



## **GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY**

LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE

### **PRESS INFORMATION**

*Celebrating 40 years of preservation in 2009*

**Date:** 17th July 2009

### **GET SOME IN!**

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

**The GCR goes back to the era of National Service on the 8th and 9th of August. The railway will host a selection of post war vehicles and re-enactors in costume. All services will be steam hauled for the weekend. It's sixty years since National Service began.**

Coming into effect on January 1st 1949, the National Service Act of 1947 was designed to meet Britain's post war military manpower needs and made every male British subject aged 17 to 26 (30 for Medical and Dental professionals) and normally resident in the UK, 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.

Uniformed and civilian re-enactors will all travel for a flat fare of £5 each. All arms and all ranks will be made welcome, as long as the uniforms or outfits are appropriate to the 1948-1962 period.

ENDS  
WORDS 228

#### **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](http://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**

**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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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 railways 10 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.

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