



GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY

LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE

PRESS INFORMATION

Celebrating 40 years of preservation in 2009

Date: 24th August 2009

*Day out with
Thomas™*

THOMAS AND FRIENDS COME TO GCR **THIS BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND** **(29th to 31st August 2009)**

Last time the blue engine will be in Loughborough for a while

Fares held at 2008 levels to help visitors beat the credit crunch

Thomas the Tank Engine will be at the Great Central Railway this coming weekend (29th to the 31st of August 2009). He's proving to be a very useful and family friendly engine with fares to travel behind him held at last years rates.

Thomas will be joined by his friends, Daisy, Donald and Douglas and of course Sir Topham Hatt who will be keeping them in order for a weekend of fun. All the events are happening at Quorn and Woodhouse station and they include magic shows and face painting.

"We're not putting our Thomas fares up in 2009," said Bill Ford, president of the Great Central Railway. "We're naturally keen to welcome family visitors and this seemed just the ticket. We hope it means the young and the young at heart can enjoy a ride with Thomas or one of his friends."

It is the last time Thomas will be visiting the Great Central for a while. His next planned visit is not until May next year.

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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“Thomas will still feature in our special events programme in 2010 but we have some new friends for families to meet as well,” concluded Bill.

Loughborough Central station at the Great Central Railway has recently been upgraded. There is now a lift to take visitors between the booking hall and platform making access with prams and pushchairs much easier. A wheeled access toilet has also been provided together with a baby change facility.

Adult tickets which are valid for the full day are just £12, children are just £8. The GCR has two family tickets: One adult and up to three children can enjoy the fun for the bargain rate of just £20 and two adults and up to three children pay just £30 for a days entertainment. Members of the ‘Friends of the Great Central Main Line’ pay even less.

Sir Topham and Thomas will be happy to pose for pictures during the event. Entertainers and face painters will also on hand during the weekend. Sir Topham has said he is going to have a word with the useful engines to try and ensure even if there is snow around they are able to run.

ENDS.

WORDS: 407

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 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

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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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