



GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY

LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE

PRESS INFORMATION

Date: 18 February 2011

STANDBY TO SWING, DOUBLE EIGHT TIME! GCR 1960S GALA 25TH, 26TH & 27TH MARCH

Great Central Railway unveils motive power mix for 'changeover years' 1960s event featuring two 8Fs

The GCR swings back to the 1960s on the 25th, 26th and 27th of March 2011 for a mixed traction gala with visiting engines. Two visiting 8F's lead the way in a line up which should see five steam locomotives and two diesels in action.

First of the visitors is 8F no. 45160 repatriated from Turkey. It will partner classmate no. 48624 currently running in a red livery. Neither engine has visited Leicestershire metals before. Another 2-8-0 makes a stand, though this time for a different region - GWR no. 3850, which has already proved itself a popular engine at the recent Winter Gala. Another western engine, no. 1450 will be appearing with an autococh, the last time this pairing will be scene for now on the GCR. LMS Black 5 no. 45305 rounds off the steam line up, and Class 20 D8098 and Class 45 (D123) make the running for the diesels.

'To compliment the 1960s feel the locomotives bring to this event' said Marketing Manager, Kate Tilley, 'we are also bringing 1960s bands to play some music from the swinging decade, re-enactors and Hi-De-Hi holiday camp staff, you will find me in the real ale tent!'

On the Friday of the event, three locomotives will be in action and there will be the chance to take the regulator of a guest loco for a tenner. Over the weekend, besides 60s re-enactors and themed music there will be mail drop demonstrations.

ENDS
WORDS 271

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 230726

NOTES

Voted number 12 on the list of the 50 greatest railway journeys in the world the



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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.