

## In The News | 13th December 2021 | Latest Rail News

December 13, 2021



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A new direct train service between Middlesbrough and London has started.

London North Eastern Railway (LNER) said the daily weekday Azuma service will be “the first wave” of trains between Teesside and London.

The article on the BBC website says the Azuma trains will be powered by overhead electricity cables

between London and Northallerton and then diesel engines to Middlesbrough.

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Transport for London (TfL) has said it has an extension to its extraordinary funding and financing support package arrangements through to Friday.

The package, announced in June, was provided to help TfL because of lower passenger numbers and associated forecast revenue due to the pandemic.

The extension has been announced as the current funding period (29 May to 11 December) passes and talks between TfL and the Department for Transport continue.

[Click here for more details.](#)

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A Grade II listed signal box on one of the country's most picturesque rail routes has been refurbished to improve future journeys for passengers and freight.

The signal box in Garsdale on the Settle and Carlisle railway line has been upgraded as part of a £500,000 Great North Rail Project investment.

The 111-year-old signal box's structural timbers, outside cladding and electronics have been repaired. It also has a new roof and windows.

[Click here for more details.](#)

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Robots developed to clean trains will protect staff against health risks and could help avoid delays, according to a scientist.

An article in The Herald says the device, which was developed in Scotland and resembles Dr Who's famous K9 robotic dog, is mounted on four small wheels with flip-out brushes and will complement humans by cleaning the hard-to-reach places between and under the seats in carriages.

It has a static camera in front and a stereo vision camera, mounted above, with a 180 degree field of vision.

*Photo credit: Network Rail*