

# ECCLES STATION NEWS

September 2016

## NEWS

### **Advertorial**

**Northern rail** is setting up an Innovation Board and wishes to recruit a volunteer customer advocate to sit on this board. Interested individuals may apply for this position which will go to a person with the following qualities:

open-minded and curious

prepared to listen to others, entertain conflicting viewpoints and use these to develop new ideas

regular traveller on the rail network in the north of England

willing to attend four half-day Board meetings a year at different venues in the North of England - this is an honorary position, but reasonable travel expenses will be paid

***the next meeting is scheduled for the afternoon of 5th September in York. You should be available for that meeting to be considered for this position***

prepared to talk (formally or informally) to other rail travellers, ask them for feedback and ideas

If you think this is for you then please send us a short message of no more than 200 words to tell us why you think you are the right person for this position to [innovation@northernrailway.co.uk](mailto:innovation@northernrailway.co.uk)

Fun was had with the story of a ‘ram packed’ Virgin train on which **Jeremy Corbyn** was filmed sitting on the floor preaching the supposed benefits that nationalisation would bring. **Virgin Trains** promptly released a rebuttal in the form of video footage seeming to show large numbers of empty seats on the train concerned. See: <https://www.virgintrains.co.uk/about/media-room#>

**Metrolink** services have resumed on the Eccles line and through the City Centre between St Peter’s Square and Piccadilly Gardens. See the Metrolink press release at <http://www.metrolink.co.uk/pages/news.aspx?newsID=367>

The “**Glass Bridge**” footbridge across the motorway from Eccles station/Church Street is now closed to replace the ageing superstructure. The closure is for up to 3 months. ESN readers who normally use this bridge to reach Eccles station will find the diversions are via Albert Road or Gilda Brook Road. The station itself is unaffected so please make a few more minutes for your journey



The retaining wall at the back of platform 2 (Liverpool platform) has been stripped of its ivy and most of the weeds growing out of the mortar between the bricks have been cut off. The wall has been marked out with various mysterious numbers and perhaps it is due to be repointed as it certainly needs it. However, the work has resulted in some damage to the planting on the rockery which **members of FRECCLES** are now working to put right.



*Work is continuing on the Ordsall Chord scheme. The girder bridge over the Irwell to the Great Western side of Liverpool Road goods station has been removed to reveal the original Stephenson crossing of the river which will undergo restoration.*



*It is looking as if the South Junction viaduct will be widened on the south side and track added to cross Ordsall Lane, judging by the work taking place near the former Duncan Transrail area.*



## **OUT AND ABOUT...**

A train ride to Southport followed by a walk along Chapel Street to Hesketh Park







**...By TRAIN from ECCLES STATION.**

### **ARTICLES**

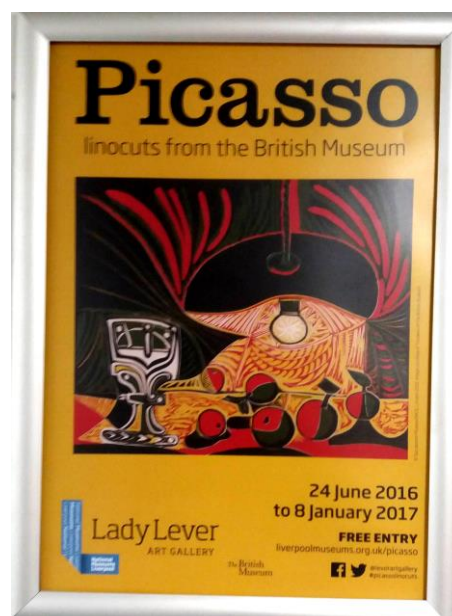
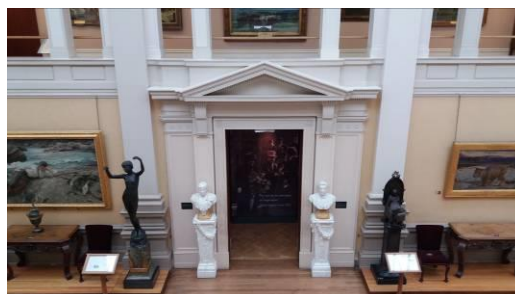
## ***Liverpool and The Wirral***

ESN has recently been revisiting parts of Liverpool and the Wirral peninsula. A cheap and quick train ride from Eccles Station in that direction offers a host of leisure options for days or afternoons out. Just a few are chosen here to illustrate the possibilities.

At Lime Street descend to the Wirral line and visit Port Sunlight, the delightful village created for the workforce at the Sunlight Soap factory by William Lever, later Lord Leverhulme.



In the centre is the most amazing art gallery built as a memorial to his wife. When ESN visited there was a small exhibition of how Picasso developed his own way of doing lino cut prints.



In the opposite direction on the Wirral line is New Brighton a small village surrounded by acres of sandy beach and with fine view across to Liverpool.



ESN took the opportunity to break the journey at Birkenhead Hamilton Square. The square is large and impressive. It is a fine early nineteenth century creation worth seeing for itself. ESN went off the square at the corner nearest the station to visit Gallagher's (but not for a hair cut).







In Liverpool itself ESN visited the Walker Art Gallery which was also hosting the John Moore's Prize exhibition at the time.



The Walker has an impressive collection including a crowded array of fine statuary in one room.



You can get suggested itineraries for visiting Liverpool or the Wirral by going to the FRECCLES website at <http://www.freccles.org.uk/trips.asp>

# Stop press



On a traditional Manchester day (hence the shelter,) FRECCLES members met with the Judges for ACoRP's "It's Your Station" award 2016. FRECCLES have been shortlisted for an award in this category. Awards are to be presented on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> September at the national Community Rail Awards in Southport.

Results in next ESN.

*Photo shows: (L to R) Ann Taverner, Paul Cook (ACoRP judge), Sarvin Farzaad, Steve Hopkins and Paul Bigland (ACoRP judge)*

**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.



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