



## **GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY**

LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE

### **PRESS INFORMATION**

**Date:** 25th August 2010

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## **MAKING TRACKS TO THE PAST**

### **GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY FEATURES IN LOUGHBOROUGH LIBRARY EXHIBITION**

**The story of the fight to save a section of the Great Central Railway in Loughborough for the future is told in a new exhibition at Loughborough library. Last year the GCR marked 40 years of preservation.**

The struggles and achievements of the early pioneers who took on the railway when British Railways wanted to close it is told in the pictures, charting the rise from small scale public steam ups to gala events which attract thousands of visitors to Leicestershire.

Richard Patching, commercial manager for the Great Central Railway said, **'It's amazing to look back through these pictures and get a real sense of what's been achieved - mainly by volunteers. We hope people will enjoy sharing the memories, particularly everyone who was part of the incredible story. We hope people will be inspired to join the Great Central adventure and volunteer for the adventures still to come!'**

One hundred thousand GCR people visit the Great Central Railway every year and it is a major tourism attraction for the town. Filmmakers often use the grade two listed station as a film set.

The exhibition is now on at the library on Granby street in Loughborough.

ENDS  
WORDS 207

#### **FURTHER INFORMATION:**

Details on the above and all forthcoming events can be found on the Great Central Railway's

**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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extensive website: [www.gcrailway.co.uk](http://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.

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