

Winner "Best Tourism Experience - East Midlands" 2007



GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY

LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE

PRESS INFORMATION

Date: 10th March 2008

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SWINGING 60s TIMES AT THE GCR!

**Railway flashes back to the 60s this weekend.
Classic cars meet classic trains. Dress up and get in for less!**

A steam railway that swings, rock and rolls? That will be Great Central Railway's special 1960s experience – taking place over three days, this coming weekend (the 14th, 15th and 16th of March 2008.)

Leicestershire's award winning family steam railway is turning back the clock to the decade that gave us moon shots and short skirts – and saw a million hearts broken as steam engines were shunted into history and diesels took over.

As well as plenty of trains, there will be a display of period cars at Quorn station. The railway has also been contacting Mods and Rockers to come and experience the swinging decade all over again, four decades on.

"The 60s were an incredible decade and we're the perfect place to step back in time," said the railway's general manager Robert Crew. **"We'll have period music and posters at our stations, an exciting selection of steam engines and diesel locos from the time and we're even offering visitors the chance to turn up and drive a 1960s diesel engine themselves!**

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BRITAIN'S ONLY DOUBLE TRACK, MAIN LINE HERITAGE RAILWAY
Great Central Railway, Great Central Road, Loughborough, Leicestershire, LE11 1RW
Tel: (01509) 230726 Fax: (01509) 239791

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Friday the 14th will be a diesel day, especially for those who like to celebrate heritage traction, which in itself is now almost 50 years old. People who get into a groovy spirit and dress up in period gear will get a discount on their travel tickets.

While the original Great Central fell victim to Doctor Beeching's famous cutbacks of the 60s (the smaller stations at Quorn and Rothley were already closed by 1963) the modern day GCR is turning back the clock with a bit of artistic licence and imagining how 1964 might have been had they stayed open. Listen for station announcements from the time and look at for newspaper headlines with the stories of the day.

"It's going to be a great weekend of nostalgia at the railway," concluded Robert, "We'll be running a really intensive timetable so there's plenty for everyone to see and enjoy. It's hard to believe the 60s were over forty years ago now. For anyone ready to enjoy their misspent youth all over again – or anyone who doesn't believe how good it was - it's the perfect day out!"

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FURTHER INFORMATION:

For further general information, details on the above and all forthcoming events can be found on the Great Central Railway's extensive website: www.greatcentralrailway.com Additional information can also be obtained from Booking Office, Loughborough Central Station, (Daily 9.00 - 5.30) The booking office can be contacted on 01509 230726

NOTES:

Great Central Railway is the UK's only double track, main line heritage railway. It's the only place in the UK where full size steam engines can be seen passing each other – just as it was when steam ruled the rails.

The preserved railway has been operating for over 25 years, and is manned by around 700 volunteers

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and a small team of permanent staff. Originally the Sheffield to London main line, the 8 mile section between Loughborough and Leicester is fully operational and the 4 stations have each been restored to a different period of the railways 100 year history.

Weekends and bank holidays all year and daily throughout the summer, visitors can see the Golden Days of British railway's recreated. In addition, First Class Restaurant Car Services provide 4 or 6 course meals, whilst travelling between Loughborough and Leicester or childhood dreams can come true with a Drive a Train Experience. We also run a number of family events, including "Days Out with Thomas the Tank Engine", Bonfire Night and Santa Specials.

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