

BRISTOL TEMPLE MEADS UPDATE

News from Network Rail and GWR

Welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter for Bristol Temple Meads. This will provide regular updates on the programme of works we are carrying out at the station, as well as outlining other news relevant to passengers travelling to and from Bristol Temple Meads.

Platform extension nearing completion



Work to extend platforms 13 and 15 at Bristol Temple Meads is nearing completion, in readiness for the start of new, longer Intercity Express Trains this autumn.

The old ramp was demolished earlier this summer, and an extra 20 metres of platform has been added to accommodate the new 10-car trains.

Lighting and drainage work is underway and will be completed by the end of September. The new section of platform will then be ready for use by passengers.

Check before you travel

Extensive engineering works are being carried out this autumn, meaning changes to some journey times, and buses replacing trains on some routes.

The line is being electrified between Bristol Parkway and Swindon, and a new platform is being built at Bristol Parkway station, ready for new Intercity Express Trains. Please check

journey details carefully if travelling from, to or via Bristol Parkway on:

- 19 August to 15 September
- 23 September to 29 October
- 3 x weekends 4 to 19 November

Go to nationalrail.co.uk or GWR's web page: www.gwr.com/travel-updates/planned-engineering/autumn-upgrade-2017

A major signalling upgrade



The largest renewal of signalling equipment carried out by Network Rail is planned for Bristol Temple Meads in the spring. This will help improve reliability and prepare for a significant increase in rail services and a new post-2018 timetable. Lots of work is already underway:

- Replacing signal heads with LED types
- Installing new lineside signalling control equipment
- Installing new signalling power supplies
- Installing over 50km of new lineside cable route
- Running out over 252km of new cables
- Installing new telecoms infrastructure.

Rehearsals of the new signalling will start in early autumn and continue over the Christmas period, testing the systems before they are brought into service in April 2018.

The scale of the upgrade next Easter means a full five-day period of working around the clock between 30 March and 3 April. Trains will be diverted and replacement bus services set up. These are currently being planned and further details will be widely publicised in the near future.

Rolling out new suburban trains



Following the launch of new Diesel Multiple Unit (DMU) trains on the Severn Beach line earlier this summer, the cascade of these new trains is moving into its second phase. The line between Bristol Parkway and Weston Super Mare is the focus for phase 2, bringing the new trains to Weston and stations in between by 23 October. The project team is constantly looking to learn from and improve on the previous stage, making future implementation phases more seamless.

For phase 2, a lot of preparatory work needs to be carried out. This includes gauge clearance, to ensure that there is sufficient space to accommodate the new trains and that passengers can board and disembark safely. A programme of track and platform works is being implemented across Western, Wessex, Wales and Sussex routes to enable the other phases of the DMU cascade to be completed over the next 18 months.

Temple Gate roadworks update



Bristol City Council's Temple Gate remodelling programme is moving ahead, with initial site investigations to be completed by September 2017. The traffic island on Victoria Street has been removed and removal of the central traffic island on Temple Way is in progress. Drainage works have started on Temple Street and will begin on the Friary and Cattle Market Road soon.

As a result of these works, the Friary is set to close on 28 August for five months, with access to the car park from Station Approach, and exit on to the Friary and Temple Back East. Cattle Market Road will close to vehicles on 4 September for six weeks, but will remain open to cyclists and pedestrians.

There will also be lane closures through Bath Bridge roundabout in September and pedestrian diversions around the Brunel Mile, with some crossings relocated. Find out more at www.bristoltemplequarter.com/gate

Try out our piano



Luke Jerram's world-famous 'Play Me, I'm Yours' street pianos project has arrived at Temple Meads, with a wonderful piano on platform 3.

Decorated by local illustrator Zoe Power, our piano forms part of a musical trail of 18 unique pianos installed in public spaces across Bristol, for everyone to play and enjoy. This marks the 10th year of the project which has seen over 1,700 pianos installed in over 55 cities across the globe, reaching more than 10 million people and bearing the simple instruction Play Me, I'm Yours.

Please take time to play the piano next time you are passing through. Share your stories, photos and videos via www.bristolstreetpianos.co.uk and on social media, and don't forget to tag us too @NetworkRailBRI

For an added incentive there is the opportunity to win £950 worth of prizes, donated by 'Play Me, I'm Yours' sponsors and hosts. All you have to do is post a standout moment photo or video on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram, with the hashtag #bristolstreetpianos. Alternatively e-mail them to admin@lukjerram.com

To receive this newsletter directly in future,
please email commswest@networkrail.co.uk