



**GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE

**PRESS INFORMATION**

*Winner "Best Tourism Experience - East Midlands" 2007*

Date: 7<sup>th</sup> June 2008

**GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
**RECORDS TRADING PROFIT**  
**FOR SECOND YEAR**

**Continued improvement in company finances.**

The Great Central Railway turned a trading profit of nearly £12,000 in the financial year ending January 31<sup>st</sup> 2008. Shareholders in the award winning Leicestershire line have received the good news ahead of the annual general meeting which takes place this weekend (28<sup>th</sup> June 2008)

There is also good news about the company's continued climb out of long running debt. Overall passenger income grew slightly last year, despite the atrocious summer.

This is the second time the line has recorded a genuine trading profit. The first was last year. The AGM has been moved forward from its traditional August time slot to give shareholders more up to date information. This is part of a complete overhaul of the company's financial systems.

**"It's good to see another profit, but this is no time for complacency,"** said GCR Chairman David Morgan. **"In tough economic times we're being proactive to attract visitors in 2008, cut costs and ensure that two genuine trading profits in a row can become three. There is a lot to do to restore the value of the company and wipe out its debt from years of losses. However, my thanks goes to everyone at the railway who continues to put their heart and soul into our efforts to be a fantastic heritage railway, visitor attraction and economic generator**



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for the East Midlands.”

In the three years since the management and board changes at the Great Central, the company's net current liabilities have reduced from £493,000 to £244,000 – an improvement of a quarter of a million pounds.

“Lots done, lots still to do,” concluded David. “The shareholders are a key part of this achievement and the GCR's ongoing revival. I hope they will come to the AGM on June 28<sup>th</sup> so I can personally thank them. Afterwards they can enjoy a complimentary tour of the railway.”

The GCR has themed 2008, “The Year of the Express Engines”. Big name restoration projects like Oliver Cromwell have been attracting the crowds. Later this year Britain's first new main line steam engine since 1960 will undergo running in trials at the GCR. The year will be topped off by a visit from record breaking “City Of Truro”. However, the GCR is also diversifying to secure new income streams. One example is a new tea room opened at Rothley station.

ENDS

WORDS: 400

**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

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**BRITAIN'S ONLY DOUBLE TRACK, MAIN LINE HERITAGE RAILWAY**

Great Central Railway, Great Central Road, Loughborough, Leicestershire, LE11 1RW

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assured visitor attraction as designated by Enjoy England.

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