



GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY
LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE

PRESS INFORMATION

Date: 17 May 2011

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**VINTAGE FIRE ENGINE MEETS VINTAGE STEAM ENGINES
AT GCR'S FIREMAN SAM EVENT THIS WEEKEND**

**Families are in for a flaming good time this weekend.
Fireman Sam is coming to Great Central for the very first
time! Children can meet him, watch demonstration drills and
meet real firemen**

21st & 22nd May

Fireman Sam is coming to the Great Central Railway for the first time, and he's bringing some exciting friends with him! Children can meet him, have their picture taken and then learn all about fire with the chance to meet his friends the real firemen.

The Leicestershire fire brigade are attending the event and at Loughborough from 2pm-4pm will teach children all about fire. At Rothley station there will be demonstration drills by the Leicestershire Fire Brigade Museum with their vintage fire engine, Rolls Royce Dennis F12 (as featured in the TV series The Royal). The children will also be able to handle the equipment and chat to the crew.

Whilst Fireman Sam is having his tea break there is a children's magician in a marquee at Loughborough and free face painting too!

Kate Tilley, Marketing Manager for the Great Central Railway said **"We are really looking forward to welcoming Fireman Sam and especially the real firemen who do such a wonderful job. We think this is a fantastic opportunity to involve the children in such an important subject in such a fun way. A family of five can enjoy all of this for just £30, including all day train travel on a steam loco."**

ENDS



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WORDS 205

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 - 5.00) on 01509 230726

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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.