



## FRECCLES Newsletter No 7, June 2023

Hello to all our Friends and Supporters. Here is a brief update on the current work of FRECCLES.

### 1) AGM

We held a successful AGM on May 11th when our guest speaker was Karen Hornby who is Chair of the Calder Valley Community Rail Partnership. She took us through the issues and benefits of becoming a CRP and the discussion which followed examined the context further, especially in relation to the proposal to form a CRP for the Manchester-Liverpool lines which would involve Eccles Station. Reports on the work of FRECCLES followed ending with the election of the FRECCLES Committee for the coming year.

### 2) Membership

Membership fees were collected from those present at the AGM. The fee remains at £1 for this year but will be raised for the year commencing April 2024. For those of you who wish to become or remain members of FRECCLES, but who have not paid the membership fee for this year, I am hoping there will be other opportunities for me to see you and collect your fee or you could pop down to one of our Sunday clear-up and gardening sessions and pay myself or one of the other Committee members.

### 3) Gardening

The Gardening Group continue to work hard to maintain the gardens which continue to attract positive comments from station users. The main focus during this dry spell of weather is keeping the gardens watered and various members are pitching in to help. The next gardening and clear up session is on Sunday July 2nd at 11am.

If you would be interested in joining in the gardening work get in touch (details on our website) or just turn up at one of our Sunday sessions.

### 4) Service Development

Our Service Development Group continues to work with Northern in respect of improving the train service at Eccles Station. The regeneration of Eccles Town Centre and the two large housing developments in the Town Centre will generate more potential passengers for Eccles Station. There may also be an opportunity to improve the service when the new station at Golborne opens which would pave the way for an enhanced Wigan to Manchester service that would come through our Station

Finally, new timetables came into force in May, so if you are travelling, do check with National Rail Enquiries before your journey.

### 5) Heritage Group

Ann and Mark have continued their work with local primary schools and will be judging a project whereby pupils have been designing postcards to depict local history.