

Monday 27 February

RAILWAY 58

Duffield		0738	£3.95
Derby	0745	0815	
Chesterfield	0832	0905	£8.30
Leeds	1001	1018	£10.00
Lancaster	1211	1244	
Heysham Port	1313	1321	
Morecambe	1339	1433	
Lancaster	1443	1452	
Gatley	1608		

I need to be at The Christie for 0930 tomorrow. Hannah and Julie are coming too, but H can't leave until after a zoom meeting at lunchtime. I have a Northern Rail voucher to be used. Matt picked me up en route to taking Gwen to nursery and Alex to the train - how can you start this early every morning?



I had time for tea in Derby, then headed north - there is an 0750 north, but no need to hurry. I stopped at Chesterfield, said Hello to George, and purchased my Northern ticket (a £10 Ranger newspaper offer, valid after 0845). I could have caught the 0856 Northern to Leeds, but it only arrives at 1014, which is somewhat tight for the 1018 departure from the other side



of the station. I decided the £8.30 Cross Country ticket was a sensible investment - even if it means you have to ride a Cross Country train (fortunately not too full). A leisurely change at Leeds, and as the Northern train arrived a minute early, I would have made it.



Leeds has more new buildings every time I come, then it is a pleasant ride up past the Bingley Five Rise, Keighley, Skipton, across the canal again, and through to Hellifield.



Settle Junction, the other Clapham Junction, and a gorgeous ride across to Carnforth - I was live tweeting the ride: "I've got something in my eye".



I changed at Lancaster, which still has excellent buffers, and joined the Heysham Port train. There is just one service a day, and it does not appear as an option on the Northern app. This train runs on the south track into Morecambe, then the points are changed, and we run down the single track to the Port. Not the world's prettiest station. About 20 people on the unit, and about the same number back - it connects with the Isle of Man ferry.





Morecambe has a lovely Midland Railway station with no trains, and I would like to have had time to explore the hotel. Nice views, “help Eric”, and a lovely ham, egg and chips in a family-run café. Back to Lancaster and a train south through Manchester to Gatley, the



nearest station to the Pinn at Royal Crescent, Cheadle. Hannah collected me, and later we went to the Vintage Inn “The March Hare” for a good meal.

