

# ECCLES STATION NEWS

2017

October-December

Welcome to the revamped Eccles Station News.



ESN feels that the Clarendon (or birdcage) Bridge turned out to be worth waiting for. The added artworks have transformed what was a very basic structure into something of interest that adds a little pleasure to life. The editor congratulates all who helped to bring this about.

Volunteers still turn up on the first Sunday of each month to tidy the station and maintain the garden and tubs. You are most welcome to join us sometime between 11.00 to 13.00 if you want some gentle activity on a Sunday.



The volunteers are around, honestly!



In a damp shady spot are newly planted Bergenias, with their leathery leaves, in front of the left-hand part of the wave of paler colour.

### **FRECCLES Meeting:**

FRECCLES is holding its next general meeting on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October at Eccles Fire Station (Community Room) at 7pm. If you wish to attend, let us know and we will send you full details & agenda.

**FRECCLES & FrOPS present.....**

**World Pioneer:**

**By Rail from Liverpool to Manchester**

*Presentation by*

**Dr Michael R. Bailey, MBE, DPhil, MA**

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2017**

**7.30pm**

Eccles Community Hall (ECHO)

Church Street, Eccles M30 0LH

**FREE ENTRY (but donations welcome...)**

Advance booking is *essential* for this event  
as places are limited.

Book via Eventbrite at [www.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk)

(enter **world pioneer** into event search box to make your booking, or in case of difficulty email [freccles@btinternet.com](mailto:freccles@btinternet.com) and we can send you a direct link or call us on the number below....)

Eccles Community Hall will be open from 7.00pm when hot drinks, light snacks and a licensed bar will be available. Free parking in local council car parks from 6pm & rail/bus/tram stations close by

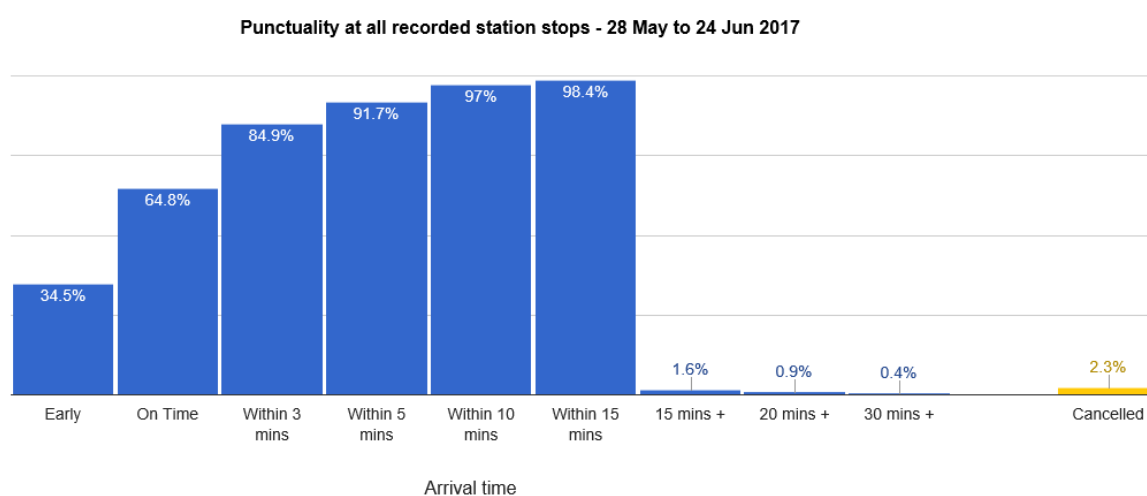
Organised by FRECCLES and FROPS – the Friends groups of the two Eccles stations on this World Pioneer line

For further information call FRECCLES on  
0161 789 5016 or email [freccles@btinternet.com](mailto:freccles@btinternet.com)

## Miscellany:

Since July of this year the measure of punctuality of Britain's trains has changed. Train punctuality is to be measured to the minute – the current measure is within 5 or 10 minutes. It is also planned to measure punctuality at every station on a train's journey rather than just at the destination. At present this is technologically possible at about 80% of stations. Below is a sample period illustrated graphically:

### New industry measure



*Unfortunately, Northern rail services were affected badly as the RMT had chosen to strike on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> October. This is part of a series of ongoing strikes over the issue of whether the driver or the guard operates the train doors. Richard Allan, Northern's Deputy Managing Director, said: "RMT continues to reject our offers to talk and we are disappointed that the union [had] called further strike action on Tuesday 3 and Thursday 5 October. We are still prepared to guarantee jobs and current pay for all our conductors for the next eight years."*

On 4<sup>th</sup> October, Transport Secretary Chris Grayling opened a new north-west rail academy which is due to train 500 apprentices over the next 5 years. The Alstom Academy for Rail in Widnes, Cheshire, is due to take on 20 new apprentices this autumn, and offer further 30 apprenticeship places to current Alstom staff. The numbers will rise to 135 by 2021.

*The Office of Rail and Road is running a consultation up to 6<sup>th</sup> of November. The consultation is asking:*

- *for views on the organization which consumers will be signposted to when their complaint is unresolved*
- *for the time limit for informing consumers of their right to go to the alternative dispute resolution (ADR) scheme*
- *whether regulatory intervention is necessary to require ADR scheme membership*
- *if we should set out clarifications in the existing complaints handling procedures guidance used by rail companies*

*Responses to this consultation are invited by Wednesday 7 November 2017 and should be sent in writing or by email to:*

*CHP@orr.gsi.gov.uk*

*Consumer Policy Team  
2nd Floor  
Office of Rail and Road  
One Kemble Street  
London  
WC2B 4AN*

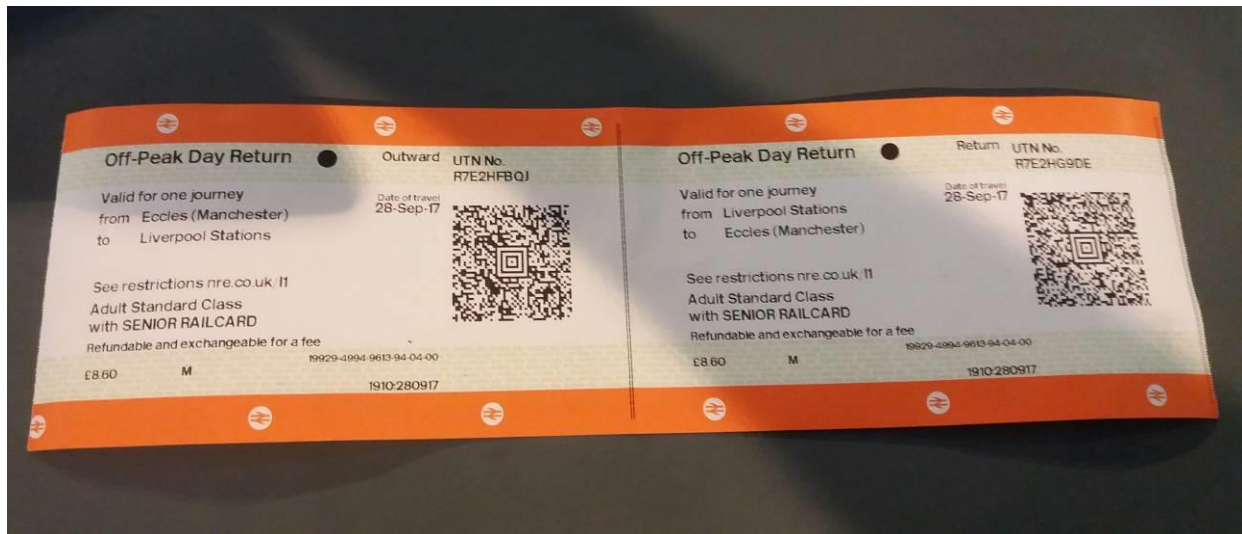
*See:: <http://orr.gov.uk/rail/consultations/open-consultations/changes-to-complaints-handling-guidance>*



During October (up to and including the 22<sup>nd</sup>) trains to Liverpool Lime Street station will be affected by significant engineering work. This is to introduce the long planned fourth track through Hayton and to create extra platforms on the south side of Liverpool Lime Street station. During this period trains from Eccles will terminate at St Helens Junction whence there will be a service of express and stopping buses onwards to Liverpool. The work was already in progress before the closure period:



New style railway tickets are gradually coming into use. They are paper and somewhat larger so can fold into a wallet or pocket.



They will not fit into ticket barrier slots but operate the gates when passed over a screen that picks up the square pattern on the front. They are issued from a fat mobile phone sort of device which is much less bulky than the card ticket machines.

*ESN's editor took a trip to Lime Street station just before the engineering work started. Hence the ticket photo above. The purpose of the trip was to meet some friends there and sample a few pubs and beers. The whole trip was excellent with splendid beers in remarkably good pubs (is there an ESN article in that?), and a good value rail fare for the trip. This was £8.60 off peak return from Eccles with a senior railcard. Good value.*





This sign in The Dispensary (an excellent little pub) would not go amiss on some of our trains in the region.



Sometimes a little thing just helps cap a good day properly. I alighted at Patricroft station on return from Liverpool and walked down Shakespeare Crescent towards Eccles:





*Does any reader know how many months have elapsed with the electronic bus timetable sign out of action in Eccles? Well to be fair one dot of it is working (zoom in to see).*



*The maintenance of this bus station is close to over the top but this does not seem to cover the sign. Perhaps it is due to be replaced with real time information as on railway electronic displays? Or is that hoping too much.*

Those Mobikes are now turning up everywhere. Here is the first one spotted by ESN near Eccles. The bikes are left anywhere by the previous user and are found and unlocked by the next user by means of a mobile phone app.

See: <https://www.mobike.com/uk/>



## ARTICLES

### *Manchester Piccadilly: photographs of a busy railway station.*

A large railway station is about many things, not just the trains arriving and departing. Mainly the photos speak for themselves, but... that is quite a product offering on that one face of the electronic departure board is it not?

That all too common Manchester weather is present on the only outside view! Big railway stations seem to be turning into very pleasant convenient places to shop or to meet people. Such commercial property development is a key part of railway development as that is where most of the created value of rail enhancements emerges. It paid for United States railway system.



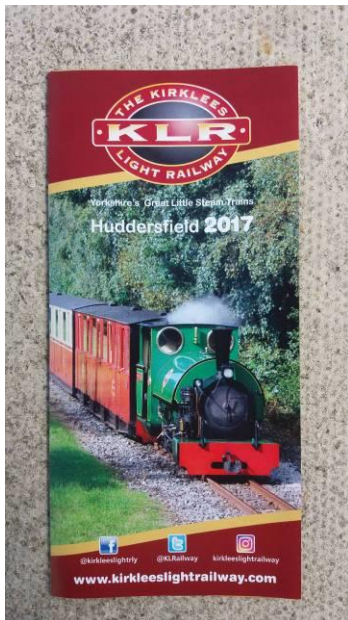








***A rather full day out near Huddersfield.***



The rail fare to Shepley in West Yorkshire is unlikely to break the bank. Travel to Huddersfield and change onto the stopping train to Sheffield via Barnsley. This departs from the little bay platform 2 at the Manchester end of Platform 1. Just over a mile's walk along the lanes (signposted) takes you to the middle of a field where you will find the terminus of the Kirklees Light Railway.

From here this 15" gauge steam railway potters slowly through tunnels and cuttings over bridges, embankments and through farms to arrive at the old

Clayton West station which is in an industrial estate at Clayton West. The railway is laid on the former standard gauge branch line which continued a short distance for coal traffic from the local colliery.



The locos are quite impressive. Hawk is a single Fairlie locomotive (one boiler, two power bogies) with air brakes and Kylchap 'blast' pipe – the blast being a misnomer with this system. There are four other steam locos and one diesel and all have been built specifically for the line.



Now you might want to be sensible and return to Shepley and then the varied delights of Huddersfield (which is a splendid Victorian town) but ESN's exploratory duo were more adventurous (and not sensible). We found our way out of the industrial estate and into Clayton West itself (difficult) then took a lane roughly opposite what was a continuation of the railway. After not far the lane ran out and then there was a short stretch across a field. Across the road the path continues into Bretton Park which is the home of the impressive Yorkshire Sculpture Park. With the hot sunny weather this was great to explore (cups of tea essential).





Bretton Hall and Park are the results of colliery and mineral rights ownership. The hall is to be converted into a luxury hotel. This is imaginative repurposing of something worth keeping.



Of course, you can walk back to Clayton West or take the bus back to there. We missed the last bus to anywhere because it was a Bank Holiday and hence the last train on KLR so ended up walking to Barnsley to get the train back to Huddersfield. Tired feet combined with raging thirst forced us to visit a couple of the very good pubs in Huddersfield including The King's Arms at the East end of Huddersfield's fine railway station. This was a good way to wait for a train back to Manchester (and to miss one or two).



**Tired feet relaxing in The King's Arms.**

At this stage the editor could not choose which of these two little day capping items to use so here are both of them:



For more details of the railway see: <http://www.kirkleeslightrailway.com/>

### ***TIMETABLES FOR ECCLES TRAINS***

*The full official timetable can be printed out from or [viewed here](#):*

*ESN has prepared an abstract from that timetable. It is on the succeeding two pages so that if desired you can print out a page for travel to or from Manchester, or the second page for travel to or from Liverpool direction. Please note that the editor has checked to make sure that the times given are as accurate as possible but would be glad to hear if any corrections are needed.*

### **TO MANCHESTER AND BACK**

**ECCLES TO MANCHESTER VICTORIA** (journey time about 13mins)

**Monday to Friday**

0610 0710 0810 0834 0910 1010 1111 1210 1311 1411 1510 1611  
 1710 1731 1811 1829 1910 2010 2112 2212 2310 0010

**Saturday**

0611 0710 0810 0832 0910 1010 1111 1210 1311 1411 1510 1610  
 1710 1731 1811 1829 1910 2010 2110 2211 2310 0010

*MANCHESTER VICTORIA TO ECCLES (journey time about 7mins)*

**Monday to Friday**

0539 0602 0702 0738 0802 0838 0902 1002 1102 1202 1302 1402  
 1502 1602 1702 1738 1802 1902 2002 2109 2209 2309

**Saturday**

0539 0602 0702 0738 0802 0838 0902 1002 1102 1202 1302 1402  
 1502 1602 1702 1738 1802 1902 2002 2109 2209 2309

*ECCLES TO MANCHESTER OXFORD ROAD, PICCADILLY AND AIRPORT (journey times about 10, 13 and 30mins respectively)*

**Sunday**

0902 1002 1102 1202 1302 1402 1502 1602 1702 1802 1902 2002  
 2102 2202 2302 0002

*MANCHESTER PICCADILLY TO ECCLES (trains depart Airport about 20 mins earlier than these times, and about 2mins later for Oxford Road)*

**Sunday**

0859 1001 1101 1201 1301 1401 1501 1601 1701 1801 1901 2001  
 2101 2201 2301

TO LIVERPOOL LIME STREET AND BACK

*ECCLES TO LIVERPOOL LIME STREET (journey time about 55mins.)*

**Monday to Friday**

0547 0609 0709 0745 0809 0845 0909 1009 1109 1209 1309 1409  
1509 1609 1709 1745 1809 1909 2009 2116 2216 2316

**Saturday**

0547 0609 0709 0745 0809 0845 0909 1009 1109 1209 1309 1409  
1509 1609 1709 1745 1809 1909 2009 2116 2216 2316

*Trains also call at the following stations with approximate journey times in brackets:*

*Patricroft (3) Newton le Willows (14) Earlestown (17) St Helens Junction (22) Lea Green (25) Rainhill (29)  
Whiston (32) Huyton (36) Roby (38) Broad Green (42) Wavertree Technology Park (45) Edge Hill (48)*

**Sunday**

0911 1011 1111 1211 1311 1411 1511 1611 1711 1811 1911 2011  
2111 2211 2311

*Trains omit Patricroft and Edge Hill stations on Sundays but do call at the following stations with approximate journey times as given above.*

*LIVERPOOL LIME STREET TO ECCLES (journey time about 50mins.)*

**Monday to Friday**

0520 0620 0720 0820 0920 1021 1120 1221 1321 1420 1520 1620  
1642 1721 1739 1820 1920 2022 2122 2220 2319

**Saturday**

0520 0620 0720 0820 0920 1020 1120 1221 1321 1420 1520 1620  
1642 1721 1739 1820 1920 2020 2120 2220 2319

*Trains also call at the following stations. The approximate time after departure from Lime Street is given in brackets. Edge Hill (4) Wavertree Technology Park (6)*

*Broad Green (9) Roby (13) Huyton (15) Whiston (19) Rainhill (22) Lea Green (25) St Helens Junction (28)  
Earlestown (33) Newton le Willows (36) Patricroft (47)*

**Sunday**

0911 1011 1111 1211 1311 1411 1511 1611 1711 1811 1911 2011  
2111 2211 2311

*Trains omit Patricroft and Edge Hill stations on Sundays but do call at the following stations. The approximate time after departure from Lime Street is given in brackets. Wavertree Technology Park (5)*

*Broad Green (8) Roby (12) Huyton (14) Whiston (18) Rainhill (21) Lea Green (24) St Helens Junction (27)  
Earlestown (32) Newton le Willows (35)*

## Stop press

FRECCLES has two events coming up – please see earlier in Eccles Station News for details....

**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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