



## **GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY**

LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE

### **PRESS INFORMATION**

*Celebrating 40 years of preservation in 2009*

**Date:** 29th May 2009

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## **ALL HANDS TO THE PUMPS AT THE GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY**

### **Railway hosts film crew for 'pump trolley race'.**

**It was a case of all hands to the pumps at the Great Central Railway as the line recently played host to a film crew. The team from ITV Britain's Biggest Loser weren't remaking the Great St Trinian's Train Robbery, but instead staging a race between two groups on iconic railway pump trolleys.**

It was all in the name of losing weight and the results have just hit the tv screens on ITV one. The programme hosted by Kate Garraway was filmed earlier in the year. Producers chose the Great Central because of its unique double track, which meant the two trolleys could run alongside each other.

GCR president Bill Ford said, "**This was a very unusual filming job for us, but we were pleased to help out. The double track came into its own and other local businesses directly benefited from the film crew being in Charnwood, so we were pleased to help bring some income into the area in the current climate.**"

The GCR doesn't own any trolleys so was grateful for the support of other heritage railways across the country for providing them. One of them was no stranger to TV stardom. It was used by Roy Castle to set the pump trolley speed record on 'Record Breakers' back in the 70s.

The GCR has other film projects in the pipeline for 2009 and was recently used as a location for BBC Televisions "Flog It" programme.

ENDS

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#### **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**

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 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.

**BRITAIN'S ONLY DOUBLE TRACK, MAIN LINE HERITAGE RAILWAY**

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