



GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY
LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE

PRESS INFORMATION

MEDIA CALL - MEDIA CALL - MEDIA CALL

Friday 7th October, 12.30pm

Great Central Railway, Quorn & Woodhouse Station, Woodhouse Rd, Quorn,
Leicestershire, LE12 8AJ

For more information, please see the end of the release.

Date: 3rd October 2011

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Tony Sparks, Projects Manager/Director - Tel: 07896 937555

IT AIN'T HEAVY! KIDS MAKE LIGHT WORK OF TURNING 120 TONNE STEAM LOCO

High fliers at St. Bartholomew's Primary school in Quorn are swapping timetables for turntables this Friday as they demonstrate just how easy it is to turn a full size loco on GCR's new turntable attraction

The Great Central Railway is welcoming 6 diligent school children to open their major new attraction at Quorn & Woodhouse station. The 60ft turntable, costing some £130k will be unveiled on Friday when the children will turn a 100 year old locomotive weighing 120 tonnes through 180°!

The turntable, an engineering feat in its own right, has been installed at the station to turn rolling stock and locomotives. The 35 tonne structure, originating from British Rail's York depot, has taken 16 weeks to install and has included the removal of 1,800 tonnes of soil, the installation of 10 tonnes of reinforcing steel and 180 cubic metres of concrete has been poured!

"The children really will be turning heads on Friday" said Kate Tilley, Great Central Railway's Marketing Manager. **"Having something so big turned by little children will be really quite a spectacle. The kids are really excited at the prospect of moving 20 tonnes each!"** She added.

"Our offer to visitors has to continually evolve and improve" said Tony Sparks, GCR Director. **"We are already one of Britain's leading heritage railways, but now, with the addition of the turntable as well as the new cafe at Quorn, our visitor offering has improved even more! What better way to demonstrate this wonderful feat of engineering than having children push a full size loco so effortlessly!"**

This huge £130,000 undertaking will demonstrate the turning of steam giants of the rails, a sight rarely seen these days. The installation has been timed to be showcased at the railway's biggest annual gala which takes place from 6th – 9th October.

ENDS

WORDS: 313

PRESS CALL DETAILS

Please join us at Quorn and Woodhouse Station at 12.30pm. Interviews with the children and staff involved will be available. Please confirm attendance by calling Kate Tilley on the above numbers.

Quorn Station is situated just off the A6 approximately a mile from Loughborough town centre. Please use the post code LE11 1RW for your sat nav system or follow the brown signs from the A6.

PLEASE NOTE. IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO JOIN US ON FRIDAY YOU ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US ON SATURDAY (8TH OCTOBER) AT 12.30PM WHEN LOCAL MP, NICKY MORGAN WILL DECLARE THE TURNTABLE 'OPEN'. THERE WILL BE SPEECHES AND PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES.

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 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.