



## **GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY**

LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE

### **PRESS INFORMATION**

*Celebrating 40 years of preservation in 2009*

**Date: 20th September 2009**

## **DRINK EAST MIDLANDS**

**Beer festival offers 35 local tipples  
(25th, 26th and 27th of September 2009)**

**Fans of real ales and real rails are in for a treat this weekend. The Great Central Railway's annual beer festival is back with more variety than ever. Do you know your 'Teacups' from your 'Penny's Porter'?**

They are just two of thirty five local brews on offer over the weekend of the 25th, 26th and 27th of September. Fans of real ales and real rails can mingle and enjoy their two passions together. The event opens on Friday 25th at 6pm at the preserved Loughborough Central station on the heritage line.

The GCR has aimed to source all of its beer from around the East Midlands, supporting the growing number of micro breweries on its doorstep in Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire.

GCR commercial manager Richard Patching said, **"We have a very diverse line up of beers on offer over the weekend. We've even had some specially brewed exclusively for the festival which we hope real ale enthusiasts will enjoy. This year we have teamed up with the Campaign For Real Ale to offer them discounts on admission to the event. Given how much interest there is in craft brewing at the moment, not to mention enthusiasm for products made locally, we hope we've got a good combination!"**

The special Muirhouse brewery (based in Long Eaton) ales made for the festival include Shunters Pole, Fully Fitted Freight and Oliver Cromwell. Other breweries represented include Castle Rock in Nottingham, Belvoir Brewery and appropriately enough Steamin' Billy.

There will be food and entertainment on offer on Friday night and throughout Saturday night. The event has been supported by Lighthouse Printing,

Castle Rock Brewery and Muirhouse brewery.



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The full list of beers, entry prices and opening times plus details of how to get hold of a special Great Central Railway beer festival glass can be found on line at [www.gcrailway.co.uk](http://www.gcrailway.co.uk)

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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 has been operating for over 36 years, 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 railway's 10 year history.

Trains run every weekend of the year, bank holidays and daily in the summer. In addition, First Class Restaurant Car Services provide 4 or 6 course meals, whilst travelling between Loughborough and Leicester or childhood dreams can come true with a Drive a Train Experience. We also run a number of family events, including "Days Out with Thomas the Tank Engine", Bonfire Night and 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.