



## **GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY**

LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE

### **PRESS INFORMATION**

**Date:** 11th July 2010

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## **GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY SHORTLISTED FOR TWO VISITOR AWARDS**

**The GCR has been nominated in two categories in the East Midlands finals for this years Enjoy England awards for excellence.**

The Outstanding Customer Service nomination reflects the continuing hard work of chef James McIntosh and his on train catering team. The first class dining train regularly entertains eighty four passengers with three course meals cooked entirely on board a special galley carriage. This year it has expanded as new carriages for a future Pullman train are introduced, and it has also broadened the range of its portfolio with James Bond themed trains and curry nights.

The railway as a whole is shortlisted for the Best Tourism Experience award. Last year the GCR invested heavily in upgrading passenger facilities at Loughborough station including a new lift to help people who use wheelchairs reach the platform and extra toilet facilities. At Leicester a new canopy roof was built.

**The GCR's president Bill Ford said, "I'm delighted we have been nominated for two awards both of which reflect the hard work of our team of staff and volunteers."**

The railway will find out if it has received a bronze, silver or gold award in each category at the awards presentation evening in October. The awards are run by East Midlands Tourism which is responsible for improving the skills, quality standards and the value and competitiveness of the tourism industry.

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#### **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](http://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 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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