



GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY

LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE

PRESS INFORMATION

Date: 31st July 2010

HAPPY LANDINGS AT QUORN

RAF CHINOOK HELICOPTER DROPS IN FOR VETERANS WEEKEND (18th / 19th Sept 2010)

There's a very unusual visitor dropping into Quorn and Woodhouse station at the Great Central Railway on the 18th and 19th of September. A RAF Chinook helicopter will be touching down as part of a special event to salute service veterans.

Guests of honour will be the aircraft's RAF crew who have recently seen service in Afghanistan. They will be with the helicopter for the whole weekend, ready to give visitors a guided tour of the machine.

The weekend, dubbed 'Get Some In' specifically recalls the National Service era but recognises the contribution and sacrifices made by all serving and veteran members of the UK's armed forces.

Coming into effect on January 1st 1949, the National Service Act of 1947 was designed to meet Britain's post war military manpower needs and made every male British subject aged 17 to 26 liable to serve in the Armed Forces for a period of 12 months; later extended to 2 years. National Service personnel subsequently saw service around the world in such places as Malaya, Korea, Egypt, Cyprus, Germany and Kenya. Over 400 National Service personnel died in the service of their country.

"The presence of this RAF Chinook will make this a very special weekend and provide a tangible link between the service men and women of the past and the present day" commented GCR president Bill Ford, **"it will be a highly appropriate centrepiece for our annual veterans salute weekend and we look forward to welcoming aviation enthusiasts for the weekend for a tour of this remarkable machine."**

To reflect the national service theme the railway has invited 1950s / 60s period vehicles and re-enactors in period clothing.



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The helicopter will arrive on the Friday before the event and depart shortly afterward and its appearance at the event will help raise money for the RAF benevolent fund.

Meanwhile veterans of all services bringing appropriate identification will be recognised at the event and will be given free train travel, while anyone travelling with them can travel at a reduced rate.

Further details are available at www.gcrailway.co.uk

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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 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.

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