



GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY

LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE

PRESS INFORMATION

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Black 5 45491 arrives at GCR

The Great Central Railway has welcomed two new arrivals in the last week. Ex-LMS Black 5 No. 45491 and a Sentinel shunter are both privately owned and are undergoing restoration. The '5' was built in 1943 and has not steamed since it finished its first career with British Railways. It requires boiler work but has a new tender.

Returning it to operational condition is expected to take more than a year after which it will run at the GCR. The line was synonymous with the class in the days before closure in the 1960s. The locomotives were often called upon to work semi-fast passenger trains between Nottingham Victoria and London Marylebone, besides freight services. The GCR is already host to a Black 5 in the shape of No. 45305 which is the custody of 5305 Locomotive Association.

Phil Wainwright, the locomotive's owner said **"I am delighted that the engine is now with the GCR; the loco crew there are renowned for doing brilliant work and it will be fantastic to see her running. GCR and the 5 are the perfect pairing!"**

The Sentinel shunter 'Neepsend' also requires restoration. The locomotive was a resident of the GCR in the early 1970s as the preservation of the line began. Both locomotives have come to the GCR from the Midland Railway Centre at Butterley.

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
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



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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.