

# In The News | 7th April 2021 | Latest Rail News

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.

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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.

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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*