



GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY

LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE

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HISTORY IS MADE AS FIRST STEAM TRAIN RUNS ON GCR'S RESTORED MOUNTSORREL BRANCH LINE

**On November 17th the first steam loco ran on the GCR branch of the
Mountsorrel Railway in over 50 years!**

The branch took part in a private photo charter that involved no. 47406 'Jinty' which made several runs along the branch with a selection of wagons, including the Mountsorrel Granite Company wagons, which were restored by project volunteers last year. When complete the restored branch line will create many opportunities for historical recreations, allowing the story of our industrial past to be told for today's generations to experience and learn from. **"We were so excited to witness the first train in steam on the line"** said Steve Cramp, Project Leader **"It was a monumental day for the railway – finally the hard work of all the volunteers is starting to pay off, what a brilliant achievement!"**

A short film of the event has been uploaded to YouTube and can be viewed at the following link:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MBCj3kosqYI&feature=youtu.be>

Phase 2 Track Laying Under Way

Community volunteers have started laying track along phase 2 of the Mountsorrel Railway trackbed. Phase 2 involves the laying of an additional 450m of track and will extend the line to almost half a mile in length. Progress has been rapid with up to 80 metres of track laid by hand in a single morning. The railway is being restored using the traditional skills of the original navvies who built the railway 115 years ago. Great care is being taken to use historically correct materials as well. Phase 2 will be constructed in two halves. The first half is almost complete and further materials will be sourced for the second half early in the New Year.

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FURTHER INFORMATION:

Details on the above event 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 632323



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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.