



## **GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY** **WINTER GALA**

**Jan 30<sup>th</sup>, Jan 31<sup>st</sup> and Feb 1<sup>st</sup> 2009**

**Three day event with an end of steam flavour  
Cromwell and LNER Q6 set to star**

**A three day feast of steam with a distinctly 1968 twist. That's the promise at the Great Central Railway's first major steam gala for 2009. End of steam survivor BR Standard 7, 'Britannia Class', no 70013 "Oliver Cromwell" tops the bill, joined by a visiting guest making a GCR debut. LNER Q6 owned by the North Eastern Locomotive Preservation Group (running as no. 69395) and will make a perfectly prototypical sight at the head of the GCR's Windcutter Wagon train.**

Up to five other engines will appear including LMS 8F no 48305 renumbered as a classmate running railtours in 1968, GCR O4 no. 63601 (now entering the last year of a ten year boiler ticket) and Southern Railways star, King Arthur class no. 30777 "Sir Lamiel".

The event has been extended to three days, starting on January the 30th with three engines working a forty five minute timetable, stepping up to the full intensive gala roster for the Saturday and Sunday (Jan 31st / Feb 1st). On the evening of Friday the 30th there will be a photographers night shoot around the shed front at Loughborough with engines being prepared.

Bill Ford, president of the Great Central Railway said, **"This is set to be an excellent show. The line up of engines will undoubtedly give a strong "end of steam" flavour. We'll put a few freights into the mix over the weekend giving the Q6 and the O4 plenty of authentic action. We've raised the bar with the recent October Gala so we'll be seeking to match that event!"**

Oliver Cromwell is also set to make a debut on the Travelling Post Office non stop drop train over the weekend. Railway Vehicle Preservation Ltd. are gradually assembling a mark one TPO set and two out of their four vehicles are now operational.

Overhaul work is progressing steadily on visiting Fairburn Tank no. 42085. It's not possible to say yet if this engine will make the 'starting line up' for the event.

Full fares and timetables will be available shortly on the Great Central Railway website. Two and three day tickets will be available and anyone purchasing a runabout ticket will receive a free gala programme.

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