

# In The News | 22nd November 2021 | Latest Rail News

November 22, 2021



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Delivery of the Elizabeth line has reached its next significant milestone with the Trial Operations stage now underway.

This marks the final phase of the programme before the Elizabeth line opens for passenger services between Paddington and Abbey Wood in the first half of 2022.

Trial Operations involves operational exercises to ensure the safety and reliability of the railway for public use and to fully test the timetables.

More than 150 scenarios will be carried out over the coming months to ensure the readiness of the railway for passenger service.

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A regular train service has returned on the Dartmoor Line between Exeter and Okehampton, for the first time in almost half a century.

The first regular passenger service to Okehampton since 1972 arrived on Saturday at 7.10am, with the first train departing Okehampton at 7.30am.

Two-hourly seven-days-a-week services will be operated by Great Western Railway (GWR).

The Dartmoor Line – which received £40.5 million of Government funding in March – is the first former line to reopen under the Government’s Restoring Your Railway programme.

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More than 16,000 people from across rail took part in Rail Wellbeing Live – the industry’s biggest health and wellbeing event.

Network Rail says it is still possible for more people from the industry to get involved, as all sessions are free online until Thursday, 2 December. Access is available to anyone who registers on Rail Wellbeing Live’s website.

[Click here for more details.](#)

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One of Cumbria’s iconic railway lines has received a grant of almost half a million pounds.

An article on in-Cumbria says the Ravenglass & Eskdale Railway, has been awarded £451,500 in the Government’s latest round of the Culture Recovery Fund to help it recover from the impact of the COVID pandemic.

The money is a lifeline for the heritage railway, which is one of the oldest and longest narrow gauge railways in England.

*Photo credit: Network Rail*