



GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY
LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE

PRESS INFORMATION

Winner "Best Tourism Experience - East Midlands" 2007

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**IT DON'T MEAN A THING,
IF IT AIN'T GOT THAT SWING.**

**GCR swinging 1960s show will star Class 40 D212
in a mixed traction three day display
(14th / 15th and 16th March 2008).**

Three steam, three diesels a DMU and a heck of a lot of trains. It's the return of the swinging sixties gala at the Great Central Railway.

Starring guest diesel loco, Class 40 D212 (thanks to the Class 40 appeal) and some favourites from the home fleet the event will feature three days of action and the chance to turn up a drive a class 47 on the GCR double track main line.

"It's going to be an exciting show," said General Manager Robert Crew, "it's an event which traditionally stretches the double track capacity. We're making some changes this year and hope to run a breakdown train featuring the newly restored steam crane and a parcels train between the passenger service. We're also planning to put Quorn sidings to the test with some shunting and laying over of non passenger trains while 'faster' trains pass them. Last year we were also able to attract some mods, rockers and bikers to the weekend. We're inviting them back to add some more flavour to the scene!"

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



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Friday the 14th is diesel only day and is likely to feature Class 31 D5830, Class 47 D1705, Peak D123 as well as the star guest Class 40, hauling passenger trains from 10am. There will be two real ale trains on Friday night at 7pm and 8.30pm.

Saturday and Sunday will feature steam and diesel haulage plus the lines resident class 101 DMU. The Class 40 will feature on a variety of trains during the day. Full details, including times and prices of the turn up and drive programme will be announced on the railway website. Steam traction is likely to include SR King Arthur 30777, "Sir Lamiel"

"We're really looking forward to the visit of the 40," continued Robert, "We've called this the year of the express engines and it fits perfectly. Add in 'Sir Lamiel' and they're two big draws for a great railway show. Expect some period music and prototypical station announcements to help some people will relive their misspent youth!"

Visitors will also be able to tour Loughborough locomotive shed to see the progress on the restoration of Oliver Cromwell, which is all but complete. Fares and timetables will be available soon at the railway's website.

ENDS
WORDS 409

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

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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.

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