



## **GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY**

LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE

### **PRESS INFORMATION**

Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2009

Contact: Kate Tilley, GCR press contact  
Tel: 07515 596835

## **DRIVE OLIVER CROMWELL**

### **A Christmas present to remember forever!**

**It's a Christmas gift which would never be forgotten. The chance to climb into the drivers seat of one of the country's most powerful steam engines and head out on a main line heritage railway. The Great Central Railway has a handful of slots available on a special Drive A Locomotive Experience using celebrity steam locomotive, "Oliver Cromwell".**

The engine will be available to drive on five dates in January 2010 - the 18th to the 22nd. The Great Central Railway is offering the chance to enjoy two or four return trips along its double track network. It's a rare chance to get into the driver seat of the Britannia Class engine which earned its place in railway history as one of the last steam engines operated by British Rail.

There are three packages available on a first come, first served basis:

**Express silver:** You're on the footplate of Oliver Cromwell with another driver for two return trips along the Great Central line between Loughborough and Leicester, 32 miles in total. You'll get to tour the engine shed and signal box and spend the day at the railway. £650

**Express silver shared:** You can take a friend or relative with you in the cab of Oliver Cromwell for two return trips, 32 miles in total. Share the experience of a lifetime and make up your own footplate crew! Tour the railway and bring another two guests to ride with you. £1150

**Express gold:** The ultimate in driving packages. You're in charge of Oliver Cromwell for four return trips along our heritage main line, 64 miles on the footplate in total. Bring four guests with you and you can all enjoy a VIP day at the Great Central. £1950

**BRITAIN'S ONLY DOUBLE TRACK, MAIN LINE HERITAGE RAILWAY**  
Great Central Railway, Great Central Road, Loughborough, Leicestershire, LE11 1RW  
Tel: (01509) 230726 Fax: (01509) 239791



## **GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY**

LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE

### **PRESS INFORMATION**

Bill Ford, president of the Great Central Railway said, "**Oliver Cromwell is a celebrity engine which has turned heads not only at the GCR but on its travels around the country. Chances to take the regulator are few and far between. This isn't just a present to be remembered for a lifetime, but the chance to join a very exclusive club of people who have driven the engine.**"

To sign up to drive Oliver Cromwell or to check details and availability please call Loughborough Central's booking office on 01509 230726

ENDS

WORDS 387

#### **NOTES:**

Voted number 12 on the list of the 50 greatest railway journeys in the world the Great Central Railway is the UK's only double track, main line heritage railway. It's the only place in the world where full size steam engines can be seen passing each other – just as it was when steam ruled the rails. The preserved railway has been operating for over 36 years, and is manned by around 700 volunteers and a small team of permanent staff. Preservation of this section of the Great Central Railway began in 1969. The route was originally part of a main line from Sheffield to London. The 8 mile preserved section between Loughborough and Leicester is fully operational and the 4 stations reflect a different period of the railways 110 year history.

Trains run every weekend of the year, bank holidays and daily in the summer. In addition, First Class Restaurant Car Services provide 4 or 6 course meals, whilst travelling between Loughborough and Leicester or childhood dreams can come true with a Drive a Train Experience. We also run a number of family events, including Santa Specials.

The railway has won a number of awards including "independent railway of the year", and a gold award for the East Midlands best visitor experience and is a quality assured visitor attraction as designated by Enjoy England.

Oliver Cromwell was returned to steam after a four year work programme. It was a partnership between The Great Central Railway, Loughborough Standard Locomotive Group, 5305 Locomotive Association, Steam Railway Magazine, The National Railway Museum and Bressingham Museum. The partners would like to record their thanks to Detek CNC Ltd, Cromwell Tools, The Friends of the National Railway Museum, the readers of Steam Railway Magazine, 4c systems, the staff and students of Welbeck College, Main Line Steam Trust, The David Clarke Railway Trust and Bill Ford, president of the Great Central Railway.

**BRITAIN'S ONLY DOUBLE TRACK, MAIN LINE HERITAGE RAILWAY**  
Great Central Railway, Great Central Road, Loughborough, Leicestershire, LE11 1RW  
Tel: (01509) 230726 Fax: (01509) 239791