



FRECCLES Members and Supporters Newsletter No 3.

December 2021.

Hello to all our Members and Supporters as we begin to approach Christmas. We hope that we find you safe and well.

We held a successful AGM on Tuesday 9th November at which Simon Abbott from Northern Railway addressed the meeting on the role of Northern in the Community. This was followed by a lengthy Q&A session during which Simon dealt with a number of issues from the audience. There followed updates from the various FRECCLES groups and the usual financial report and elections of officers.

As regards, local services, there is advance notice of closures at Manchester Victoria over the festive period so do check with National Rail Enquiries before travelling during that time. Also, at Piccadilly, work commences in January to replace the lifts on Platforms 13&14 which means the lifts will be out of action for 3 months. There will be step free access on Platform 14 but if you have mobility or access problems, it again, might be worth contacting Network Rail or the train company for further information.

The Manchester Recovery Task Force is currently consulting on plans for the December 2022 timetable which is being re-cast to alleviate the problems and delays on the Castlefield Corridor through Manchester Oxford Road and Piccadilly. The proposed timetable has a seriously negative impact on Eccles Station and would mean us losing a number of peak-time services including those to Leeds and Chester. Our Service Development Group is looking to make a series of responses to the plans in order to try to rectify this situation. If you are interested in this issue or have any comment, do get in touch (info@freccles.org.uk).

Our gardens continue to attract attention from station users and our Gardening Secretary is busy developing plans for future work on both the platform gardens and forecourt. The next Station Gardening and Clear-up session will be on Sunday 5th December at 11am. Do come along if you are free that day!! There are a variety of jobs to be done or just come down to meet the team and hear about our activities!! The latest Guidance from Northern is that our gardening activities can continue while respecting social distancing where passengers are concerned, and being sure to wear masks.

If you want to know more about the work of FRECCLES, check out our website, www.freccles.org.uk or our Facebook page.

Finally, we do hope you all enjoy the build-up to Christmas. If you are travelling by train, remember to check your travel details before departure, book in advance wherever possible, and to wear masks at all times while on the train or station!

