



GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY

LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE

PRESS INFORMATION

Date: 3rd August 2010

5, 4, 3, 2, 1 DIESELS ARE GO!

SPECTACULAR LINE UP FOR 3 DAY SEPTEMBER DIESEL GALA AT THE GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY (10th, 11th, 12th SEPT 2010)

STAR GUEST IS DELTIC D9009 RARE MILEAGE WITH CLASS 37 198 AND FINALLY SHUNTER SHUTTLES AT LAST?

A Deltic in two tone green leads a voracious pack for the annual Great Central Railway diesel gala. D9009 "Alycidon" is the star guest for the event which should see up to twelve locomotives in action.

The second guest star is Class 26 007. Meanwhile there is rare mileage for class 37 fans behind 37 198. This locomotive has been at the railway for an overhaul contract and it now sports Network Rail yellow livery. The gala will be one of the few opportunities to ride behind it.

"There really is traction for everyone at this event," said GCR president Bill Ford. **"so we hope heritage diesel enthusiasts will be able to join us for one of the three days."**

The full locomotive line up is expected to include; class 20 D8098, class 25 D5185, class 26 007, class 27 D5401, class 31 D5830, class 33 D6535, class 37 314, class 37 198, class 45 D123, class 47 D1705, and class 55 D9009. It's thought to be the first time all three locomotive types built by the Birmingham Railway Carriage and Wagon company (the class 26, 27 and 33) have come together in operation.

After two previous attempts have ended with the Class 03 D2158 failing, there will be another attempt to stage a shunter shuttle featuring the locomotive. "It will be 3rd time lucky for the class 03!" joked the gala planner, Andy Carter. The diminutive machine should pair up with the class 20 for the train.



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Friday night is expected to feature fish and chip trains with real ale being served on board. Further details will be available on the GCR website including timetable and fares, closer to the event.

ENDS

WORDS 325

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

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