



GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY
LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE

PRESS INFORMATION

Date: 28 January 2011

SHUNTERS TAKE CENTRE STAGE!
GCR WINTER DIESEL EVENT 12th and 13th FEBRUARY 2011

No fewer than three shunters are poised to take over the GCR's double track for a weekend of action in February. The line's resident Class 03 and Class 10 will be joined by a guest Class 08 courtesy of Rail Care in Wolverton. **While the precise identity of the guest locomotive is yet to be confirmed, it is understood to have never hauled a passenger service before.**

The event is also expected to feature Class 20 D8098 and Class 37 255. It will be the first time the 'tractor' has been in passenger action for a number of years.

Some trains will be double headed and the shunters are expected to work 'top and tail shuttles' on the double track section of the GCR between Loughborough and Rothley. On Saturday evening a shunter special will run all the way to Leicester hauling a special service with real ale on board.

There will also be a steam service during the weekend. Bill Ford, President of the Great Central Railway said, **"This is a first time opportunity for Diesel enthusiasts to clock up some miles behind the mystery Class 08"**

ENDS
WORDS 201

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



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Leicester is fully operational and the 4 stations reflect a different period of the railway's 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 on board, 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.