



GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY
LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE

PRESS INFORMATION

Winner "Best Tourism Experience - East Midlands" 2007

Date: 7th July 2008

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"ENGLAND EXPECTS!"

'Lord Nelson' on the bridge at the Great Central Railway.

Famous steam engine from the national collection on a whirlwind visit to Leicestershire.

The Great Central Railway is hosting a surprise visit from the admiralty in July. It's been confirmed that a Southern Region engine, no.850 "Lord Nelson" will be paying a flying visit to the award winning Leicestershire heritage line.

The engine will arrive next week and stay until the end of the month. It is part of the national collection and is on loan from the National Railway Museum. While it is at the railway it will operate passenger trains at weekends and undertake some testing and performance trials.

"We're very grateful to the museum for allowing Lord Nelson to visit the railway," said GCR president Bill Ford. "It has never been to our line before. This is our year of express engines, but this is a treat we weren't expecting. It will really turn heads and brings the number of national collection engines currently at the railway to four. "

The engine is the doyen of the Lord Nelson class. Sixteen were built but only this one survived the scrapman's torch. They were designed for pulling holiday trains across the south west of England on famous

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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holiday routes. Built in 1926 this example weighs in at over 140 tons.

Lord Nelson will be in action this coming weekend (12th and 13th of July) and also for the next major Great Central Railway event, the 'Mail By Rail' gala on the 26th and 27th of July. It is expected to leave in early August, so "kiss me quick" while the admiral is on the bridge!

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Images to accompany this story can be downloaded from www.greatcentralrailway.com
Follow the links "More" and "News" to the press gallery section

FURTHER INFORMATION:

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

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