



**GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE

**PRESS INFORMATION**

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

Date: 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008

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**EXCITING VISITING ENGINE COMING TO**  
**THE GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY FOR APRIL**

**Great Western delight in store...**

**Families and steam enthusiasts are in for a Spring treat at the Great Central Railway in April. A handsome visiting engine is on its way to the award winning Leicestershire line sometime in the next week.**

"Kinlet Hall" was built by the Great Western Railway at their Swindon works in 1929. Nowadays having been saved from the scrap man it usually works special excursion trains on the main line.

**"We're pleased Kinlet Hall is paying us a visit" said Robert Crew the railways general manager. "It's handsome machine which will delight not only fans of the Great Western but children and families alike. It's a large engine with plenty of shining copper work just like you see in old photos. We hope it will be in action with us from Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> of April onwards. It won't be here too long though – so don't miss it!"**

The visit from Kinlet Hall (named after a Shropshire stately home!) is a timely one. The Great Central Railway is already host to a similar engine, "Witherslack Hall".

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**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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Witherslack is awaiting an expensive overhaul to return to steam and the railway hopes to use the high profile arrival 'classmate' Kinlet to raise cash for the job.

These are exciting times at the Great Central Railway in terms of engines. A large diesel loco is rolling into Loughborough in the next week, ready for the line's diesel gala on the 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of April. Meanwhile, historic steam survivor Oliver Cromwell, a large Britannia class engine, is rapidly approaching the end of a four year overhaul and Britain's brand new steam engine (the first to be built in 48 years) will be paying a visit in June.

"There's never been a better time to join our supporting organisation, 'Friends' explained Robert. "With such an exciting line up of steam and diesel engines on parade in the next few months, I'm sure people will be coming to visit us again and again. If they sign up to the 'Friends' club they could be saving money on tickets and be kept up to date with all the news from the railway."

2008 has already been declared "The Year of the Express Engines" by the Great Central and there will be even more surprises before December!

ENDS

WORDS: 395

#### **FURTHER INFORMATION:**

Details on the above and all forthcoming events can be found on the Great Central Railway's extensive website: [www.greatcentralrailway.com](http://www.greatcentralrailway.com)

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

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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 assured visitor attraction as designated by Enjoy England.

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