



## **GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY**

LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE

**Volume 8**

**Number 18**

### **GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY WEEKLY NEWSLETTER**

**May 8 2013**

#### **From the General Manager**

Last weekend was effectively three days with the early May Bank Holiday Monday. While GCR didn't push the boat out with any special attractions, we attracted a fair number of visitors in the warm weather.

Given our reduced loco fleet, we had to field every one of our three current runners: 47406, 48624 and the Webb Coal Tank - so no margin for error there. For the latter we were indebted to Bahamas Loco Society and two kind gentlemen (Mike Stevens and Garry Howard) who freely gave up their holiday to help crew it.

Last Thursday also added another filming project to GCR's credentials. This all happened at breakneck speed so many thanks to everyone who helped make it possible including volunteers at extremely short notice. It was all in aid of a drama documentary entitled 'Our Story' which will be screened on ITV in 2014.

The coming weekend will see the Webb Coal Tank featuring again, so another chance to sample this very special loco.

**Richard Patching**

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#### **Stall holders required for Teddy Bears Picnic**

Would anyone be interested in holding a stall for our next Teddy bears picnic event on Loughborough platform? Please contact Kate or Samantha in Marketing on 01509 632315.

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#### **Wartime Weekend Dinner Dance Friday 7th June 7pm – 11pm**

Come and enjoy the period sounds of The Harmony Bells and Ricky Hunter plus dinner in The Platform Café at Greenacres on the evening of 7th June.

We have a fully licensed bar and Major Swing will be providing music from the 1940's, the swing era and beyond!

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RE-CREATING THE EXPERIENCE

So why not come and join us and take a trip down memory lane and help to create the atmosphere by dressing on period costume, uniform or civilian if you can, otherwise smart dress is politely requested.

Meal Choices:

Beef Lasagne, Gastro Chips, Salad & Garlic Bread

Vegetable Lasagne, Gastro Chips, Salad & Garlic Bread

Chilli Con Carne with Rice and Garlic Bread

Scampi, Chips and Salad

Dinner Dance Tickets £8.99, 7pm – 11pm

Just Dance Tickets £5.00, 8.30pm – 11pm

Cheques made payable to Great Central Railway PLC or payments can be taken by card over the phone.

All monies for Dinner Dance Reservations must be received before tickets are dispatched.

Please contact Lesley on 077785 12275 for tickets

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### **Greenacres Wartime Weekend – Volunteers Needed**

Greenacres will be turned into an American Base over the Wartime Weekend on 8th & 9th June with American re-enactors, jeeps, singers, punch & Judy shows plus lots more so should be an exciting and very busy weekend.

Due to the large scale of the event we are looking for 2-3 volunteers that would like to be a part of the War Weekend and help us create a well organised event that people will enjoy and remember and hopefully want to come back to next year.

If you are interested please contact Lesley on 01509 633870.

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### **Stall Space at War Weekend**

Greenacres will also be hosting a number of vintage style stalls at the war weekend and currently have a couple of spaces left. Please get in touch if you would like to exhibit and sell your items.

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### **May Bank Holiday 27th**

The Platform Café will be open 10am – 4pm on bank holiday Monday 27th May, serving lovely hot home-made food plus there will be activities for the little ones to do including; Bouncy Castle, Face Painter, Treasure Hunts and Colouring Table.

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## **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

### ***Diesel Gala – Sat 18th & Sun 19th May***

This year sees 3 Sulzer Type 2 locos together at the GCR! We have also brought in two guest locos for visitors to clock up some miles behind. Class 25 D7612 is visiting us from South Devon Railway, freshly repainted in BR 2 tone Green and also Class 26 D5310 is visiting from Llangollen Railway.

There'll be lots of locos in action (7 from GCR's home fleet!), a busy timetable, an evening 'beerex' and don't miss a famous GCR fry-up!

### ***Local Weekend – Sat 25th, Sun 26th & Mon 27th May***

Every Main Line needs its local stopping trains too! Join us for a weekend where smaller locos rule! It's the last chance to get some miles in behind the visiting Webb Coal Tank before it departs. Joining it will be the Jinty, the Standard 2 and the Ivatt 2 (subject to repair). Expect a busy timetable, brake van rides and local goods trains. Book your tickets on line at [www.gcrailway.co.uk](http://www.gcrailway.co.uk)

### ***Midweek Running - Tues 28th, Weds 29th & Thurs 30th May***

Steam through Leicestershire's finest countryside this half term. There's plenty to see and do on our award winning heritage line. Hop on & off at Loughborough, Quorn, Rothley or Leicester and spend a leisurely day exploring the delightful stations and soaking up the atmosphere of a bygone era.

### ***Meet the Moshi Monsters – Sat 1st & Sun 2nd June***

Katsuma & Poppet have taken a short break from their latest mission on the streets of Monstro City to visit the Great Central Railway and will be appearing at intervals between 11.00am and 3.30pm. There's loads of activities all weekend including 'Meet the Beasts' in our marquee; snakes, spiders, snails and other creepy crawlies with Dr Stuart, who will be giving talks on all things beastly! Colouring in and arts & crafts, FREE face painting, funfair rides and a Play doh corner. Take a 16 mile return trip behind a big steam engine and stop for a bite to eat at one of our lovely tearooms – fun for all the family. Book your tickets on line at [www.gcrailway.co.uk](http://www.gcrailway.co.uk)

### ***1940s Wartime Event Fri 7th – Sun 9th June***

The roaring forties come alive in flaming June. Watch flypasts, dance to the music of years gone by, see vintage vehicles and hundreds of re-enactors bring period displays to life. Take the train to occupied territory... but make sure you've got your ID at the ready.

Please note on Friday of the event there will be hundreds of school children attending the event, visitors are still welcome, but please expect it to be busy with children especially on the trains.

Book your tickets on line at [www.gcrailway.co.uk](http://www.gcrailway.co.uk)

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### **Emporium - The First Quarter Sales.**

Despite fewer visitors, it has been a good start to the Emporium year. With better weather expected, we hope this positive start will continue.

During the last month, several colleagues have worked together to classify the several hundred railway books we are unable to display due to limited space. If you are looking for a particular book, and have not asked us to search for it, why not email me at the address given later and we will check to see if we have a copy? This cannot be done on the day of any visit, so advance notice (preferably at least one week) is necessary. Again, our thanks go to all those who provide us with the books, magazines and other railway items which lead to our sales.

A few weeks ago, we received some 1950's BR "Day Excursion" or "Cheap Day Returns," A5 sized leaflets. Many were from local East Midland stations such as Nottingham Victoria, Midland or Leicester. We have now received a few more to add to those remaining.

Not this weekend, but next, we shall have some new "00" gauge models on display, but one classic "Flying Scotsman" wrist watch/stop watch, complete with presentation box and Certificate of Authenticity, will be on sale from this Saturday. This is not a watch used by LNER staff, but a more modern piece which includes several other features. It's a gem, a present which almost all railway buffs would treasure.

As many will be aware, our takings last year were boosted by those who signed up to allow us to Claim Gift Aid on their donations. We have to inform all such donators each time part of their donation is sold, which proves expensive in postal costs. If you are such a donator and happen to read this, I would be grateful if you would contact me by email at [peterman54@yahoo.com](mailto:peterman54@yahoo.com) giving me your EGA number and the first line of your address. If you have forgotten your number, I can supply that.

One final request, we have received a number of CDs lately and would be grateful if you have any, classic, pop or jazz, not just railway, that you no longer want. Amongst the CDs we currently have is the classic Deep Purple live double album. We hope to see you soon.

**Peter Scott**

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### **Shed News**

The 'King' has gone, the Standard 2 has been at Ruddington and is coming back with a failure, the 'N2' is on long term loan, the Ivatt 2 is injured. We are getting a little short! So, although the roster is not up for the weekend I would guess at the 3F (Jinty) and the red 8, the latter is booked out for Friday for definite.

On Wednesday we split the Ivatt which had been temporarily attached by the two side safety bars, so as to better assess the damage. We can also now assess whether the replacement draw bar that we have conjured up actually fits. I think the defect on the Standard is a superheater element, we have had some failures previously, so they are clearly getting tired. I don't think the new ones being made for 7018 are sufficiently advanced to help us.

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Following the great success of the *Witherslack* stay raffle, I have now been commissioned to remeasure what we need to order, and surprisingly enough most seem to be 1/8" longer than previously! Can't work that one out, but it is a lot easier to grind a little off once installed than to add some on. So I shall soon be back on stay installation.

**David Mathews**

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**Wedding Belle for Rob and Danielle.**

May I take the opportunity to thank all the staff and volunteers at the GCR on behalf of and for what was a very special day for the new Mr & Mrs Goodhand.

From first contact, to on the day itself, was made effortless by your team, Debbie, the Chef & Staff on the train, the Engine Crew and all the unsung station and signaling staff. Everyone commented on things from the excellent quality of the meal 'compliments to the chef' to the friendliness of the staff and the excellent ride provided by the train crew, Fred the driver was incredible and Rob really enjoyed his footplate experience and I think two more volunteers may be in the offing!

Rob & Danielle had a very memorable day, the sun shone, the ceremony was great and wedding breakfast unforgettable.

Thankyou all

From very proud

**Goodhand & Mansfield Parents.**

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**Richard Minifie**

It is with deep sadness that we have to report the passing of Richard Minifie, whose funeral took place yesterday.

Richard was a solicitor and founder trustee of the David Clarke Railway Trust, and was instrumental in helping in the Trust's formation at a time of great uncertainty for GCR. He was an exceptionally nice person and very highly regarded - all his legal work for the Trust, freely given, will be sadly missed.

**Bill Ford**

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*If you have any news or photos you'd like included in the weekly newsletter, please forward to [martin.ward@gcrailway.co.uk](mailto:martin.ward@gcrailway.co.uk) by 10.30am Wednesday.*

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