



GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY
LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE

PRESS INFORMATION

Winner "Best Tourism Experience - East Midlands" 2007

Date: 2nd June 2008

Contact: **Lynn Hill, Marketing Assistant**
Tel: **07789 178387**

MEDIA CALL – MEDIA CALL – MEDIA CALL
TV presenter **Simon Groom** will open new tea room at
Rothley Station on the Great Central Railway.
1.35pm, Thursday 5th June 2008
Full details follow at the end of the press release.

GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY OPENS
NEW TEA ROOM

**Former Blue Peter presenter Simon Groom to
perform ceremony this week (5th June 2008)**

**New attraction "a great leap forward"
for accessible family facilities at the GCR**

**Visitors to the Great Central Railway now have a new place to unwind,
relax and enjoy some refreshments. At the award winning (and haunted)
Rothley station, a derelict Victorian store shed has been fully restored and
converted into a quality tea room.**

Meanwhile a new viewing area has been created at Rothley allowing passengers to
get right up close to historic steam engines as they run past. The new 'grandstand'
and tea room are fully accessible to wheelchair users. There is also a landscaped
garden railway as an additional attraction.

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

“We finished the job at the end of May but the new tea room has already proved popular” said GCR president Bill Ford. **“The building itself isn’t listed, but as it falls inside the boundary of the station, which is, we’ve taken great care to make sure the restoration is up the highest standard. Best of all, it has full wheeled access, proper toilet and baby change facilities not to mention great food. It’s a great leap forward for what we can offer our visitors.”**

The tea room has been called “Ellis’s” after the building it’s in. It was built in 1899, when the Great Central Railway was opened. Local firm Joseph Ellis and Sons Ltd. used it to store Corn and Coal, ready to be collected by wagons and sent around the country by train. The building fell out of use well before the GCR was preserved but has now been fully restored and carefully converted.

Former BBC TV presenter, Simon Groom will formally cut the ribbon and declare Ellis’s open on Thursday 5th of June at 1.30pm It’s cost seventy thousand pounds and taken six months to repair and fit out the building, money raised by The David Clarke Railway Trust, the Great Central Railway’s supporting charity.

“We’re keen to improve our facilities right along the line,” concluded Bill. “We won the gold award for East Midlands visitor experience in 2007 but you can’t afford to stand still. We hope people who live in the area will make Ellis’s a new drop in point. You don’t have to buy a ticket to ride our train to visit – and after all, how many tea rooms come with a great view of steam engines, large and small, thrown in for the price of a coffee?!”

Ellis’s tea room is open six days a week, Saturday to Thursday, 10am to 4.30pm. It serves hot and cold drinks, homemade cakes, sandwiches, light lunches and ice creams. It also hosts party bookings. You can contact the tea room direct on ellis@gcrailway.co.uk or 01509 632343

ENDS

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

WORDS 465

MEDIA INVITE DETAILS:

You are welcome to send a reporter and photographer to the official opening, this Thursday 5th June, 2008 at 1.30pm. Please arrive at ROTHLEY station around 1.20pm and ask for marketing assistant Lynn Hill.

Photographs will be available with Simon around 1.35pm

Rothley station is on Station Road about a mile west of the village centre: LE7 7LD

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 30 years, and is manned by around 700 volunteers and a small team of permanent staff. Originally 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 109 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