



GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY

LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE

PRESS INFORMATION

Date: 9th February 2010

Contact: Kate Tilley, Great Central Railway
Tel: 07515 596835

MASSIVE FOUR DAY MARCH 1960s GALA STARRING TORNADO

STEAM AND DIESEL MAKE MIXED TRACTION MAGIC.

UP TO FOUR GUEST ENGINES IN ACTION

25th, 26th, 27th 28th MARCH 2010

The Great Central Railway notches it's 2010 gala action up a gear in March. The popular mixed traction 1960s gala returns bigger than ever with celebrity new build Peppercorn A1 Pacific right at the top of the guest list.

It's a 'Magnificent Seven' motive power line up. A1 60163 'Tornado' is joined by visiting BR standard four number 80072 (which has only recently returned to steam), visiting Jubilee number 5690 "Leander", visiting Black 5 number 44767 "George Stephenson" and newly restored Jinty number 47406. In addition two diesel locomotives will join the fleet each day.

Great Central Railway event co-ordinator Steven Chapple said **"We're very honoured to have Tornado topping the bill at our 1960s gala. The locomotive roster will change over each day giving visitors the chance to see a different show on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. We'll have a very busy and interesting timetable at the weekend with the popular pick up goods making a return."**

The lines Met Camm DMU is also expected to feature in the event giving passengers a front seat view of passing trains on the double track.

Thursday 25th March will feature an hourly departure schedule from Loughborough Central station and locomotives 5690 and 80072. Visitors will be able to get their hands on the regulator of 3F 47406 for just a fiver, for a short drive in Loughborough station limits.



GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY

LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE

PRESS INFORMATION

Friday 26th March will see the action step up to a forty five minute passenger timetable with three engines, 5690, Tornado and 80072. Plans are in hand to offer short trip diesel driver experiences on the day.

Saturday 27th March will see a full intensive timetable with passenger and freight trains. Locomotives are expected to be Tornado, 5690, 80072, 44767, 47406, Class 20 D8098 and Class 25 D5185 plus the DMU. Trains will run into the evening on Saturday.

Sunday 28th March will see a change of Black 5's. Motive power should include Tornado, 5690, 80072, 45231, 47406, Class 27 D5401 and Class 45 D123 plus the DMU.

The GCR plans other additional attractions around the gala including a beer tent at Quorn. More details will be released before the event at the railways website www.gcrailway.co.uk A full gala programme will be included free of charge with all full price runabout tickets.

ENDS

WORDS 411

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 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.

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