



## **GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY**

LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE

**Date:** 05 May 2011

**Contacts:**

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### **SPECIAL GUEST LOCOMOTIVE CONFIRMED FOR GREATER GREAT CENTRAL DIESEL GALA**

Two firsts for GCR!

Class 37, 37275 on its first ever visit to the Great Central is to star at the first time joint GCR & GCR(N) diesel gala

14th & 15th May

**Class 37, 37275** has been confirmed as the sixth engine to star at this gala, which will offer a unique opportunity to sample classic diesel haulage on both the GCR and the GCR(N)! The locomotive (previous number D6975) was built by Vulcan Works in 1965 and is currently in BR blue livery. **37275** is coming to us from Barrow Hill and is on its first visit to GCR, it is expected to stay with us until September.

The event is expected to feature the following locos in action at the GCR - **D8098, D5830, 37198** (in its special Network Rail livery and fondly known as the Yellow Peril), **D123, D1705** and a further ten in action at the GCR(N) - **20007, 20154, 25279, 46010, 47292/765, 56097, 73110**, plus **TWO guest locos; 56303 and 31454** (subject to availability from British American Railways). There will be a bus link between the two railways so that visitors can experience an intensive timetable behind the same class of loco at each location on the same day! Real ale will be served throughout the event, with the popular All-Day Breakfasts on GCR.

**"This is one of the first events to Bridge the Gap"** said Bill Ford, President of the Great Central Railway **"We are delighted to be working with GCRN on this ground breaking event which gives enthusiasts the opportunity to clock up some miles at both railways on the same day"**

Mark Fowler, Event Manager at GCRN echoed these sentiments and added **"This is the first-time since the 1960s that passengers will be able to purchase tickets between Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire**



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**on the GC route – a marvelous demonstration of our continued development as a leading East Midlands centre of tourism”**

THROUGH TICKETING will be available (Leicester North - Ruddington!), with the 'Greater Great Central Gala' rover ticket, which will include a free bus link between the two railways as well as Loughborough Midland station. Separate GCR and GCR(N) Fares and concessionary tickets are also available; please see the website for further details and how to book, closer to the event. There will also be a Diesel-only operation on the NSMEE miniature railway at Ruddington.

ENDS  
WORDS 402

### **FURTHER INFORMATION:**

Details on the above event can be found on the Great Central Railway's extensive website: [www.gcrailway.co.uk](http://www.gcrailway.co.uk) and on the GCRN website at [www.gcrn.co.uk](http://www.gcrn.co.uk)

Additional information can also be obtained from the Booking Office, Loughborough Central Station, (Daily 9.00 - 5.30) on 01509 230726

### **NOTES**

GCR;

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 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.



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GCRN;

The only heritage railway in Britain to support a regular freight flow which contributes to our local environment, GC Railway Nottingham continues to develop and operate heritage train services between Ruddington and Loughborough, including a range of scheduled services and special events.