



## **GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY**

LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE

### **PRESS INFORMATION**

**Date:** 19<sup>th</sup> October 2010

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## **BRAND NEW PULLMAN TRAIN READY FOR DEPARTURE**

**£240,000 project completed on time.**

**Lord Faulkner of Worcester is VIP guest on first train.**

**The Great Central Railway's brand new Pullman train will welcome its first official passengers on Friday the 22nd of October.**

The massive £240,000 project has been completed on time, despite being hugely complex - and growing in size since it was originally envisaged! Creating the train has involved the complete renovation of six carriages dating back to the 1950s/60s. It can seat eighty four people in two luxurious dining cars, serve them multi course meals from a bespoke kitchen on wheels and can entertain them before dinner in two spacious bar cars.

The first train is fully sold out with passengers arriving for their nostalgic trip in Pullman luxury at 6.30pm at Loughborough Central station. They will be greeted by a band and can look forward to a seven course meal. The train will be officially launched by VIP guest and prominent politician, Lord Faulkner of Worcester.

Bill Ford, the President of the Great Central Railway said, "**This is an enormous step forward for our famous on train catering. It has taken an awful lot of work by a few people to successfully deliver the new Pullman train on time and I'm very proud of them for the fantastic result they have created. I'd really like to thank our generous sponsor who paid for the work for supporting the railway in this way. I'm looking forward to welcoming Lord Faulkner for the first official run of the GCR Pullman.**"

The refurbishment work was mainly undertaken in house at the Great Central's carriage shed at Rothley since January. The kitchen car was sent to a contractor based in the Midlands. Each vehicle needed to be stripped, carefully overhauled, upgraded with a wealth of new fittings and finally repainted in a smart umber and cream livery.



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The new Pullman train will operate in addition to the Great Central Railway's existing first class dining service. There are plans to operate the new train for corporate entertainment. After Friday evening's launch event, the next chance to travel on the Pullman train will be a Christmas "Murder Mystery Special" on Wednesday 15th of December.

**ENDS**

**WORDS 371**

#### **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](http://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 celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2009, 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 section between Loughborough and Leicester is fully operational and the 4 stations reflect a different period of the railways 111 year history. Around 100,000 visitors a year come to the railway from all over the world.

Trains run every weekend of the year, bank holidays and daily in the summer. In addition, First Class Restaurant Car Services provide famous dining experiences course, whilst passengers travel between Loughborough and Leicester. Childhood engine driver dreams can come true with a Drive a Train Experience. We also run a number of family events, including 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.