



GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY

LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE

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Great Central Railway

THE BIG, THE BOLD & THE BEAUTIFUL TAKE PART IN GCR FEBRUARY MINI GALA

**Three locomotives are lined up to take part in a mini-gala at the
Great Central Railway on the 26th & 27th of February**

GWR heavy freight 2-8-0 No. 3850 makes up the 'big' part of the story. This popular visiting engine was the star of the show at the recent Banbury themed gala, appearing in BR black livery for the first time in preservation.

The bold is the small loco that can. LMS 3F Jinty No. 47406 returned to traffic last year, but despite being small in size has proved itself worthy of all types of traffic on the GCR. Returning to action after a period on shed over recent months, the 0-6-0 will be hauling passenger trains at this event.

Finally the beautiful is LMS Black 5 No. 45305. Recently returned to steam the loco is one of the class synonymous with the last days of the GCR main line to London and looks right at home on the restored double track railway.

Richard Patching, Commercial Manager of the Great Central Railway, said **“This is an exciting line up of engines, and best of all, we're holding our normal fares this weekend. Come and enjoy a winter warmer with us”**

Trains will run to a 45 minute timetable, with hot meals available on some departures.

ENDS
WORDS 230

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



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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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