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## **LITTLE RED ENGINE INHERITS ILLUSTRIOUS NAME**

A gleaming new locomotive with a very famous name is happily taking the strain on Blenheim Palace's hugely popular miniature railway this season.

'Winston' the diesel locomotive, is named after Blenheim's most famous family member, Sir Winston Churchill.

The little red engine officially began service at the weekend and has already transported hundreds of passengers between the Palace and the Pleasure Gardens.

He is the third locomotive to bear the great man's name and pulls four canopied carriages, each carrying up to 16 passengers. Wheelchair access is also available.

"Winston's predecessor did a magnificent job of carrying literally hundreds of thousands of visitors over more than 20 years. Now a new 'Winston' has inherited both the role and the famous name and we're confident he will live up to the task," said Blenheim Palace's Heather Carter, Head of Operations.

In addition to the brand new train, visitors will now have the added excitement of also travelling through a newly-constructed tunnel, which also doubles as a storage shed for the carriages.

The 15 inch gauge miniature railway, which opened in 1975, runs for a total of 910 metres, linking the Palace to the Pleasure Gardens.

The Pleasure Gardens are home to the Marlborough Maze, the Adventure Play Area, the Pottering About craft studio, the Pleasure Gardens Deli, a shop and the newly-renovated Butterfly House, which re-opens to visitors in April.

The train runs every 30 minutes on a daily basis between February and October, and Wednesdays to Sundays between November and mid-December.

Due to investment of the new train and tunnel, as well as the significant rise in running costs, a 50p per journey fee has had to be introduced, although all under fives continue to travel free.

'Winston' was built by light railway engineers and locomotive builders Alan Keef Ltd, who are based in Herefordshire.

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### Marketing Contact Details:

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### General

- Blenheim Palace is a member of the Green Tourism Business Scheme.
- Blenheim Palace is a member of the Treasure Houses of England, 10 of the most magnificent palaces, stately homes and castles in England [www.treasurehouses.co.uk](http://www.treasurehouses.co.uk)

### Annual Pass

**BUY ONE DAY, GET 12 MONTHS FREE\***

Blenheim Palace offers an amazing annual pass ticket deal. When you buy a single day ticket to the Palace, Park and Gardens, you can convert it into an annual pass for free and gain unlimited entry for 12 months.

### Annual Pass Privilege Card - 15% discount on dining and shopping\*

Blenheim Palace is offering a special Privilege Card upgrade option with the Annual Pass. For an extra £5 you can receive a 15% discount in all Blenheim Palace Shops and Cafés!

\*Terms and conditions apply.

