



## **GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY**

LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE

### **PRESS INFORMATION**

**Date:** 15th Feb 2010

**Contact:** Kate Tilley, Great Central Railway  
Tel: 07515 596835

## **TORNADO STRIKES IN JUST FOUR WEEKS**

**Great Central Railway adds more chances to drive and dine with world famous locomotive due to high demand.**

**The Great Central Railway will welcome back world famous, newly built steam locomotive 'Tornado' in just four weeks time. The engine will arrive in Leicestershire in mid March for a three week stay.**

Already footplate passes to ride on the engine have sold out and bookings are brisk for an exclusive first class dining train.

Tornado will work passenger trains on the 20th and 21st March, 26th, 27th and 28th March and 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th April.

The GCR is now adding extra opportunities to actually drive Tornado during its three week visit. Would be drivers who want to track themselves into the Tornado story can choose from two packages

**BRONZE:** Drive Tornado light engine for a single eight mile trip along the line. Ride on the footplate in the other direction with another driver. Slots for the bronze experience are available on Friday 2nd April only. £450 per person.

**SILVER:** Drive Tornado for a full line return (16 miles) with carriages. Then ride another return trip on the footplate (32 miles in total). £750 per person.

To book a drive a locomotive trip, contact Steven Saunders in the booking office on 01509 230726 or Steven Chapple, GCR events co-ordinator 07515 598328

Meanwhile, an extra dining train hauled by Tornado has been added to the visit schedule. This special Sunday evening train will depart at 7.30pm from Loughborough Central station on 21st of March. Join us for a three course meal (and coffee) served in our first class dining train during a leisurely sixteen mile round trip, with the celebrity locomotive at the head of the train. Return time is shortly after



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10pm. Tickets cost £47 per person. To book this dining train call the office on 01509 230726 and press 0 to speak to a booking clerk.

Kate Tilley from the Great Central Railway said, **“We’re getting very excited about Tornado’s imminent return to the railway and judging by the amount of enquiries we are getting so are visitors. The engine will only be with us a short while so we urge people not to miss out.”**

**ENDS**

**WORDS 350**

#### **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 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 railways 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 course, 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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