



GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY

LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE

PRESS INFORMATION

Celebrating 40 years of preservation in 2009

Date: **2nd August 2009**

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GET SOME IN!

NATIONAL SERVICE REMEMBERED

**Great Central Railway marks 60th anniversary of
National Service with veterans weekend**

It's sixty years since the era of National Service began. To mark the occasion the Great Central Railway is holding a veterans weekend with discount fares on its steam hauled trains and a selection of post war vehicles.

Coming into effect on January 1st 1949, the National Service Act of 1947 was designed to meet Britain's post war military manpower needs. Every male British subject aged 17 to 26 (30 for Medical and Dental professionals) and normally resident in the UK was liable to serve in the Armed Forces for a period of 12 months; later extended to 2 years.

National Service personnel subsequently served and gave their lives in full military operations in Malaya, Korea, Cyprus and Kenya prior to its formal end on 31 December 1960.

All veterans wearing their Government issued HM Armed Forces Veterans' Lapel Badge will be given free train travel on the day, with accompanying party members all travelling for a flat fare of £5 each.

Re-enactors wearing period uniforms or civilian outfits will all travel for a flat fare of £5 each.

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FURTHER INFORMATION:

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



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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

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