



PRESS INFORMATION

BRITAIN'S ONLY DOUBLE TRACK, MAIN LINE HERITAGE RAILWAY

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OLIVER CROMWELL ENJOYS CHRISTMAS AFTER ALL!

Famous steam locomotive, BR Standard 7, no 70013 "Oliver Cromwell" will enjoy a Christmas holiday outing at the Great Central Railway.

The large engine earned a place in the history books in 1968 when it pulled the last steam train to run on Britain's Main Line. Forty years later it has been restored to working order and will haul trains at the GCR for three days at the end of 2008.

"The engine's namesake might have not have been a fan of frivolous Christmas celebrations," said GCR spokesman Alan Brassey, "but we'll be turning out Oliver Cromwell for special duties including our popular New Years Eve trains. Our engineering teams worked many long hours to have Oliver Cromwell ready in 2008, to mark the 40th anniversary of the end of steam. It's set to be a popular attraction over Christmas!"

The engine belongs to the national collection based at the museum in York. Its return to steam was just one highlight for the Great Central Railway this year. It is due to pull Christmas holiday trains on the 29th, 30th and 31st of December 2008 subject to availability.

"2008 was the year of the Express engines" added Alan and it seems to have done us some good. We'll know for sure at the end of January but it looks like our passenger figures are up in the last 12 months. If our visitors are travelling to us specifically to see Oliver Cromwell they might want to check with us on 01509 230726 to check it is definitely running before setting out.

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WORDS 267