

Tuesday 7 February

RAILWAY 55

Clitheroe	1123
Manchester Victoria	1239
East Didsbury	
Manchester Victoria	1743
Clitheroe	1902

We drove down to Clitheroe and allowed ourselves plenty of time for the train. We needed it. We had booked assistance, but he knew nothing about us. No worries - he got the ramp in place, and we had a nice journey south. It is rather a lovely line. We waved at Blackburn Cathedral and enjoyed the scenery south through Darwen - and there are a few proper signal boxes. Electrified south from Bolton - and, eventually into Manchester Victoria. No assistance there, so the guard got us off - no problems.

Matt and I left the girls to burn up the shops, and we caught the tram south through Exchange Square to West Didsbury. Victoria to Exchange Square is new track, the rest of the branch is not - there is something ironic I have done this branch several times, but most of the network not at all. Time for lunch at The Christie, then a revolting drink, then a CT scan - such fun (I'd rather be chasing trams).

Back to Victoria, then home. The chap got the ramp, and found that it was a 150 and a 156 coupled together, and the ramp he had was for the other unit. We swapped units. Everyone made space for us and we had a good journey home. Quite a long way. Fish and chips and an early night.

