



GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY
LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE

PRESS INFORMATION

Celebrating 40 years of preservation in 2009

Date: 15th September 2009

A 40TH BIRTHDAY PARTY ON WHEELS

19th September 2009

Former volunteers and staff from the Great Central Railway are being invited to join the party this weekend as the Leicestershire visitor attraction celebrates its 40th birthday.

The line is running a special train for all current volunteers and staff this coming Saturday night. Anyone who has volunteered or worked for the railway in the past is being invited to come along as well.

The GCR's president Bill Ford said, "**Over the years thousands of people have been involved with the Great Central Railway. Some who became involved right at the start of our preservation scheme in 1969 are still volunteering today. The special train will hopefully have a real party atmosphere as we mark our ruby anniversary which is why we'd like to make it something a reunion!**"

Details of the extra train (which departs from Loughborough Central station at 7pm and Leicester North station at 7.40pm this coming Saturday night) can be found on the Great Central website.

ENDS

WORDS 169

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 section between Loughborough and Leicester is fully operational and the 4 stations reflect a different period of the railway's 10 year history.

Trains run every weekend of the year, bank holidays and daily in the summer. In addition, First Class

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



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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.

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