



GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY

LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE

PRESS INFORMATION

Date: 8th June 2010

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Media Call: 10.45am, 11th June 2010, Loughborough Central Station, Great Central Road, Loughborough, Leicestershire.

CHILDREN TASTE LIFE AS EVACUEES

Loughborough school children will get a taste of wartime life on Friday as they become evacuees for the day.

Parents of pupils from Outwoods Edge school will wave children off from Loughborough Central station, as the Great Central Railway wartime weekend gets underway.

One and a half million people were moved out of country's big cities as Britain went to war with Germany in 1939. Many children were sent to live in the country with people they had never met before. Some would never be able to return home.

Kate Tilley from the Great Central Railway said, "**The railway provides a living educational experience. We can go some way towards recreating the mixture of emotions the evacuees and their parents will have felt. It's an important part of our wartime weekend, which remembers and commemorates the life changing experience of living through the second world war.**"

Some of the pupils will be travelling in period costume, carrying home made gas masks. They will depart from Loughborough Central on the 11am steam hauled train (returning about an hour and fifteen minutes later).

The wartime weekend continues on the 12th and 13th of June with thousands of visitors expected to attend the event. It will feature period displays, music and a vintage aircraft flypast.

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Media are invited to Loughborough Central station on the Great Central Railway at 10.45am on Friday 11th of June to see the children depart on the train.

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 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 railway's 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, 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.

BRITAIN'S ONLY DOUBLE TRACK, MAIN LINE HERITAGE RAILWAY

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