



GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY

LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE

Date: 7th April 2011

Contacts:

Richard Patching, Commercial Manager GCR: 07515 597055

Mark Fowler, Event Manager, GCRN: 01332-523-171

THE GREATER GREAT CENTRAL DIESEL GALA

**A unique opportunity to sample classic diesel
haulage on both the GCR and the GCR(N)!
14th & 15th May**

In an exciting first for 2011 we're joining forces with our sister railway, the Great Central Railway (Nottingham), to offer a mighty diesel gala across 18 miles of heritage railway with 16 locomotives!

The event is expected to feature the following locos in action at the GCR - **D8098, D5185, D5830, 37198, 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 riders 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 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



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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.

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FURTHER INFORMATION:

Details on the above event can be found on the Great Central Railway's extensive website: www.gcrailway.co.uk and on the GCRN website at 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.

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.