



GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY

LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE

PRESS INFORMATION

Celebrating 40 years of preservation in 2009

Date: 10th May 2009

Contact: Alan Brassey, Commercial Manager
Tel: 07778 512274

BRAND NEW BOOK CELEBRATES ALL THINGS GREAT CENTRAL!

**Book marks forty years of preservation - meanwhile
'First day covers' mark 110 years since the railway was built**

The Great Central Railway is celebrating forty years of preservation in 2009. To mark the occasion a brand new hard back book has just been published featuring more than one hundred and fifty glossy colour photographs, capturing the award winning heritage railway through the seasons.

Many of the images were captured during 2008 when many high profile express engines visited the railway including brand new steam locomotive Tornado. The GCR's award winning restoration of celebrity engine "Oliver Cromwell" is also featured.

"We're thrilled the publishers have chosen the Great Central to focus on" said commercial manager Alan Brassey. "The selection of photographs captures the atmosphere of our main line double track railway perfectly. There are views right along the eight miles of our line between Loughborough and Leicester North."

There's another anniversary being celebrated at the same time. Its 110 years since the original Great Central route to London was opened for business. A beautiful set of first day cover stamps features scenes from the opening year 1899.

The book was assembled by photographer and enthusiast Matt Allen. He is a regular contributor to the railway media and publishes his own steam calendar. Fellow photographer Warwick Falconer also contributes. Some of the images are captured during normal Great Central passenger train running, others are the result of specially posed compositions on photographers charter train days.

In the introduction to the book Matt writes, **"The Great Central Railway is a**

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



GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY

LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE

PRESS INFORMATION

fantastic step back in time. The atmosphere created by the double track operation and mainline stations makes the GCR a different experience to any other heritage railway.”

The magic moment when two steam hauled trains pass is captured in many shots. The Great Central Railway is believed to be one of the last places in the world where full size steam services regularly pass each other on double track, a scene once common in the UK until the 1960s.

The album of images is fully endorsed and supported by the railway featuring a foreword by GCR president Bill Ford. The book is published by Halsgrove as part of their railway series. It is available now at the Great Central Railway shop for £14.99. The first day cover stamps are also on sale now.

Imprint: Halsgrove. ISBN 978 1 84114 898 4, hardback, 214x230mm, 144 pages.

ENDS

WORDS 411



FURTHER INFORMATION:

Details on the above and all forthcoming events can be found on the Great Central Railway's extensive website: www.gcrailway.co.uk

Additional information can also be obtained from the Booking Office, Loughborough Central Station, (Daily 9.00 - 5.30) on 01509 230726

NOTES

Voted number 12 on the list of the 50 greatest railway journeys in the world the 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 36 years, and is manned by around 700 volunteers and a small team of permanent staff. Preservation of this section of the Great Central Railway began in 1969. The route was originally part of a main line from Sheffield to London. The 8 mile preserved

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



GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY

LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE

PRESS INFORMATION

section between Loughborough and Leicester is fully operational and the 4 stations reflect a different period of the railways 110 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 gold award for the East Midlands best visitor experience and is a quality assured visitor attraction as designated by Enjoy England.

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