



## Friends of Eccles Station

### FRECCLES Newsletter No 5. August 2022

**Hello to all our Members, Supporters and Friends. Hope you and your families are all well.**

#### **1) The Gardens**

Work on the Gardens has continued throughout the last quarter. Particular thanks to Pat for her work on planting out annuals which have produced a lot of colour on the station. We have also been trying to cut back on vegetation at the east end of the Liverpool Platform. The gardens continue to garner praise from various quarters and clearly enhance the experience for users of the station. Latterly, watering the gardens has become an issue during the recent hot dry weather and various members have pitched in to water the trees on the forecourt and vulnerable plants.

#### **2) Heritage Group**

The Heritage Group have undertaken a project with Beech Street Primary School based around the theme of 'Local Heroes'. Ann and Mark from the group talked to the children about James Brindley, as this year is the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death. This resulted in younger children from the school producing pictures and drawings relating to the theme which have been displayed at Winton Library. They are due to move to Eccles Gateway at the beginning of September. Do pop along to see them if you get the chance.

In addition, Mark has produced a brilliant display of signs based on historical train tickets relating to closed stations in our area (see pictures below). These have been attached to the fence on the Manchester platform. Again, do call in to the station to have a look! Anyone who fondly remembers the 'Edmondson Tickets' that British Railways used

for many years in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, will find the display a nostalgic reminder of days gone by!!

Finally Mark is planning to set up a quiz to tie in with the Eccles Festival on 3<sup>rd</sup> September with the intention of encouraging people to visit the station on that day.



### 3) CRP

On 27<sup>th</sup> June, several FRECCLES members attended the launch of the Liverpool – Manchester Community Rail Partnership. This project aims to set up a Community Rail Partnership covering the two Liverpool to Manchester lines - our line over Chat Moss and the line via Warrington Central and Urmston. The aim of such a partnership is to bring together local councils, train operators, businesses, station friends groups (like ours) and other interested parties to promote the use of the line and to encourage the involvement of local communities. It was quite a low-key event for what is an ambitious project but we will aim to keep you informed of developments.

### 4) Passenger Count

FRECCLES is very concerned about the planned reduction in peak hour services from Eccles Station in the December timetable. Sean from the Service Development Group, therefore organised a passenger count in June to look at the impact of such a reduction on passengers at the station. The results showed an increase in peak-time passenger numbers and that significant numbers of those peak hour passengers were using the services that are due to be withdrawn in December. These figures have been forwarded to TfGM in an effort to encourage the authorities to think again about the reduction in service at Eccles. The overall figures for Eccles showed a sizable increase in footfall since the last passenger count in 2017 which is very positive and also indicated that peak hour

footfall at Eccles has recovered faster than other stations in Greater Manchester from the reduction of commuting due to the pandemic.

## **5) Facebook**

Our Facebook page continues to perform well. According to Facebook themselves, our last posting reached 876 people with 50 positive acknowledgements! It has not resulted in any new members so far, but it shows that information about the group and about Eccles Station is being widely disseminated.

## **6 FrOPS - Friends of Patricroft Station**

Finally, congratulations to our neighbouring Friends Group – FrOPS at Patricroft Station whose entry to the Community Rail Network Photo competition has been short-listed for an award. If you would like to vote for the Patricroft entry, you can do this by following either of the links below, closing date 30<sup>th</sup> August

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/CRA22>.

<https://communityrail.org.uk/photo-competition-capturing-the-essence-of-community-rail-2021-22/>

There is more about FRECCLES on our web page ([www.freccles.org.uk](http://www.freccles.org.uk)) and on our Facebook page or you can contact us at [info@freccles.org.uk](mailto:info@freccles.org.uk) - tel 0161 789 5016)