



GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY

LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE

PRESS INFORMATION

Celebrating 40 years of preservation in 2009

Date: 11th Jan 2010

BLACK 5 SWITCH!

**Line up change for Great Central Railway's
end of January Midland themed spectacular.**

Additional attractions announced for three day event.

Black 5 number 44767 is joining the gala roster for the Great Central Railway's end of January Midland themed gala. The engine replaces the previously announced 5, number 45407 which has been withdrawn by its owner.

The unique engine will be subject to a steam test before it is finally confirmed and will appear in weathered livery. During its visit to the railway it will receive a repaint when warmer weather arrives.

The five will join classmate 45231, Stanier Mogul 42968 and Jubilee number 5960 as the four guest engines for the event. The GCR is fielding Britannia Class no 70013 "Oliver Cromwell", 8F no 48305 (running as 48476 - the last Lostock Hall 8F) and standard 2 number 78019 from the home fleet. In addition confidence is high that the event will mark the preservation debut of 3F number 47406, one of only two surviving Jinty's which haven't steamed after withdrawal from national network service. In mid January the 3F was being painted.

The three day event takes place on the 29th, 30th and 31st of January and is one of the biggest locomotive line ups seen at the railway in recent years.

GCR event organiser Steven Chapple said, "The event theme has been set as 'Lostock and a Few Smoking Barrels', celebrating one of the last great steam sheds. Our expected motive power roster is a very good example of what might have been found at the shed in its last months, give or take a little bit! We're very excited about it and hope enthusiasts will be as well."

Additional attractions for the gala have now been confirmed:

- On Friday evening a special dining service will operate. Anyone holding a travel ticket for any of the three gala days will be able to book for a three course first class



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dining experience at a special rate of just £20 per person. Prebooking a ticket means you can beat the booking office queues on the day of the event. The special dining train is expected to be double headed by the Stanier Mogul and the Jubilee.

- Saturday morning will start with a first class breakfast service. Available to anyone with a travel ticket for Saturday, there are just 18 seats available and they can be prebooked for £15 per person.
- On Saturday evening railway folk singer Dave Goulder will perform a special concert including a number of songs from his famous album 'Requiem for Steam'. The standing gig costs £8 per person and takes place at 8pm at the Swan In The Rushes pub, just 15 minutes walk from Loughborough Central station. Tickets for the gig can be prebooked from the railway or will be available on the door on the night.

The Friday of the event will feature a forty five minute timetable with three locomotives in action. The Saturday and Sunday will see all locomotives in action (subject to availability) with an intensive double track timetable involving passenger, freight and mail drop demonstration trains. Special guests have been invited on Saturday to take part in a short rededication ceremony for the 3F.

Full details of fares and timetables will be available at the Great Central Railway website, www.gcrailway.co.uk

Day rover tickets will include a complimentary gala programme while stocks last.

ALL LOCOMOTIVES AND ATTRACTIONS APPEAR SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY

**ENDS
WORDS 577**

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

BRITAIN'S ONLY DOUBLE TRACK, MAIN LINE HERITAGE RAILWAY

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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, 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.

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