

In The News | 1st March 2021 | Latest Rail News

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Rail passengers are facing the first above-inflation fare rise in seven years, prompting concerns that travellers are being priced off the railway.

The Times features an article about the fact fares in England will increase by 2.6 per cent from this morning, the first time since 2014 that fares have not been frozen in real terms.

Passengers in Wales face a similar rise. In Scotland off-peak and peak fares rise by 1.6 per cent and 0.6 per cent respectively.

Meanwhile another article in the paper says flexible season tickets for rail commuters could be introduced by the summer.

Network Rail has today started the main stage of a £1.2 billion investment into the East Coast Main Line, which will transform journeys in and out of one of Britain's biggest and busiest stations.

Between 1 March and early June, hundreds of Network Rail workers will be on site 24/7 to simplify the track layout just outside of London's King's Cross station.

The complex work will see the current layout, which was laid 40 years ago, lifted, replaced and realigned, creating a smoother, more punctual and more reliable service for passengers.

[Click here for more details.](#)

A moving online ceremony was conducted yesterday to mark the 20th anniversary of the Great Heck rail disaster, which claimed 10 lives.

An article in The Chronicle, says a 40-minute service was held jointly at the memorial garden at the scene of the tragic smash and Newcastle Central Station where one of the ill-fated trains involved set off from on the morning of February 28, 2001.

Wreaths were laid at both sites and an LNER and Freightliner train sounded their horns in honour of those who died as they passed the Great Heck memorial garden.

Finally, and Network Rail's public consultation on proposals to renew the railway's signalling system and upgrade of seven level crossings across the Cambridge area opens today for six weeks.

The signalling systems around Cambridge were installed in the 1980s and are reaching the end of their expected operational life.

Network Rail is proposing to replace hundreds of signalling assets across an area of 125 miles of track.

Photo credit: Network Rail