



## Friends of Eccles Station

# Newsletter No 6 - September 2022

Hello to all our Members and Supporters.

### 1) Gardens

Work continues on our gardens which still look very attractive as we move into the autumn. The watering regime over the dry summer seems to have been successful and most of our plants and bushes seem to have survived! The next gardening and clear-up session is on Sunday 2nd October at 11am. Do come along when you could join in with the activities or just meet the team and hear more about our work.

### 2) Platform Exhibition

If you do visit the station, just a reminder to have a look at the excellent display of old tickets at the east end of the Manchester platform. The exhibition represents a nostalgic reminder of some of the many former stations in our area that have sadly closed, as well as paying an affectionate homage to the old-style Edmonson tickets that were the standard issue for so many years in British Railways days!

### 3) Timetable Changes

One major issue of concern to FRECCLES is the changes to the timetable that will come into force in December. These changes will mean a marked reduction in services at Eccles in the peak periods and our Service Development Group has been campaigning to have these cuts reversed ever since they were first proposed. Eccles Station used to have 2 trains per hour in both directions throughout the day but lost the second service when one of our Liverpool to Manchester services was diverted to Warrington, leaving us with an hourly service. FRECCLES tried for many years to get our 2 trains per hour restored and did succeed in getting a twice hourly service at peak times but now that has been undermined by these changes.

The problem is that the railway authorities continue to underestimate the importance of Eccles, both in terms of the number of passengers using the station and the value of its connections to Media City and the Quays, Salford Royal and businesses in Eccles itself. There is growing evidence now, of people commuting INTO Eccles at peak times and so loss of services at that time will badly affect those passengers.

There are full details of the timetable changes on our Website - [www.freccles.org.uk](http://www.freccles.org.uk) . Do check these out.

The Service Development Group will continue to campaign to have these changes reversed. If you feel strongly about this issue, please spread the word about what is

happening and if you can contact your MP or local Councillor or write to TfGM/Northern Rail, it would help to support the efforts of FRECCLES to counter these changes

The other but related issue that has emerged for the Service Development Group is the evidence about overcrowding on early morning trains into Manchester – and this is before the cuts to the timetable in December!! The SDG is currently researching this problem by holding observation sessions on platform 1 during the morning peak. The results will be relayed to Northern Rail with the request for longer trains on some services.

#### **4) Facebook**

Our Facebook page continues to be well received, though the figure of 870 contacts mentioned in Newsletter 5 was probably a cumulative figure for the year and not our monthly figure which is more like 60-70contacts per posting! Much of the content of this Newsletter appears on our current Facebook page.

#### **5) Queen Elizabeth II**

Finally, we all lament the sad death of Queen Elizabeth the Second. We at Eccles have a special link to the former Queen as, after the closing ceremony of the Commonwealth games in 2002, the Queen spent the night on the Royal Train parked in the loop line at Eccles Station! Few if any stations, can claim to have had the reigning monarch sleep at their station! May she rest in peace.

**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)**