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April 7, 2021



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Network Rail has completed a range of essential upgrades to the railway between Euston, the Midlands, North West and Scotland over Easter.

Between Friday 2 and Tuesday 6 April, teams carried out vital work on the railway to improve passenger and freight services on the West Coast main line – the Backbone of Britain.

Among the work included ongoing work to upgrade Birmingham New Street station's signals and two new bridges installed at Warrington Bank Quay station.

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GB Railfreight (GBRf) has announced the commencement of a new 12-year contract with Celsa Steel UK, the largest manufacturer of steel reinforcement in the UK.

Building upon an existing relationship of ten years, GBRf will provide internal shunting services including a supply of remote-control shunt locomotives, train crews and ancillary services.

There will also be a dedicated team of shunt crews operating shunt movements on a permanent basis to ensure the smooth-running of the service.

Sir Peter Hendy, Chairman of Network Rail, has shown his support for a [charity Auction of Experiences](#), organised by the Railway Benefit Fund (RBF) as part of their Railway Family Week event.

Sir Peter has himself donated a one of a kind experience to the auction: a trip out on his own London Routemaster bus for 63 guests.

All money raised from the auction will go to RBF, that for the last 12 months have seen a real increase in demand for its services.

Finally, One of the West Coast Main Line's longest serving employees has retired after 54 years on the railway.

Avanti West Coast Service Manager Bob Bigsby waved a final farewell to colleagues at Euston Station this month ending a distinguished career.

As a 15-year-old, Bob joined the railway after arriving at Euston on April 3, 1967. He was given a role on a British Rail Service from London to the Lake District and back, where he pot-washed in the kitchen for First Class passengers.

Explaining why he stayed in the job for so long, Bob said: "It's the joy of meeting people that the railway brings. It's the comradeship between the colleagues and the variety of customers I've had the pleasure to meet. I can honestly say I've had fun every single day."

[Click here for more details.](#)

Photo credit: Avanti West Coast