



Date: 4th December 2008

GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY STATION **WINS NATIONAL AWARD**

More than 30 years of hard work for volunteers recognised

It's been described as the Great Central Railway's best kept station and now it has a national award to go with it. At this week's National Railway Heritage Award, Rothley station on the Leicestershire heritage line won a top prize.

The team who have spent more than thirty years carefully restoring this fine example of an Edwardian country station were recognised with the National Express Volunteers award given to projects which restore railway buildings using a considerable input from volunteers. The station was given £1500 towards preservation funds and will receive a plaque to be displayed.

Colin Dean, stationmaster at Rothley said **“It's wonderful to receive national recognition for the dedicated volunteers that have worked tirelessly for so long to create what you see today. The team covers volunteers of all ages and backgrounds but they work together to keep the station maintained and running in a very professional manner and achieve our aim of recreating a gas-lit Edwardian country station. Hopefully the award will encourage even more people to join in!”**

The prize, presented by Paul Atterbury of the Antiques Roadshow was won jointly between Rothley and the Churnet Valley Railway. In the last twelve months, the Great Central station has had more than £100,000 invested in it. The money has been used to restore and reopen the elegant stairway arcade which connects the road with the platform and also to create Ellis's tea room in a former goods store. The judges didn't include Ellis's in their visit and it's now hoped to enter it for an award next year!

Bill Ford, president of the Great Central Railway said, “This is wonderful news and a real vindication for everyone who volunteers at Rothley, but also to everyone who donates time and invests money to keep it looking so special.”

It's a double celebration at the moment for the railway. It's recent restoration of BR Standard 7, Britannia Class, no 70013 “Oliver Cromwell” has been recognised with a Heritage Railway Association award. This prize was won jointly with the National Railway Museum who were part of the Oliver Cromwell restoration programme along with many volunteers and groups at Loughborough.

ENDS

WORDS 376

Notes:

Oliver Cromwell was returned to steam this year 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.