



GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY

LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE

PRESS INFORMATION

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GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY OPENS NEW HEADQUARTERS BUILDING AFTER EIGHTEEN MONTHS OF RENOVATION

Former Good's Office building regenerated with support from Charnwood Borough Council Leicestershire Economic Partnership.

It was built for the original Great Central Railway in the late 1890s. Now after many years of being owned by other people and even some time spent derelict, the Loughborough Goods Office is back 'under old management' serving the preserved Great Central Railway!

On the third of September dignitaries, volunteers and donors will gather to mark the formal reopening of the building on Wharncliffe Road in Loughborough at 7pm.

The building was constructed in the 1890s to serve as Loughborough's goods traffic office when the Great Central Railway was building its new route to London. It eventually passed into British Railways ownership, after which it became a hosiery factory, then to the Riker 3M company. Finally, it was taken into the ownership of Harlow Brothers, a local timber merchants, before being sold to a developer. It was offered to the modern day GCR in 2008 and with the very generous support of Charnwood Borough Council, Leicestershire Economic Partnership, Leicestershire Promotions Ltd, not to mention a six figure fundraising appeal from GCR supporters the purchase was completed and renovations began.



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President of the Great Central Railway Bill Ford said, "**We would like to thank everyone who has supported the purchase and renovation of the building. It is a beacon of regeneration in this area of Loughborough. When all the volunteers hours over the last eighteen months are added to the grants to buy the building and the renovation appeal we estimate this is a half a million pound project.**"

The building was purchased by the David Clarke Railway Trust, the official supporting charity of the Great Central Railway. The trust has overseen the works to restore the building which has involved returning the interior layout to as built condition, rewiring and re-plumbing, creating facilities for wheel chair users including the installation of a lift, a thorough external clean and redecoration.

Where volunteers were unable to carry out the work, local contractors were used to ensure the investment was felt in the local economy. The building will serve as the new HQ for the railway and a large room upstairs will also be available for community use. In turn, over crowded rooms at Loughborough Central station which has been the administrative centre of the railway for decades, can now be freed up to and opened to the public improving what the railway offers for visitors.

The building has been named 'Lovatt House' after the late GCR company secretary, who together with his father invested much of their lives in the preservation of the railway.

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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