



## **FRECCLES Members and Supporters Newsletter May 2021**

Hello to all our Members, Friends and Supporters. We hope you are all safe and well and are looking forward to better times as the Covid restrictions are lifted.

FRECCLES continues to maintain the station gardens under rules set down by Northern Trains which limit participation on the station to nominated individuals. However, if the opening-up scheduled for 21st June goes ahead and is not derailed by new Covid variants, we are hoping to resume our regular garden sessions on the first Sunday of the month to which we will be able to invite all members and supporters who are interested in joining in. Despite the limitations on our gardening work since the pandemic, the station gardens still look very attractive if you want to take a look when you are next at the station. Much of this is due to the planting regime by Jim, Pat and others.

Our Art and Heritage Group, led by Ann and Mark, continues to look at ideas for future events.

In the meantime, we continue to work with our partners in Northern Trains and TfGM to seek improvements to the physical environment of the station and to improve services. We are particularly keen to have the Manchester platform re-surfaced round the shelters and to have fly-tipping removed from the rear of the Liverpool platform. Our Chair is in regular contact with Simon Abbott, the new Community and Sustainability Manager at Northern Trains, who has been down to the station to see things first-hand.

The new timetable came into force on May 16th and the good news is that the full pre-Covid time table for Eccles Station has resumed. This restores 3 services in the morning peak to Manchester Victoria with 2 going on to Leeds, and we will have 5 services in the evening peak from Manchester Victoria to Eccles with 2 going to Chester. These services now certainly enable a day trip to Chester - with 3 trains in the morning and 3 back in the afternoon (except Sundays)! However, the advice as always, is to check train times before you travel - either via the Northern Trains website or via National Rail Enquiries and always be sure to follow the safety advice when travelling.

So we will be in touch again in June and let's hope that normalisation is able to proceed and FRECCLES can look forward to resuming its activities once again.



