



GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY

LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE

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Contact: Kate Tilley, Marketing Manager: 07515 596835

PRESS RELEASE

GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY TURNS BACK THE CLOCK TO CELEBRATE AN EDWARDIAN CHRISTMAS

**A wonderful, festive evening at picturesque Rothley station - roaring fires,
gas lights and friends from the past!**

The Great Central Railway's award-winning Edwardian period station at Rothley will turn the clock back 100 years on the evening of Saturday November 26th to celebrate a typically Edwardian Christmas in an era of steam trains, gas lights and roaring fires.

Visitors to the station on Saturday evening will see the station as it might have been on a busy evening in December 1908 with passengers waiting for their trains and their luggage to be loaded.

“This will be a wonderfully atmospheric night out” said GCR’s Marketing Manager, Kate Tilley. **“The charm and history of Rothley station is the perfect setting for this nostalgic evening. Visitors can step back 100 years in time and join passengers waiting for their trains on their way back home for Christmas whilst enjoying the sights and sounds of festivities in the early 1900s”**

Listen to a brass band, and enjoy hot mulled wine, warming soup, mince pies, roast chestnuts or a pint of ale whilst you explore this beautifully restored station and children can meet Santa Claus too! The station is officially haunted and visitors are invited to see if they can meet the ghosts of Christmas past...! Children and adults alike will also be spellbound by the specially-lit garden railway. Hot food and drinks will be available at Ellis tearoom.

Gate admission for the evening (from 7pm-10pm) is £4 for adults and £3 for children, or arrive in style on the 7.00pm steam train from Loughborough.....

ENDS

WORDS 272



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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 632323

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.