

ECCLES STATION

NEWS

2017

Festive Issue

Season's Greetings from FRECCLES to
all our members, readers and travellers to and from Eccles



The steam looks a bit snow-like, so we have gone for this as an arty shot for our festive edition:

Flying Scotsman thundering through Eccles

photo by Tony Oldfield

Readers may remember the hole being dug for the new style ticket machine:



Well here is our latest picture of it:



It's been filled in beautifully, and looks quite nice. It seems that there was not enough depth for the base of the machine at that point because it is on the bridge over the line. The machine has been placed adjacent to the ticket office instead.



As such the screen faces east, so if there is any sunshine in the mornings then the sun's rays are directly on the screen. Here is Sean, a FRECCLES member, using the machine soon after it was installed:



For the festive season, Eccles railway travellers have been given a sunshade canopy to improve things. It will also keep the rain off while you buy your tickets:



In fact, keeping the rain off purchasers will certainly be its purpose. The shot below has been adjusted to more accurately reflect the weather since the canopy appeared:



Well here is a bit more festive news for you, and a festive puzzle too. ESN was delighted by this little article on the BBC red button news:





Before looking at the next (and very informative link) can you fathom out how the carriages have been designed?

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/dec/15/world-steepest-funicular-rail-line-open-switzerland>

Transport for Greater Manchester has published the changes to services over the New Year. Zoom in on the poster on the following page:



Transport for
Greater Manchester

Christmas services

Sunday 24 December 2017 – Friday 5 January 2018

This poster shows a summary of public transport services over the Christmas holiday period. Please check your journey before travelling on these days.

Phone Transport for Greater Manchester Customer Services on **0161 244 1000**

7am – 8pm Mon to Fri, 8am – 8pm Sat, Sun & public holidays.

Or visit our journey planner at www.tfgm.com

Buses

Sunday 24 December, Christmas Eve
Sunday services. Buses will stop running from 6pm onwards.

Monday 25 December, Christmas Day
Stagecoach will run special daytime buses on service 43.
No other buses will run.

Tuesday 26 December, Boxing Day
Special buses will run on these services: Arriva 245 and 247
First 8, 17, 36, 37, 68, 81, 83, 93, 98, 100, 135, 163, 184, 409, 471 and 502.
Stagecoach 23, 42, 43, 50, 76, 85, 86, 101, 118, 192, 201, 203, 204, 216, 219, 250, 256, 330 and X50.

Special buses will also run between Manchester city centre and Old Trafford for Manchester United v Burnley match. Diamond 126, 132 and 300.
Transdev X41, X43 and City Zap.
EasyBus will run a normal service.
No other buses will run.

Wednesday 27, Thursday 28 and Friday 29 December
Buses will run a normal or modified weekday service, or Saturday service with additional early morning buses on some routes.
PMH Motors will not run.

Saturday 30 December
Normal Saturday service.
PMH Motors will not run.

Sunday 31 December, New Year's Eve
Buses will run a normal Sunday service. Most buses will stop running from 6pm onwards.
Stagecoach 42, 43, 86, 192, 201 and 219 run until approximately 4am on the morning of New Year's Day.

Monday 1 January 2018, New Year's Day
Special daytime buses will run on these services:
Stagecoach 42, 43, 86, 101, 192, 201, 203, 219 and 250.
EasyBus will run a normal service.
No other buses will run.

Tuesday 2 January to Friday 5 January
Normal service except a modified weekday timetable will run on some Stagecoach routes.

Saturday 6 January onwards
Normal service.

Metroshuttle

Manchester Metroshuttle buses will run every day except Christmas Day. Services 1, 2 and 3 will run a Sunday timetable on Boxing Day, Tuesday 26 December, and New Year's Day, Monday 1 January.

Bolton and Stockport Metroshuttle buses will not run on Christmas Day, Boxing Day or New Year's Day.

All Metroshuttle services all run normally on other days.

Metrolink

Sunday 24 December, Christmas Eve
Normal Sunday services with last trams departing Manchester city centre at approximately 9pm.

Monday 25 December, Christmas Day
No service.

Tuesday 26 December, Boxing Day
Sunday service with extra trams for Manchester United v Burnley match.

Wednesday 27, Thursday 28 and Friday 29 December
Normal weekday service.

Saturday 30 December
Normal Saturday service.

Sunday 31 December, New Year's Eve
Sunday service with later trams. Last trams depart from Manchester city centre at approximately 1am.

Monday 1 January 2018, New Year's Day
Sunday service.

Tuesday 2 January onwards
Normal service.

Local trains

Sunday 24 December, Christmas Eve
Sunday service with changes due to engineering works between Manchester Piccadilly and Oxford Road.
Trains will stop running from 7pm onwards.

Monday 25 December, Christmas Day
No service.

Tuesday 26 December, Boxing Day
No service.

Wednesday 27 December
Weekday service excluding some early morning trains. Services are also affected by changes due to engineering works at Liverpool and between Manchester Piccadilly and Oxford Road.

Thursday 28 and Friday 29 December
Normal weekday service with some late night alterations.

Saturday 30 December
Saturday service with changes due to engineering works at Liverpool and between Manchester Piccadilly and Oxford Road.

Sunday 31 December, New Year's Eve
Sunday service with changes due to engineering works at Liverpool and between Manchester Piccadilly and Oxford Road.
Trains will stop running from 7pm onwards.

Monday 1 January, 2018, New Year's Day
Altered service with changes due to engineering works at Liverpool and between Manchester Piccadilly and Oxford Road.

Tuesday 2 January onwards
Normal service.

For details of changes due to engineering works visit www.northernrailway.co.uk or www.tpexpress.co.uk/your-journey/changes-to-train-times or phone 03457 48 49 50

Ring & Ride

Sunday 24 December, Christmas Eve
Normal Sunday service until approximately 9pm.

Monday 25 December, Christmas Day
No service.

Tuesday 26 December, Boxing Day
No service.

Wednesday 27, Thursday 28 and Friday 29 December
Normal weekday service.

Saturday 30 December
Normal Saturday service.

Sunday 31 December, New Year's Eve
Normal Sunday service until approximately 9pm.

Monday 1 January, 2018, New Year's Day
No service.

Tuesday 2 January
Normal weekday service resumes.

Local Link

Sunday 24 December, Christmas Eve
Normal service until approximately 9pm.

Monday 25 December, Christmas Day
No service.

Tuesday 26 December, Boxing Day
No service.

Wednesday 27, Thursday 28 and Friday 29 December
Normal weekday service.

Saturday 30 December
Normal Saturday service.

Sunday 31 December, New Year's Eve
Normal service until approximately 9pm.

Monday 1 January, 2018, New Year's Day
No service.

Tuesday 2 January
Normal weekday service resumes.

Customer Services opening times

Sunday 24 December, Christmas Eve
8am – 6pm.

Monday 25 December, Christmas Day
Closed.

Tuesday 26 December, Boxing Day
8am – 6pm.

Wednesday 27, Thursday 28 and Friday 29 December
7am – 8pm.

Saturday 30 December
8am – 6pm.

Sunday 31 December, New Year's Eve
8am – 6pm.

Monday 1 January, 2018, New Year's Day
Closed.

Tuesday 2 January onwards
Normal opening hours.

Travelshop opening times

Sunday 24 December, Christmas Eve
Altrincham and Piccadilly Gardens
10am – 4pm.
All other Travelshops closed.

Monday 25 December, Christmas Day
Closed.

Tuesday 26 December, Boxing Day
Closed.

Wednesday 27, Thursday 28 and Friday 29 December
Normal weekday opening hours.

Saturday 30 December
Normal Saturday opening hours.

Sunday 31 December, New Year's Eve
Altrincham and Piccadilly Gardens 10am – 4pm.
All other Travelshops closed.

Monday 1 January, 2018, New Year's Day
Altrincham 9.20am – 4.50pm
All other Travelshops closed.

Tuesday 2 January onwards
Normal opening hours.

Transport for Greater Manchester uses reasonable endeavours to check the accuracy of information published and to publish changes to information in a timely manner. In no event will Transport for Greater Manchester be liable for any loss that may arise from this information being inaccurate.

On December 10th a new SUNDAY hourly stopping service was introduced at Patricroft station. These are the same trains that serve Eccles station and run between Manchester Oxford Road and Liverpool Lime Street. It seems that not all the drivers remembered to stop at Patricroft on that first day, but not unexpected as no-one in FRECCLES or FrOPS can remember when the trains last stopped at Patricroft on a Sunday..... The photo shows a small group of our enthusiasts (and one general passenger) who cheered the train in and caught the 09.00 departure from Patricroft bound for Eccles & beyond. Several stalwarts then popped over the bridge to catch the 09.10 back to Patricroft from Eccles to mark the first train stopping at Patricroft in the opposite direction.



(Photo by Neil Stapleton of Friends of Walkden Station)

Network Rail will be doing engineering work between Oxford Road and Manchester Piccadilly during the holiday period. At Lime Street the work is to complete the new platforms and relevant signalling.

<https://www.networkrail.co.uk/spotlight-christmas-2017-liverpool-lime-street/>

The Ordsall Chord opened on 10th December with a limited train service using it. Trains from Leeds via Bradford use it to Oxford Road between about 0830 to 1600 at about XX40 on weekdays; on Sundays almost all of these trains do so. The return journeys are hourly from 0938 to 1638. See table 36 which now also includes the Manchester to Blackburn via Burnley trains. (Burnley is a town much derided by The Rochdale Herald which is published on Facebook.)

See:

<https://be803fe5c416e39d38ae-aa21086260d3bd4e072d597fe09c2e80.ssl.cf3.rackcdn.com/images/timetables/2017-10/winter-timetables/Northern-36-Leeds-to-Manchester-1017.pdf>

TIMETABLES FOR ECCLES TRAINS

The timetable can be found in brochure 15. The full official timetable can be printed out from or viewed at:

<https://be803fe5c416e39d38ae-aa21086260d3bd4e072d597fe09c2e80.ssl.cf3.rackcdn.com/images/timetables/2017-10/winter-timetables/Northern-15-Liverpool-to-Manchester-1017.pdf>

The service pattern is as before but some trains have moved by a few minutes, so please do check!

Eccles Station News welcomes feedback from readers. Please do not hesitate to send in your own views, photos or snippets of news to the e-mail address below.



FRECCLES

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