



FRECCLES – Friends of Eccles Station.

Newsletter No 4 April 2022

I hope this newsletter finds all our members, supporters and friends as well as can be expected in this ongoing pandemic.

FRECCLES work over the winter has mainly focussed on sustaining the station gardens which continue to earn praise from passengers and railway personnel alike. The gardens have been cleared of winter debris and weeded and pruned where necessary. The new beds have been planted together with additions to the forecourt planters as well. (Thanks go to Jim and Pat for much of this work). The next station garden session and clear-up is on Sunday May 1st at 11am. Anybody is welcome to come down and join us and meet the gardening team and maybe look at ways you could join in if you were interested.

Our Chair is seeking to organise a meeting of the FRECCLES group and is consulting as to whether this should be a Zoom meeting or a face to face get-together - possibly at Eccles Parish Church where we held a successful AGM in November. I will circulate the details of the meeting once a decision has been reached.

The Heritage Group is currently pursuing two projects with local primary schools. One is an art project with Beech Street Primary and the other a history project with Christchurch Primary School. These are very positive developments with respect to our involvement with the community. Meanwhile, Mark is applying to Northern Rail for funding for display panels he has designed, possibly to be attached to the wall of the cycle store on the forecourt?

The Service Development Group completed its joint response with the Friends of Patricroft Station, to the consultation on the future of the Castlefield corridor. The option chosen after all the feedback, will be implemented over this coming year and we await to see the impact on our services from Eccles. Meanwhile discussions have continued about a proposed Community Rail Partnership for the 2 Liverpool to Manchester lines (our line over Chat Moss and the Cheshire Lines route via

Warrington). It is however, a complicated process and progress has been limited so far.

From Monday May 23rd to Sunday May 29th, Community Rail Network (formerly ACoRP) is promoting a Community Rail Week in conjunction with the Rail Delivery Group which represents train operating companies. The theme of the week is 'Give the Train a Try' and the aim is to get passengers lost to the railway during Covid, back on the trains.

Commuter services are never likely to return to pre-Covid levels but the leisure market for rail is performing better and there is scope to encourage more people to return to the trains or to try the train for the first time. Of course, we realise that people may still have anxieties about using public transport when Covid rates remain high, but Network Rail and the train companies are doing all they can to make rail travel as safe as possible. So FRECCLES will be supporting this initiative with a poster campaign and possibly other ideas and we hope that all our members and contacts will do what they can with friends and relatives to back this promotion.

If you are interested in finding out more about FRECCLES, do get in touch (info @[freccles.org.uk](mailto:info@freccles.org.uk) or tel 0161 789 5016) , visit our website www.freccles.org.uk or find us on Facebook.

