



GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY

LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE

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Contact: **Kate Tilley, Marketing Manager: 07515 596835**
Richard Patching, Commercial Manager: 07515 597055
Great Central Railway

PRESS RELEASE

GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY TO STAR IN THIS WEEK'S TOP GEAR

As some of you know, BBC filmed an episode of Top Gear at Great Central Railway recently. Don't miss the screening of this episode which will be aired this Sunday 17/07/11 on BBC 2 at 8.00pm.

After some three weeks of preparation at the GCR Rothley Carriage & Wagon workshops, Top Gear scenes were subsequently shot at all four of the GCR stations, as well as various line-side locations over four location days, where stunts by the presenters were created in Top Gear style. Props included a stag's head; a fire; and men in goggles!

The Top Gear trio attempted to make train travel cheaper, faster and more interesting by replacing the conventional carriages and locomotive with a series of caravans attached to a specially modified car. Also in the show, Jeremy is out on the track comparing the ripsnorting Jaguar XKR-S to the recently updated Nissan GT-R.

Tune in on Sunday 17th July to see Top Gear on GCR's double track - be prepared to suspend railway beliefs!

ENDS
WORDS 179

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 - 5.30) 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



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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.