

Halsgrove Railway Series

GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY

Matt Allen

In this book, the *Halsgrove Railway Series* takes us to Leicestershire for the Great Central Railway. A part of the former "Great Central" mainline from London to Sheffield and Nottingham, the "new" Great Central Railway runs from Loughborough to Leicester North. Originally closed by British Railways in 1969, a keen bunch of volunteers were keen not to see this section of line disappear and launched a preservation bid. It's now a big player in the Heritage Railway scene with regular steam and heritage diesel operations. The Great Central Railway can boast to be the only "double track" heritage railway in the UK, so is the only place where you can be travelling behind a steam locomotive and pass another steam hauled train travelling in the opposite direction.

This book will take you on a photographic journey along the 8 mile line. You'll see the fantastic collection of locomotives, historic rolling stock and the fantastic restored stations. Some of the photographs also catch that "lucky moment" when two steam trains pass each other at speed.

Railway Photographer and *Halsgrove Railway Series* regular Matt Allen has been joined by his friend and fellow established railway photographer Warwick Falconer in producing this collection of over 150 atmospheric photographs.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Matt Allen has been interested in railways for as long as he can remember. His father was a fireman in the steam days and latterly a driver for British Rail, so an interest in railways was in the blood.

Most weekends will find Matt photographing steam trains somewhere, covering many miles all over the country. Every autumn also sees the launch of his annual "Steam Railway Calendar" showcasing his best pictures from the year.

He is a regular contributor to the railway media, specifically *Railway Magazine*. This book is his third in the well known *Halsgrove Railways Series*, following on from *The Mid Hants Railway* and *The Bluebell Railway*.

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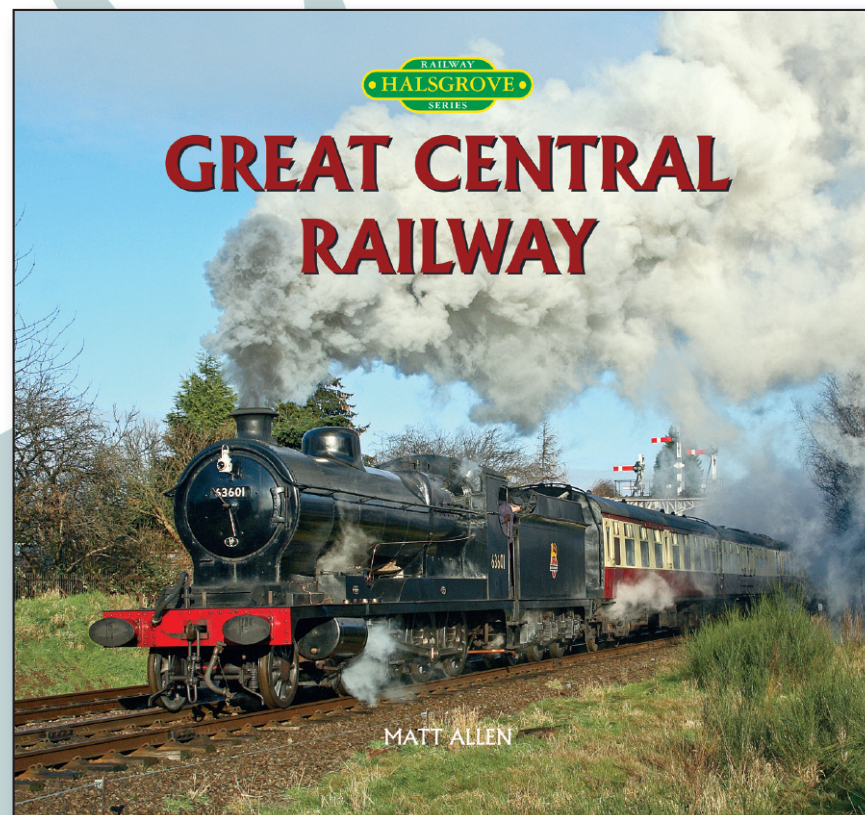
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GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY



Woodthorpe is one of the most popular locations along the line for photographers. 'Oliver Cromwell' heads a mixed train of green and red/cream coaches.



Caught at speed. 48773 (actually 48305) is approaching Woodthorpe.



You never know who you'll meet at Quorn and Woodhouse during a 'War on the Line' event!



The early morning light in this location can be lovely, something photographers can exploit during special events when the train service starts earlier than usual. 78019 is heading towards Quorn and Woodhouse with short mixed freight.



Left:
The train crew consisting of fireman, driver and guard discuss the day ahead, prior to leaving Loughborough. Photograph by Matt Allen.

Right:
O4 class locomotive 65601 is 'waiting around' in train at Loughborough. The railway doesn't currently have a turntable, so it's simply a case of taking the engine off one coil and moving it to the other. Note the water tower in the background. Photograph by Matt Allen.

Below:
The Great Central Railway has a great relationship with the National Railway Museum and is the custodian of a number of their locomotives. The locomotive in question here is 30777 'St James'. Photograph by Matt Allen.



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The signals at Beeches Road provide photographers with a real treat, creating lots of added interest. 78019 is making a rather spirited departure on a cold winter's day.

Example of a double-page spread.