

A joint press release from



**GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE



*David Shepherd*  
Wildlife Foundation

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**Contact Tony Sparks, GCR Director  
Tel: 07767 610029**

## **GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY WELCOMES DISTINGUISHED ARTIST**

**MEET THE MAN, DISCOVER HIS ART AND  
GET UP CLOSE TO ONE OF THE LARGEST  
STEAM ENGINES IN THE COUNTRY**

**An Audience with David Shepherd  
Saturday 17th October 2009**

**Art lovers and railway enthusiasts will get the chance to brush with an internationally renowned artist this October at the Great Central Railway.**

David Shepherd has had a remarkable career. His famous paintings reflect his passionate belief in wildlife conservation and his enthusiasm for railways. He is the owner of a '9F' locomotive, "Black Prince". The 9Fs were some of the last engines to be built in Britain and were well known for working passenger services and heavy freight trains.

The award winning heritage railway in Leicestershire is arranging an exclusive night out on the 17th of October 2009 bringing man and machine together and this is your chance to meet them both.

The Great Central Railway's president Bill Ford said, "**David is a very entertaining speaker with fascinating tales to tell. We are delighted he is coming to Leicestershire to talk about all of his interests and exhibit some of his artwork.**"

The event will be held in the grounds of the Manor House restaurant in the Leicestershire village of Quorn. It's next to the Great Central Railway station in the village. Guests will be treated to a sumptuous buffet before getting the chance to inspect David's work at an exclusive gallery showing. His locomotive, 9F no. 92203 will be on display. Later David will talk about his love for railways together with the



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work of his Wildlife Foundation, which helps to save critically endangered mammals in the wild.

David Shepherd said, **“I am very excited by the prospect of being on Black Prince’s footplate at the GCR and meeting so many other steam enthusiasts. It’s going to be a fantastic event.”**

All proceeds from the event will be divided between the GCRs supporting charity and also the David Shepherd Wildlife foundation. There will also be a fundraising auction.

Tickets are on sale now priced at just £58.50 a head. This includes a train ride behind 9F 92203 “Black Prince” along the Great Central Railway.

ENDS  
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#### **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.