



EAST LANCASHIRE RAILWAY EVENT LISTING

WIN A DAY OUT WITH THOMAS™!

The North West's premier heritage railway, the East Lancashire Railway, is on the hunt for the nation's biggest Thomas the Tank Engine fan to become their 'Junior Station Master' at their upcoming Day Out with Thomas on 5 – 6 October!

At the Day Out with Thomas events, little engineers are invited to join Thomas & Friends™ where they can experience adventure and discovery, just like their favourite number 1 blue engine. Children can take a ride behind Thomas, meet The Fat Controller, say hello to Sodor Station Sweepers Rusty and Dusty and watch re-enactments of classic Thomas stories! There is also Thomas themed activities including table top games, colouring, Thomas films and toys, along with magic shows, circus workshops and face painting.

Lucky winners will be able to make a station announcement with The Fat Controller, sell tickets like a real train master and sound Thomas' whistle. The newly appointed 'Junior Station Master' will also have the important role to guard the Thomas train while their family ride along, with full day passes - including access to all of the activities and unlimited travel on steam and diesel trains.

To be in with a chance of winning, send a picture of your little ones on the ELR Facebook page @eastlancsrailway explaining why they should be awarded the money-can't-buy prize. The winning entry will be presented with a 'Junior Station Master' certificate and a special ELR and Thomas & Friends goody bag.

Day Out with Thomas™ is at the East Lancashire Railway on the 5th and 6th October. The East Lancashire Railway boasts 12 miles of track through the stunning Irwell Valley - with plenty for families to do.

The Fat Controller's opening ceremony will take place at 09:45 on each of these days, and activities will finish at 16:00. The event is great for any weather and is fully wheelchair accessible.

Day Out With Thomas™ takes place across the length of the railway and tickets can be purchased online at <http://www.dayoutwiththomas.co.uk/> or from Bury, Heywood, Ramsbottom and Rawtenstall station on the day. Visitors that already have their tickets can start their day out from any of the above stations. For information on how to get there as well as car parking, visit the dedicated Getting Here page on the East Lancashire Railway's website.

The Bury Metrolink Tram Station is located just three minutes' walk away from Bury Bolton Street Station and takes just 30 minutes on the tram from Manchester City Centre. For full information and to book your steam-fuelled adventure, visit <http://www.eastlancsrailway.org.uk>.

-Ends-

For East Lancashire Railway press enquiries please contact Democracy on 0161 881 5941 or email ELR@democracypr.com

Information to Editors

The award-winning East Lancashire Railway is the gateway to the beautiful Irwell Valley. The 12-mile route starts in the historic market town of Bury and winds through picturesque countryside and traditional villages to Heywood and Rawtenstall.

A living, breathing steam railway experience, it is operated by a team of more than 750 enthusiastic and dedicated volunteers, who celebrate the passion and romance of heritage train travel.

The railway is one of the North West's most popular tourist attractions, welcoming more than 200,000 visitors each year with plenty to do in rain or shine and is rated TripAdvisor's most excellent steam railway experience via customer reviews.

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