



## PRESS INFORMATION

### **BRITAIN'S ONLY DOUBLE TRACK, MAIN LINE HERITAGE RAILWAY**

Great Central Railway, Great Central Road, Loughborough, Leicestershire, LE11 1RW

Tel: (01509) 230726 Fax: (01509) 239791

### **DIESELS RULE THE RAILS** **THIS WEEKEND AT THE GCR**

**Friday, Saturday and Sunday spectacular**  
**(12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> Sept) celebrates heritage traction**

**The Great Central Diesel Gala this weekend promises to delight fans of heritage diesel machines. Up to six handsome machines from yesteryear are being lined up to work hundreds of miles over the three days.**

Steam was banished by British Railways in August 1968 when the diesels took over full time. In fact they'd been around for years before that and many of the locomotives which will be working at the GCR this coming weekend are now well over forty five years old.

**"Keeping our heritage diesels on the rail is just a big job as keeping our steam fleet in order,"** explained the GCR's marketing assistant Lynn Hill, **"They're big pieces of engineering which date from the early sixties. The selection we have running this weekend takes in all shapes and sizes, designed for different work on different lines."**

One of the diesels running this weekend, the 'class 31' has been repainted specially for the event. While passengers might have been used to seeing 'all over blue' on diesels, a number of experimental colours were tried out first to see which worked best. The class 31 is in Golden Ochre, which some unkindly describe as 'brown'.

"To be honest, we've got a bit of a livery fashion parade this weekend," joked Lynn, "with diesels, in green, brown and blue."

Locomotives currently expected to feature include a Class 25 D5185, Class 31 D830, Class 33 D6535, a Class 37, 'Peak' D123 and Class 47 D1705. A two car Met Camm DMU will also feature. There will also be a Saturday night real ale and food train, departing from Loughborough Central around 7pm.

ENDS. WORDS 294

### **FURTHER INFORMATION:**

For further general information, details on the above and all forthcoming events can be found on the Great Central Railway's extensive website: [www.greatcentralrailway.com](http://www.greatcentralrailway.com)

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 30 years, and is manned by around 700 volunteers and a small team of permanent staff. Originally 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 108 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 silver award for the East Midlands best visitor experience.