



## News

# Full steam ahead: Fred Dibnah's sons help keep steam engine in the family

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On the road: Jack and Roger Dibnah with their dad's steam engine

Fred Dibnah's famous steam engine has hit the road again – thanks to its new owner and the Bolton steeplejack's sons.

The engine – used by Fred to collect his MBE from Buckingham Palace – has made its first journey under new owner, Knutsford businessman Michael Oliver.

Mr Oliver, who bought the engine last July, joked at the time that he wanted to use it to get to his favourite pub.

And he lived up to his promise by taking the Aveling and Porter engine from the headquarters of his manufacturing firm to the Church Inn in Mobberley.

Mr Oliver, 72, has paid tribute to the TV steeplejack by naming the refurbished engine 'Fred'.

And he put Fred's sons Jack and Roger in charge of the maiden journey.

Mr Oliver said: "Fred Dibnah is a cult figure and a national institution so it seemed only fitting that we honoured his engineering genius by naming his beloved engine after him. We thought it fitting for Jack to take the helm on its first excursion. I bought the engine so it can be enjoyed by generations to come."

Mr Oliver has said he wants to take the engine to steam shows – and one day put it on display in Fred's home town.