

Tuesday 26 September

RAILWAY 92

|                    |       |       |           |
|--------------------|-------|-------|-----------|
| Hexham             |       | 0801  | 1.95      |
| Carlisle           | 0858  | 0925  | 6.90      |
| Preston            | 1040  | 1047  | 13.05 rtn |
| Manchester Airport | 1144  | Metro | 4.90      |
| St Werburgh's Road | Metro | Metro |           |
| West Didsbury      | Metro | Metro |           |
| Deansgate          | Metro | 1556  |           |
| Lancaster          | 1651  | 1657  | 16.95     |
| Carlisle           | 1753  | 1839  | 4.60      |
| Hexham             | 1934  |       |           |

£48.35

A trip to Manchester for a CT scan. I got to Hexham station in time for the late-running 0744, but the guard wouldn't let me catch it (it was less than ¼ full). As we came into Carlisle I found that my booked Avanti train, the 0910 to Wigan, was cancelled - I had had plans to do the Wallgate-Manchester line. The Avanti staff said there was ticket acceptance on the 0933 to Manchester Airport, but not the 0925 to Preston - as it came in empty, I got on it. The guard didn't argue.

I changed at Preston onto the much fuller Airport train. As I don't know when I am coming home, advanced tickets are not an option - so I went for a return to the Airport as that was not much more expensive than a return to the City centre. My plan had been to go via Wigan, but that wasn't possible - anyway, I did new track Gatley to the Airport. Onto the tram, new track back to St W's road, then the branch to Didsbury and a walk to the hospital.

My appointment was 12.45. I got there at 12.47. It was 2.45 before I went into the machine, and we had done by 3 - all this way for 15 minutes. Then metro back into town, Deansgate to Lancaster, Lancaster north - Avanti's bacon sandwich is soggy, nowhere near as good as Grand Central's bacon ciabatta. We arrived at Carlisle at 1753, and the Newcastle train leaves at 1753. Hummppphh. (I would probably have saved myself an hour by driving to Penrith). Will we ever get sorted for treatment in Newcastle?

