



GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY
LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE

PRESS INFORMATION

Winner "Best Tourism Experience - East Midlands" 2007

Date: 16th June 2008

Contact: **Bruce Pollard, Commercial Manager**
Tel: 01509 230726 / 07778 512275

WAGONS ROLL!

**Historic coal trains recreated for one weekend at the
Great Central Railway (21st / 22nd June 2008)**

**Special visiting engine heading to Loughborough
from the Lake District.**

Keep those wagons rolling! That's the message from the Great Central Railway this weekend as the railway runs a special selection of coal wagons, recreating a famous freight train that ran over the line, 50 years ago.

The 'Windcutters', so called because they made good time, were long trains made up of tens of mineral wagons. They moved coal from the Yorkshire and Nottinghamshire pits down the Great Central to power stations and factories in the South.

"We're lucky to have the largest collection of surviving mineral wagons in the country", said Bruce Pollard, Commercial Manager for the Great Central Railway. **"Once there were thousands running across the country every day. As the GCR had a special connection with them, in 1992 we worked with 'Steam Railway' magazine to save a few. We ended up with 39! This**

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



GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY
LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE

PRESS INFORMATION

weekend we're marking the 15th anniversary of restoration work beginning on the wagons back in 1993. However in these days of heavy lorries, people forget how important the humble railway wagon once was, hence the idea to run a weekend where we demonstrated what they were all about."

18 coal wagons will recreate the 'Windcutter' freight trains, making runs up and down the line behind steam and diesel locomotives for this special weekend. Meanwhile the doors of the railway wagon works will be thrown so visitors can see first hand what goes into keeping a wagon on the rails. The restoration team will be on hand to give talks about their work.

"The extra icing on the cake of this special event is a visiting engine coming to us all the way from the Lake District," continued Bruce. "The Lakeside and Haverthwaite Railway are sending a 1951 built 'Fairburn tank' to the GCR for repairs. Before the maintenance work starts, they've kindly allowed us to use it this weekend."

The visit of the Fairburn tank engine is part of a pioneering deal between the Great Central Railway and the Lakeside and Haverthwaite Railway. The engine has never operated away from its home base before. Visitors to the Windcutter weekend will be the first to see the engine running on a double track railway since 1968.

Full details, including fares and times the demonstration coal trains are running can be found on the Great Central Railway website at www.gcrailway.co.uk

ENDS
WORDS 415

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

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



GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY

LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE

PRESS INFORMATION

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 30 years, and is manned by around 700 volunteers and a small team of permanent staff. Originally 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 109 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

Great Central Railway, Great Central Road, Loughborough, Leicestershire, LE11 1RW

Tel: (01509) 230726 Fax: (01509) 239791