



GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY

LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE

PRESS INFORMATION

Celebrating 40 years of preservation in 2009

Date: 7th July 2009

THE TANKS STRIKE BACK (AGAIN!) 15th/16th AUGUST 2009

GCR adds another special event to the calendar as N2 and Fairburn come together for the first time in steam

Chance for everyone to explore newly acquired Loughborough 'Goods Office'

It's been a year of superstar tank engines at the Great Central Railway. The theme is set to continue with an extra special event which has just been announced. On 15th and 16th of August two freshly overhauled tanks will steam together for the first time ever: GNR N2 no 1744 and LMS Fairburn Tank no 42085.

The two tanks will be joined by a third engine, resident BR standard 2 no 78019. A mini gala is in prospect as the GCR timetable goes entirely steam worked for the day (except for the first diesel multiple unit return service). It is planned to double head the N2 and the Fairburn on the final departure from Loughborough, the 4.45pm.

"We're very excited about this event," said GCR president Bill Ford. "So many people keep asking about the progress of the N2 and the Fairburn we know they have a big following. At the time of writing the N2s overhaul has been completed to a very high standard and the repairs to the Fairburn are almost complete. Both engines are freshly painted and look superb."

The GCR had a very successful Easter holiday period in 2009, staging a 'tank engine gala' with two visiting engines.

The Fairburn tank is on an extended visit from its home base, the Lakeside and Haverthwaite Railway. When repairs (which have included new side tanks) are complete the engine will work passenger trains at the Great Central Railway until around November 2009. The Gresley society's N2 has been a long term resident at the GCR. It returned to steam in June 2009.



GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY

LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE

PRESS INFORMATION

On the afternoon of the 15th of August there is another vintage attraction competing for attention. The GCR is throwing open the doors of its newly acquired headquarters building, "Lovatt House". This original GCR building is 'back home'

some 115 years after being built. It was purchased earlier this year following a successful appeal to Friends of the Great Central Main Line. Recently donors had the chance to tour the building, but on the afternoon of the 15th between 2pm and 5pm everyone will be welcoming to see inside. Restoration work is well underway and the appeal remains open to finance the best quality finish possible. GCR visitors are being encouraged to sample the atmosphere of this original building which has been 'off limits' for so many years and is now being reborn.

ENDS

WORDS 437

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 has been operating for over 36 years, 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 railway's 110 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.

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