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In the news

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InTheNews: The latest rail news on Friday, 27th May 2022

A train driver's union will put a new 4.2 per cent pay offer to members as Scotland's railway moves closer to a return to normal.

An article in the Scottish Daily Express says official negotiations restarted on Thursday between Aslef and ScotRail, with the union's Scottish organiser, Kevin Lindsay, saying the new deal would be subject to a ballot by members.

As a result of the dispute, drivers refused to work on rest days or on Sundays, with ScotRail cutting more than 700 services last week.

An innovative, empowering initiative designed to tackle loneliness among young people by engaging them with local railways and wider transport links has been given the green light.

The 'Engaging young people through community rail' initiative is one of 12 projects being supported by the Department for Transport's new Tackling Loneliness with Transport Fund.

It will be led by Community Rail Network with research partner the University of the West of England, and involve community rail partnerships and other youth and community partners running three pilot schemes in Bristol and Gloucester, Blackburn with Darwen, and Newcastle and County Durham.

[Click here for more details.](#)

Work has ground to a halt on HS2 Ltd's Curzon Street station restoration in Birmingham.

An article on New Civil Engineer says a HS2 spokesperson confirmed that contractors working on the project have "identified serious unforeseen structural issues with the Grade 1 listed building".

Consequently, main contractor Laing O'Rourke Murphy joint venture (LMJV) has instructed its subcontractors to stand down.

The spokesperson added: "We have temporarily paused the restoration project while we work with our partners and funders to identify further heritage funding to fully restore this iconic landmark for the city."

Network Rail staff have come to the aid of rail colleagues in Ukraine after delivering a convoy of vehicles loaded with equipment to help keep the Ukrainian railway running.

Ukrainian Railways requested help from the international railway family via the International Union of Railways (UIC).

They needed equipment and spares to help keep their railway running to provide vital evacuation routes and humanitarian aid following the invasion by Russia, all while facing significant damage to railway infrastructure and obvious safety risks for workers.

Helped by partners in the supply chain, Network Rail heeded the call and donated four vehicles, loaded with spares and railway tools including generators, drills, jacks and cutting equipment.

[Click here for more details.](#)

Photo credit: Network Rail