



GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY

LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE

PRESS INFORMATION

Celebrating 40 years of preservation in 2009

Date: 27th November 2009

FOUR MAIN LINE DIESELS IN ACTION FOR GCR MINI GALA IN JANUARY

**Visiting class 50 and ex Irish Railways steam heat van appearing
in train formation for event: Jan 9th and 10th 2010**

Diesel enthusiasts can look forward to some New Year 'thrash' with four locomotives lined up for the Great Central Railway's mini gala. The event on the 9th and 10th of January 2010 should feature guest locomotive, Class 50 007 "Sir Edward Elgar".

The 50 is on an extended visit to the line, set to join it are Peak D123, Class 27 D5401 and Class 20 D8098. A special timetable will apply and one of the ex Irish Railways steam heat vans will be marshalled in the train formation to provide warmth.

Steven Chapple, event organiser for the Great Central Railway said, "**We first staged a January diesel event last year and it proved to be very popular. With four large engines including the class 50 taking part, we hope enthusiasts will be tempted back to us for a bit of a midwinter traction action. One of the most popular attractions last time was the inclusion of the steam heat van in the train formation, so we'll look to heat as many trains as possible that way. Where that's not possible carriage formations will be preheated by steam locomotive.**"

Despite the intensive timetable and added attractions, enthusiasts can beat the post Christmas wallet squeeze because normal Great Central train fare of £12 for a full day adult runabout and £7 for a full day child runabout will apply. All day breakfasts will be available from the griddle car on some trains. There will also be three steam hauled return trips on Saturday and Sunday.

All locomotives and attractions appear subject to availability.

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