



## **GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY**

LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE

### **PRESS INFORMATION**

*Celebrating 40 years of preservation in 2009*

**Date: 15th March 2009**

**Contact: To arrange interviews or press tickets to cover the event please call Alan Brassey, Commercial Manager on 0778 512274**

## **Swing back to the 60s at the Great Central Railway**

**March makeover for popular 'throwback event'  
with Loughborough Central station poised for redecoration!**

**The GCR swings back to the 1960s on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> of March 2009. The popular event has had something of a makeover with four steam engines and three diesel engines ready to take part. Loughborough Central station is also being redecorated for the weekend, going back to its dull maroon days - the livery of British Railways when it said 'goodbye' to steam.**

The steam engine line up includes a special guest engine, from the North of England LNER Q6 no. 63395. This is the final scheduled running days of the Q6 before it leaves the GCR after a three months stay, so the locomotive line up is a strict one off and should draw thousands of enthusiasts to Leicestershire.

Matching the steam fleet, newly resident BRCW Type 2 no. D5401 will lead the diesel line up with Brush Type 2 D5830, Brush Type 4 D1705 (Saturday only) and Sulzer Type 4 D123 (Sunday Only) also expected take part. The lines resident Met Camm DMU will also feature.

Event organiser Steven Chapple said **"The year has been set as 1965. We're looking at the GCR through slightly rose tinted specs because of course by then, Quorn and Rothley has already closed. However, Loughborough Central will be stepping back to a mini maroon makeover for one weekend only. We're installing as many maroon signs as we can find and the end waiting room will become a demonstration parcels office."**

Freight and parcels sets will compliment passenger trains with a very intensive timetable planned. As an added touch station porters will be loading and unloading



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the parcels stock during station stops. Even the GCR on train and station catering are being themed for the event. Ellis's tea room at Rothley will operate a special 1960s menu and a one off 60s style dining train is planned for Saturday.

There will also be a line up of classic cars at Quorn pitting steel wheels against rubber tyres!

ENDS

WORDS 348

#### **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](http://www.gcrailway.co.uk)

Additional information can also be obtained from the Booking Office, Loughborough Central Station, (Daily 9.00 - 5.30) on 01509 230726

#### **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 36 years, 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 10 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**

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