



GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY
LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE

PRESS INFORMATION

Winner "Best Tourism Experience - East Midlands" 2007

Date: 8th June 2008

Contact: Lynn Hill, Marketing Assistant
Tel: 07789 178387

GREAT CENTRAL GOES TO WAR

**Railway lines up working Enigma machine for
roaring 40s themed weekend.**

**Thousands expected to enjoy music, period vehicles
and a Spitfire flypast (14th / 15th June 2008)**

The Great Central Railway is remembering the dark days of World War Two this weekend (14th, 15th June 2008). The event is going to be bigger than ever with a rare amphibious vehicle on display and a demonstration of a working, top secret Enigma code machine.

Hundreds of costumed re-enactors will mingle amongst visitors making it the closest possible experience to time travel without a TARDIS! Where else can you meet Winston Churchill, General Montgomery and General Eisenhower and overhear them planning the D-Day landings? Watch a Spitfire flypast and then swing out to a sixteen piece band?

"For once our historic steam engines are just the set dressing," joked the line's marketing assistant, Lynn Hill. "We've really pulled the stops out for this event with period vehicles, singers and musicians performing popular 1940s songs, a 'bombing run' and even a Royal visit from King George VI."

There will be a busy service of steam trains – and a diesel specially painted in camouflage colours to move the thousands of people

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

expected around the line to see the many different attractions.

The event has a major educational theme with a schools visiting day lined up on Friday 13th of June. This year Wartime Weekend is codenamed “Operation Overlord” and the D-Day landings, now 64 years ago will be remembered not only at a special Sunday service but also with a parade of navy personnel.

At Rothley station there will be a demonstration skirmish between Allied and Axis troops. Meanwhile each of the Great Central’s stations will be carefully themed.

At Quorn and Woodhouse station on Saturday evening, acclaimed singer Fiona Harrison will perform to the accompaniment of a sixteen piece swing band as troops and civilians jive the night away.

“We think people will be thrilled by the DUKW vehicle,” concluded Lynn “and the chance to see a working Enigma machine. The 1940s event is full of atmosphere and reflection. We hope to host plenty of visitors during the weekend.”

ENDS

WORDS: 361

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 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

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

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