



GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY
LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE

PRESS INFORMATION

Date: 24th August 2008

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8000 DREAMS COME TRUE

**RAILWAY SELLS 8000th AWARD WINNING
DRIVE A LOCOMOTIVE EXPERIENCE**

The Great Central Railway has just sold its 8000th “Drive A Locomotive” experience package.

Thrill-seekers can grab hold of a locomotive regulator and feel just what it’s like to take control of a living breathing steam engine.

“It’s a fantastic milestone,” said the railways marketing assistant Lynn Hill, **“We launched the driver experience packages back in the mid nineties and since then there has been a constant demand. Many people are relishing the chance to fulfil a childhood dream, though plenty of those who climb up to the footplate have been born well after steam disappeared from Britain’s railways”**

The 8000th package was taken up last Friday (22nd August 2008). The novice driver joins the ranks of celebrities like Pete Waterman and weatherman Michael Fish. The GCR has won an award for the quality of the Drive A Locomotive Experience, which is the only one in the country where visitors can drive on a double track former main line.

In the coming weeks the railway is offering “ultra exclusive” packages to drive Britain’s brand new steam engine Tornado, which is at the GCR for a two month

BRITAIN’S ONLY DOUBLE TRACK, MAIN LINE HERITAGE RAILWAY
Great Central Railway, Great Central Road, Loughborough, Leicestershire, LE11 1RW
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stay. As part of the trails programme for the engine, time has been set aside for up to 16 people to join a very exclusive club. They can be part of railway history by being among the first to drive this brand new machine. Anyone who would like to experience driving Tornado should contact the railway for more information.

ENDS. WORDS: 259

Images to accompany this story can be downloaded from www.greatcentralrailway.com
Follow the links "More" and "News" to the press gallery section

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 the Booking Office, Loughborough Central Station, (Daily 9.00 - 5.30) 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 world 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 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 reflect a different period of the railways 105 year history.

Trains run every weekend of the year, bank holidays and daily in the summer. 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.

The railway has won a number of awards including "independent railway of the year", and a silver award for the East Midlands best visitor experience.

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