



## **FRECCLES Newsletter No 11 July 2024**

Hello to all our Members and Supporters

1) **Gardens:**

There was a good turn-out for our latest Station Gardening and Clear-up session. A great deal of weeding and clearing of the gardens took place plus tidying of the station environment. However, much remains to be done as the recent wet weather has led to a proliferation of weeds!! Also, fast growing plants and shrubs need pruning or cutting back.

The next Garden/Clear-up day is Sunday 4th August at 11am. Do come along and join us - whether it is to help or just meet the FRECCLES team.

2) **Station Forecourt:**

Work continues on our forecourt to install a toilet for passengers and we now have a designated parking area for E-Bikes See photo below!)

3) **Possible New Service:**

There are several proposals being put forward to increase services between the Manchester area and London. The most interesting for us is from a company called LUMO who are putting forward a Rochdale to London service stopping at Manchester Victoria, ECCLES, Newton-le-Willows and then onto Warrington and down the West Coast mainline to London Euston. The reason that LUMO have included a stop at Eccles is because they recognise our station's potential as an interchange between train, tram and bus - something that FRECCLES has been arguing for since 2005!

If it comes to pass, it should lead to improvements at the station itself as well as the welcome sight of 'London Euston' on our destination boards!!!

See also FRECCLES AGM below

4) **Visit to North-West Transport Museum**

Some FRECCLES members joined a visit to the North-West Transport museum at St Helens, organised by Keith Naylor from FrOPS which turned out to be a very enjoyable trip. The Museum has a large number of exhibits, ranging from bicycles through a large collection of buses to fire engines and even a bus from Sydney Australia! The information boards are very informative and there is lots of other information displayed. For further details, visit the website ([nwmort.co.uk](http://nwmort.co.uk)) but it is well worth a visit!!

5) **FRECCLES AGM**

The FRECCLES AGM will take place on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> August at 7pm at Eccles Community Hall in the Town Hall on Church Street. Our Chair has succeeded in attracting Martijn Gilbert, Managing Director of Hull Trains

and Lumo, the company that has applied to run the new service from Rochdale to London with a stop at Eccles (see above)! He will talk about Lumo's plans for the new service and no doubt other related matters. It should be an excellent evening and having attracted such an important speaker, we must try to get as big a turn-out as possible. I hope as many of you will attend as possible and please pass on the details to family and friends. A notice for the AGM will accompany this newsletter. Eccles Community Hall / Town Hall is situated in the centre of Eccles, near to the bus station and a short walk down Church Street from Eccles Station.

#### 6) **Membership**

All current membership of FRECCLES has been extended to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2024. New subs will be collected at the AGM. It has been decided to hold the FRECCLES subscription at £1 for the coming year but we would welcome any donations that would help to sustain our gardening activities and pay for room hire etc. In the meantime, the FRECCLES Committee will look at agreeing a new subscription rate for 2025 onwards.

#### 7) **Community Rail Network**

A copy of the Chair and Chief Executive's latest report will accompany this newsletter.

