

Tuesday 8 and Wednesday 9 August
RAILWAY 85

South Chadderton		1454
Shaw and Crompton	1511	1519
Rochdale Town Centre	1533	1543
Manchester Victoria	1643	1658
Bury	1728	1737
Manchester Piccadilly (Metro)	1816	1823
Ashton-under-Lyne (Metro)	1852	
	(Rail)	1901
Stalybridge	1905	1923
Manchester Piccadilly (Rail)	1938	1936
Gatley	1949	(16 late)

Harry came to collect me about 1030 and we drove across to Carlisle, then had an explore of the industrial estates to find Booker wholesale. Back onto the M6 and south. He had a meal to attend in Oldham, so found a Metro to drop me off at. £10.90 is a tram, bus and (off peak) rail ticket - so I went for that. The first train north terminated at Shaw (right), so I had to change platforms there, then on through Oldham - so many derelict buildings (including this bank (below)) - and finally through Rochdale - even more derelict buildings. Back the same way - it is a long ride back into Manchester.



I made time for a Costa and got a birthday treat at the same time, then did the Bury line - I really must research and see if I did this line in the old days of British Rail - as it stayed open until 1991, I suspect I did. An easy ride up and down, and the Bury trams terminate at Piccadilly (I have done this link across the City -

photo right). From Piccadilly I got the tram out through to Ashton-under-Lyne. Some of the area is being re-developed, other stretches are still very derelict. Fascinating how this is the branch built as a proper tram, not a rail-redevelopment, and makes you wonder what Newcastle could have done if they had a tram network rather than Metro (i.e. light rail).

A short walk to the BR station and a ride back into Piccadilly via Stalybridge meant I did the link Stalybridge to Guide Bridge. Into Piccadilly 2½ minutes early, and they had a problem with the doors of the Wilmslow electric so I made that link (rather than having to chase to the through platforms to get an Airport train). Harry finished in Oldham as I was waiting, so agreed to meet me at Gatley, the nearest station to our Premier Inn. He arrived at 2004, I arrived at 2005. We had a quick meal then retired to our rooms - a little close to the airport for peace and quiet, but I slept well.

We started **Wednesday** with a full breakfast - and very nice it was too. Chemo was textbook. Bloods at 1020 (booked for 1015), consultant at 1200 (booked for 1150), and chemo at 1240 (booked for 1230). No delays for bloods or



anything else. We were back in the car at 1500. We have agreed with Dr Barriuso that we will try and do chemo nearer home, but have booked the next two sessions in just in case. Home for 1900 with a break at Tebay. Kirstene popped in later.