



GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY
LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE

PRESS INFORMATION

Celebrating 40 years of preservation in 2009

Date: 9th September 2009

A BRACE OF 2-8-0s!

**Great Central announces additional special event
bringing together WD 90733, 8F 48305 and O4 63601**

3rd and 4th October 2009

The best things come in threes. The Great Central Railway is taking advantage of the arrival of WD 90733 to stage a mini gala featuring a brace of 2-8-0s. A special weekend bringing together 3 powerful 2-8-0 engines will take place on the 3rd and 4th of October.

The celebrity WD is visiting the GCR for the October Steam Railway Gala. It has never operated passenger trains away from its home base of the Keighley and Worth Valley Railway, so the trains it pulls at the GCR for the mini gala will be something of a 'first'. It will operate with resident GCR locomotives LMS 8F 48305 and GCR O4 63601

“This line up hasn’t been seen before” said GCR president Bill Ford. “so its great to bring together three significant engines. Call it a curtain raiser for the gala the week after! Normal fares apply so we’re hoping people will take the chance to compare and contrast three 2-8-0s representing thirty years of progress in locomotive design.”

The O4 and the WD will double head the 4.45pm departure from Loughborough as both engines are facing south. The 8F meanwhile is pointing north presenting contrasting photographic opportunities.

The engines share another common bond besides their 2-8-0 wheel arrangement. The O4 was the 'engine of choice' for the railways during World War One, and the 8F and WD were vital in the second world war. **The O4 and the WD will double head the 4.45pm departure.**

Please note the regular diesel haulage for the 12.15pm train will be suspended. More details at www.gcrailway.co.uk

BRITAIN'S ONLY DOUBLE TRACK, MAIN LINE HERITAGE RAILWAY
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18:15:12 - 26/09/2009



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ENDS

WORDS 286

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.