

# ECCLES STATION NEWS



Spring & Summer 2017

Welcome to the revamped Eccles Station News which is now to be produced quarterly. There will be a greater emphasis on Eccles station, FRECCLES and related matters but this will not exclude some coverage of wider news, community matters and occasional articles.



*This issue contains the notice of and agenda for the Friends of Eccles Station Annual Meeting in April. This is an important event in FRECCLES' calendar in terms of information and discussion of transport matters with the wider membership and public. For our local readers, please do try to attend this meeting (it is not just dry formal business)*



**ARE YOU INTERESTED IN RAIL TRAVEL  
TO & FROM ECCLES STATION?**

**You are invited on  
Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2017  
from 7pm**

**to  
Friends of Eccles Station  
(FRECCLES)  
Annual Presentation Meeting**

**Meet the Managers**  
**find out about Northern Railway's services and developments**

**Plus.....  
Presentations from FRECCLES**

*Our plans for the future  
In the community  
At the station  
Heritage and History*

**Support our work:  
why not be a "Friend of Eccles Station"**

*To be held at.....*

**Eccles Community Hall (ECHO)  
Eccles Town Hall  
Church Street, Eccles, M30 0LH**



***Disabled access and lift available at ECHO.  
Parking free in local car parks from 6pm***

If you cannot attend but would like to be a "Friend of Eccles Station" then please call FRECCLES secretary, Elizabeth, on 0161 789 5016.

If you are intending to go to this meeting, if you can, please email FRECCLES secretary, Elizabeth via [frecclles@btinternet.com](mailto:frecclles@btinternet.com) to let us know.

## TIMETABLES FOR ECCLES TRAINS

The full official timetable can be printed out from or viewed at:

<https://be803fe5c416e39d38ae-aa21086260d3bd4e072d597fe09c2e80.ssl.cf3.rackcdn.com/images/timetables/2016-11/route-timetables/Northern15web1216.pdf>

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

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 1910 2010 2112 2212 2310 0010

#### **Saturdays**

0611 0710 0810 0832 0910 1010 1111 1210 1311 1411 1510 1610  
1710 1731 1811 1910 2010 2110 2210 2310 0010

### To: ECCLES from Manchester Victoria

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

#### **Saturdays**

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 approx. 10, 13 and 30mins respectively)*

**Sundays**

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

***MANCHESTER PICCADILLY TO ECCLES***

*(trains depart Airport approx. 20 mins earlier than these times and about 2 mins later departing Oxford Road)*

**Sundays**

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

**TO: LIVERPOOL LIME STREET**

*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)*

**Sundays**

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

*Trains do not call at Patricroft and Edge Hill stations on Sundays but do call at the other above-mentioned 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 do not call at 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)*

## More pictures and details of work on and around the Ordsall Chord....



Readers should note that there is significant work still to be done on this project. This will affect rail services on some weekends and in particular, over the Easter period. Rail services at Eccles station will be affected then so check your journey out in advance. It looks as if trains will run from Eccles to and from Liverpool direction but not to Manchester.

Starting over the Easter weekend and continuing through April (Thursday 13 April to Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May), remodelling work will be taking place around Salford Central station. This will include widening an existing viaduct, strengthening structures, and demolishing and replacing Chapel Street bridge.

New Bailey Street bridge and a section of Chapel Street bridge will be strengthened. A crane will remove the old section of bridge and a new section will be driven into place by a Self-Propelled Modular Transporter (SPMT) – similar to the SPMT machines that transport NASA rockets.

New overhead line equipment and signalling will be installed, and track from Salford Central and Manchester Victoria will be realigned to accommodate the new layout. Middlewood viaduct is being widened, also to accommodate the new section of track.

To complete the work safely, some train services will be affected throughout the year until early October – for services coming into and out of Manchester Victoria:

- Early Thursday 13 April until the last service on bank holiday Monday 1 May
- Every Sunday from May 7 until 2 July
- Early Sunday 28 May until the last service on bank holiday 29 May
- Early Saturday 8 and 15 July until the last service on Sunday 9 and 16 July
- Sunday 20 and 27 August
- Saturday 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30 September
- Sunday 3, 10, 17, 24 September and 1 October

A replacement bus service will operate between Manchester Victoria and Salford Crescent from Friday 14 April to Sunday 16 April, and alternative routes will be open.

**13<sup>th</sup> April to 1<sup>st</sup> May:**

***Monday to Saturday: All trains from or to Eccles and Patricroft stations will be starting or terminating at Manchester Oxford Road.***

***Sunday: The normal Eccles service to/from Manchester Airport will run***

Passengers are advised to plan their journey ahead and check before they travel with [www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk)

Northern have also produced a small (92 page) booklet giving all the changes and timetables for the period of work between 13<sup>th</sup> April and 1<sup>st</sup> May. This is available at Eccles and Manchester Victoria stations or can be downloaded [here](#) or by clicking on the image below.





Trains that run from Walkden and Bolton to Manchester Victoria will also be affected and special timetables are also available for these services.

Below are links to websites with information regarding the engineering work:

<http://www.nationalrail.co.uk/>

<https://www.northernrailway.co.uk/news/improvements/1074-easter-weekend-route-improvement-work>

<https://www.networkrail.co.uk/our-railway-upgrade-plan/key-projects/northern-programmes/>

<https://www.networkrail.co.uk/running-the-railway/our-routes/lmw/ordsall-chord/>

**There will also be road closures in the area due to the extensive work:**

- Chapel Street – between New Bailey Street and Bury Street – Monday 10 April to Friday 28 April
- Yorkshire Street – Friday 7 April to Friday 28 April
- Johnson Street – Friday 7 April to Friday 28 April
- Browncross Street and Quay Street – Friday 7 April to Friday 28 April.

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## **Strikes to come.**

Northern and Merseyrail train services were affected by a strike called by the Rail, Maritime and Transport (RMT) Union on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> April which just happened to be the day of The Grand National Race at Aintree Race Course, Liverpool. Normally trains around Manchester and Liverpool are usually incredibly busy on this day each year which could possibly explain why this date had been chosen for the strike. The RMT is objecting to the potential introduction of Driver Only Operated trains on the two networks in a few years' time. On the Southern Network, such trains are already in wide use and being operated by ASLEF (the train drivers' union) and RMT members but the unions are in dispute over this. Indeed, the ASLEF leadership was surprised when their members on Southern voted against accepting a compromise negotiated by their union leaders.

It seems likely that there will be more strikes relating to this issue so it is worth noting what arrangements have been made by Northern for this one. Limited service will run on the strike days and be announced in advance. In some cases, there will be replacement bus services in operation. Ticket holders will be allowed to use Arriva buses on the strike day or



use the trains run by a different franchise. Season ticket holders should receive an automatic refund for each strike day.

For a detailed view of the arrangements see:

<https://www.northernrailway.co.uk/industrial-action>

## **Spring is here at Eccles Station:**



## **Stations to become community hubs?**

Transport for Greater Manchester is proposing that it take over the 94 railway stations in the region as part of transport devolution plans. TfGM is dissatisfied with the state of the railway stations (hardly surprising) and believes there is little incentive for improvement for

holders of short franchises. It does seem possible that long term local ownership could improve things, especially if the ownership is accountable to travellers for their actions (or inactivity?). TfGM talks of £400,000,000 being made available over the next couple of decades if this transfer occurs. Station Friends Groups will need to put their thinking caps on if this ambitious plan goes ahead!

Much more detail and reasoning is to be found at:

[http://www.tfgm.com/Corporate/media\\_centre/Pages/News.aspx?articleId=1184](http://www.tfgm.com/Corporate/media_centre/Pages/News.aspx?articleId=1184)

### BOOK REVIEW:

## 'LIFE IN A RAILWAY FACTORY'

by Alfred Williams ISBN 9780750946605

Sutton Publishing £14.99 Available at Eccles Library.

Alfred Williams, born 1877, left school at 11 to work on a farm. At 15 he took up employment at the Great Western Railway's Swindon Works, and it is about his experiences in the factories there that he writes. An intelligent man, he spent most of his spare time in reading writing and self education. Thus, this book (first published 1915) is perceptive, poignant and realistic about the harsh work condition of the time, and written in lucid prose. The technical and the human issues are both covered.

**The book is available at Eccles Library.**

### Eccles and District History Society (E&DHS)

Our friends and fellow Eccles enthusiasts at the Eccles and District History Society (E&DHS) - are a society for people interested in the history of Eccles and the surrounding area.

They have regular talks running from September to May that take place once a month on Wednesdays at Alexandra House (M30 7HB) on Liverpool Road, Patricroft from 7.30pm.

Annual membership is £16 which includes all the talks listed below and access to walks & visits arranged during the year.

Individual talks listed are also available to non-members at £3 each, payable on the day.

**2017/2018 programme of events & talks:**

2017

13<sup>th</sup> September – Local travel since 1628 – Mark Child

11<sup>th</sup> October – Edith Cavell: a Salford WWI heroine – David Winston

8<sup>th</sup> November – The Co-op Movement – Gillian Lonergan

13<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas meal (TBA)

2018

10<sup>th</sup> January – The 1851 Visit of Queen Victoria – Paul Speakman

14<sup>th</sup> February – Manchester Docks to Salford Quays – David George

14<sup>th</sup> March – Barton Bridges falling down – Judith Atkinson

11<sup>th</sup> April – The Liverpool to Manchester Monorail – Tony Wright

9<sup>th</sup> May – Eccles as it was, -an illustrated talk (follows the AGM) – Chris Carson

For more information: Website <http://edhs.btck.co.uk/> Email [eccleshistory@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:eccleshistory@yahoo.co.uk)

**The editor says** that this is the first of the quarterly newsletters and is a work in progress. A plan is being developed for the year's editions to match them to the calendar of significant dates and to facilitate greater input from volunteers and local people. The outline plan will be in the next quarter's edition. In the meantime, any suggestions from readers on local railway issues and volunteer work would be welcome.

**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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Visit our website: [www.freccles.org.uk](http://www.freccles.org.uk)

