



GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY

LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE

PRESS INFORMATION

Celebrating 40 years of preservation in 2009

Date: 8th September 2009

Contact: Alan Brassey
Tel: 01509 632335 / Mob: 07778 512274

HEAVY METAL ON THE MOVE!

DIESEL ENGINES ON THE ROAD TO LEICESTERSHIRE FOR RAILWAY GALA EVENT

**Biggest diesel gala in years at Great Central Railway
will draw thousands to the area.
(11th, 12th, 13th September 2009)**

**The lorry in front is taking a diesel to the Great Central Railway!
Two massive heritage diesel engines have touched down on the award
winning Leicestershire line for a three day celebration of 'modern'
traction.**

A Deltic locomotive - number D9019 "Royal Highland Fusilier" - the famous type which hauled express trains from London to Edinburgh in the late sixties and seventies is the first guest. The second is class 50 007, ready to leave enthusiasts shaken and stirred as it's a type of engine which has never been to the GCR before.

Together they are the stars of a thirteen strong locomotive line up. It's the biggest diesel gala the Great Central Railway has staged for many years.

"We've really pulled out the stops for this gala," said GCR president Bill Ford. **"Last year we gave the steam enthusiasts a number of treats with high profile visiting engines. This weekend fans of heritage diesels get their turn! Not only have we got the two visitors, our entire home fleet will be in action as well. Over three days the engines will clock up almost one thousand miles between them! There should be something for everyone with engines of almost every type and size."**



GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY

LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE

PRESS INFORMATION

The full locomotive line up includes; class 20 D8098, class 25 D5185, class 27 D5401, class 31 D5830, class 33 D6535 (which will be working with the recently restored GCR 4 BIG unit in push pull mode), class 37 314, class 45 D123, class 47 D1705, class 47 714, class 50 007 and class 55 D9019.

Two smaller shunting engines, newly arrived class 03 D2158 and class 10 D4067 will join forces to operate shunter shuttles.

On Friday and Saturday night late trains will serve fish, chips and real ale on board allowing passengers to ride into the evening. The gala is expected to bring a few thousand visitors to the county as they sample the GCR's famously intensive double track timetables.

“These diesels are vintage machines now,” concluded Bill. **“They are over forty years old, in fact some are approaching their half century. They cast a spell over a whole generation just as steam does. In most cases they’ve disappeared from the national network.”**

The two visiting engines will leave the railway promptly after the gala on their way to other engagements. Enthusiasts are urged to catch the big stars at the Great Central Railway three day diesel gala - for one long weekend only!

ENDS

WORDS 443

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 has been operating for over 36 years, 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 railway's 10 year history.

Trains run every weekend of the year, bank holidays and daily in the summer. In addition, First Class Restaurant Car Services provide 4 or 6 course meals, whilst travelling between Loughborough and

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



GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY

LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE

PRESS INFORMATION

Leicester or childhood dreams can come true with a Drive a Train Experience. We also run a number of family events, including “Days Out with Thomas the Tank Engine”, Bonfire Night and 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.