike for as long as they want, whether it's for one hour, one week or even a year.

As well as being comfortable and stylish to ride, these bikes require no maintenance, no lugging heavy security locks around and, because they can be folded and stored almost anywhere, there's no wasting time trying to find somewhere to leave it at the end of the journey. The Brompton can be taken onto trains, buses, in the office, at home. When members return the bike to the Brompton Dock, usage is calculated by the system and automatically charged to the member's credit card at the end of each hire, so there's no need to worry about how to pay each time. Members can also reserve a bike

or a bay in the dock in advance to ensure they can always pick up and return their bike.

Mark Antwis, Managing Director of Brompton Dock Ltd, comments: “With the launch of the new Manchester Piccadilly Brompton Dock, commuters and visitors in Manchester can now take advantage of an innovative system which offers an end to end journey solution. Brompton Dock provides easy access to the legendary Brompton bike which is fully transportable, meaning that you can take it with you wherever you go, even during busy times like rush hour.”

Sam Dixon, Head of Stations for Virgin Trains, said: “This scheme is a great idea and an exciting new initiative that will provide travellers with a new and exciting means by which to travel around Manchester. We’re fully committed to any system that offers our customers greater flexibility for their onward journeys and look forward to welcoming them and their Brompton Bikes onto our network.”

The Docks have been 100% manufactured in the UK by CHH CoNeX
<http://www.chhconex.com/>

But is it Art?

By our arts correspondent

A new mural appeared at the station on the morning of August 11th 2012, presumably executed the evening before by a guerrilla artist. Freccles did not commission this work and as yet there has been no formal unveiling of it. The artist had thoughtfully placed the litter bag neatly on the ground, so as not to hinder the composition.

Its genre is ‘Tag’ graffiti produced in a two colours on a black brick background. The deflating balloon biomorphs represent the letters S and A, their gaseous emissions bursting from the yellow membrane around them. The composition breaks out of the frame to its left with some as yet undeciphered script.



The work is not crude in a verbal or sexual way, unlike much of this genre and it has been carried out with due regard to the display space available. The layout is balanced, almost symmetrical: however a 'Banksy' it is not. The colours and shading are limited, and there seems to be a lack of social or political comment accessible to the general viewer.

What is the artist trying to achieve here? Is it merely self promotion or an expressive outburst borne of frustration with society? Is it to be admired for the skill of its execution, and to give delight to the audience? Is it to produce joy or rage in the observer? Is it to enhance the space or to demean it? Is it intended to be permanent or is it a transient opus? On all these matters the image is ambivalent and the answer can only be provided by the viewer – as a result controversy is inevitable. In this sense it serves as thought provoking art.

Some might think that this freely donated work will act as an invitation to other less skilled and less restrained practitioners to add their own pieces, and

experience shows that this view is likely to be correct. On this basis it should be regarded as a temporary exhibit only.

TRIP OF THE MONTH.

This month the chosen trip is:

PRESTON– THE GUILD

A once in twenty years chance to visit the guild fair in Preston. There is a feast of activities laid on, plus shopping, pubs, architecture, art, walks etc.

On Mondays to Saturdays take the train to Manchester Victoria. There are now two choices: **either** take a tram to Manchester Piccadilly Station for a Preston train, **or faster** catch the Clitheroe train from Victoria to Bolton, swap platforms there and catch the Preston train a few minutes later.

Alight at Preston Station. *This is the London and North Western mainline station on the Euston to Glasgow route. The platform buildings cleverly repeat a glazed arch pattern with interior walls and ceilings at varying locations to give a spread of room sizes. Note the Red Rose of Lancashire in the decorated metalwork.*

Leave the station by the front entrance. *Turn round to see the delightful little chateau that is the main building.*



At the top of the approach road is Fishergate and you should turn right along this main thoroughfare and everything can be located by turning off this.

Now cook up your own day out!

For events see the earlier Guild article.

For a choice of two pleasant walks see:

Penwortham Peramble <http://www.freccles.org.uk/pdf/ESnewsMAY12.pdf>

Railway history walk <http://www.freccles.org.uk/pdf/ESnewsAPR12.pdf>

For the art gallery or local history walk <http://www.freccles.org.uk/pdf/ESnewsMAR12.pdf>

The Harris Art Gallery:



Left onto Market Street and set back on the Flagmarket.

A very fine building displaying excellent ceramics, paintings and historical items.



The richest man in Lancashire (!!!!!) and his factory.



Architecture:



Fine classical buildings, robust churches, arts and crafts.

Left the palatial Booth family home.



The Best Public Houses:

Thoroughly researched – only those serving real ale qualify



The Wellington	Glovers Court	Right off Fishergate. Open fires and quite a menu of pub food.
Yates	Church Street	A continuation of Fishergate. Food and beer in usual Yates' style.
Bull and Royal	Church Street	Try the back bar through the archway.
The Grey Friar	Friargate	Wetherspoon – purpose built
The Old Black Bull	Friargate	Nice tiled exterior – good selection of beers.
The Dog and Partridge	Friargate	Straightforward. Cask Marque assured.
The New Britannia	Heather Street	Off Friargate.
The Sun Hotel	Friargate	A basic Thwaites pub.
The Lamb and Packet	Friargate	Very modernised (but well done) with a selection of Thwaites' beers and a good menu.
The Guild		Nice, student land pub – cheap food!
The Bitter Suite		Simple warehouse conversion down the side of The Mad Ferret. Very good beers from small breweries.
Hartley's	Mount Street	Right off Fishergate. Grandiose interior.
The Blue Bell	Church Street	Continuation of Fishergate at opposite end from railway station. You see the place and just know it is Sam Smiths. Comfortable old fashioned boozier.
The Continental		Walk through the parks by the Ribble and under the railway bridge. Classy modern pub offering excellent beers, a very good menu and a lovely beer garden.
The Market Tavern	Market Street	At the end opposite the indoor and outdoor markets. A nice pubby interior with a different selection of real ales.
The Black Horse	Friargate	Down from the Flagmarket. Unspoilt Robinson's pub with such a splendid interior that you must go to see it.
The Stanley Arms	Lancaster Road	Comfy pub interior with a couple of real ales. Behind the Art Gallery.



Parks:



Eating:



A hearty breakfast can be had at Scrumptious opposite the front of the Harris.

A varied range of food and snacks is available in The Wellington.



Or try the eccentric and delightful Brucciani's for sandwiches tea cakes etc.

ENJOY YOUR TRIP. The adult day return fare from Eccles to Preston is £10.70

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

