

ECCLES STATION

NEWS

JULY 2016

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On 1 July a number of events will take/took place in Manchester to mark the 100th anniversary of the start of the **Battle of the Somme**, an action which claimed the lives of hundreds of thousands of soldiers. **Northern** will be adding additional capacity where possible.

- A parade will make its way through the city centre before a remembrance service is held at Manchester Cathedral. There will be road closures in place and demand on roads in and around the city centre is expected to be significantly higher than normal.
- A slow remembrance walk will go to Heaton Park, leaving Manchester Cathedral at 4pm. The route will follow Cheetham Hill Road, Bury Old Road and Sheepfoot Lane, and is due to arrive at Heaton Park at 6.30pm.
- An evening of live performances will take place at Heaton Park, one of Europe's largest municipal parks.

Virgin Trains is once again holding its Summer Seat Sale with 700,000 discounted seats up for grabs across First and Standard Class. From Tuesday 5th July to Thursday 7th July, prices on First and Standard class seats will be slashed on the rail operator's West Coast route. The discounts are for travel between Saturday 23rd July and Sunday 4th September. Discounted fares include London to Manchester/ Standard Class; originally £21, now £10.



The railway between Manchester and Buxton has reopened less than two weeks after a landslip closed the line at Middlewood. Up to 6,000 tonnes of earth and material were dislodged and washed away after the flash floods during Sunday 12 and Monday 13 June when around two inches of rain fell in two hours. Network Rail's orange army worked quickly and safely to repair the damage in less than two weeks, minimising the impact of the closure to passengers. The work involved rebuilding a section of embankment and removing track and ballast. Services resumed on Saturday morning (25 June)

Covered in a previous edition of ESN but worth mentioning again for those who are curious about the work that will take place at Piccadilly and Oxford Road stations as part of the Ordsall Chord scheme, there is a computer generated fly through of the project to be found at:

<http://www.networkrail.co.uk/improvements/northern-hub/projects/manchester-oxford-road-piccadilly/>

For those of you who would like to know a bit more about your train, including the working timetable details – or for those who simply want to know where your train is and what platform it's leaving from, you could do a lot worse than try the new **Real Time Trains website** - <http://www.realtimetrains.co.uk/> Onto the first page, type in the station of your choice and up come the current trains, which platform they're leaving from and whether they're late or not. Double-click on a specific train and you get its route, together with the booked time and alongside, its actual time. Click on one of the stations and you get taken to that ...and so on. Clicking on the 'More Detail' hyperlink in the

bottom-right corner brings up a wealth of additional information, including sectional running times, passing times and all the other complex detail involved in running train services! Click on a station and you get the full working timetable and platform information. The data appears to be derived from TRUST, the industry's standard information program. The website only has an Android app.

*From this summer everything customers need to know about which trains and routes their specific type of ticket – such as Advance or Super Off-Peak – is valid on, plus information about refunds and compensation, will be brought together on the rail industry's national website. **National Rail Enquiries'** website is merging information from different sources to create a more user-friendly guide. Typing in a simple summary of the ticket bought will take the customer to quick links to detailed information about when it is valid and other conditions that might apply.*

OUT AND ABOUT...



£17.50 buys an off peak return to Lancaster from Eccles (cheaper for children and rail card holders). Travel is via Victoria to Wigan Wallgate then walk over to Wigan North Western for a very fast train to Lancaster. Apart from the

lovely and very lived in little city there are numerous pleasant walks in the outskirts. One of these is along the old Green Ayre line by the River Lune.



A train to Leeds (via Carnforth) awaits departure from Lancaster Castle station. The Green Ayre line trains used to depart from the platform in the back ground.



The trains made a steep descent on a viaduct from the Castle to the Green Ayre station down at the riverside.



The new bridge across the Lune is for pedestrians and cyclists. The partss linked to the Green Ayre line provide some good cycling routes into the countryside.



The trains were electric multiple units taking power from overhead wires. They were somewhat like the old Altrincham Line trains. In Green Ayre station they reversed to go over the viaduct on the right to Morecambe and Heysham.



At the other end of the station area is a reminder of steam days with the smoke baffles projecting from the road over bridge. This line ran through Wennington to Skipton and Leeds



A goods crane remains and in front of it is a plaque marking the conversion of the line to footpaths and cycle way.

The line can be walked along to meet the canal which can then be used to return to the centre of the city.



...By TRAIN from ECCLES STATION.



ARTICLES

No Brainer.

You could be forgiven if you think occasionally that our public transport has been organised by brainless organisms. Perhaps you are being a little harsh in your judgement of uncerebral creatures – they might be able to do it better! Atsushi Tero + 8 others at Hokkaido University reported in **Science 327** (2010) at pp 439-422 a study they conducted using **Physarum polycephalum** – slime mould.

It explores for food by spreading out as a thin yellow slime. Gradually the slime contracts to form a network of tubes linking the discovered food sources and distributing it efficiently throughout the organism. The Japanese team placed food at 36 places corresponding to chief cities in the Tokyo region (and gave a coastline shaped boundary) and within 26 hours it had produced a map very close to that of the actual network. In addition the network formed is robust rather than cost effective and fragile.





BOOK REVIEW:

**'THE MAKING OF A RAILWAY – the building of the
Great Central'**

by L T C Rolt ISBN 0905778286. Sutton Publishing £6.99

Available at Eccles Librths official opening in 1899 The Great Central Railway was a late comer on the mainline railway scene in Britain, making a detailed photographic record of its construction possible. This was undertaken on an amateur basis by S W A Newton, a Leicester photographer. He produced over 2000 glass plates of direct and unromantic images of the project.

The selection of images for this book was made by the transport writer L T C Rolt, and he provides brief informed commentary to accompany them.

The book is available at Eccles Library.

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

info@freccles.org.uk tel: 0161 789 5016

Visit our website: www.freccles.org.uk

