



Date: 24<sup>th</sup> November 2008

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## **ROTHLEY STATION CELEBRATES AN EDWARDIAN CHRISTMAS**

**The Great Central Railway's award-winning Edwardian period station at Rothley will turn the clock back 100 years on the evening of Saturday November 29th to celebrate a typically Edwardian Christmas in an era of steam trains, gas lights and roaring fires.**

Visitors to the station on Saturday evening will see the station as it might have been on a busy evening in December 1908 with passengers waiting for their trains and their luggage to be loaded.

John Beadsmoore from Rothley station said, **“This will be a wonderfully atmospheric night out and a gentle way to start the build up to Christmas. Come and experience the characters and conditions of Christmas past”**

There will be a decorated Christmas tree, a full brass band playing carols and other music, a traditional Mummers' Play and readings. Most of the station staff and many of the visitors will be dressed in period costume except for Father Christmas who will retain his traditional gown and hood. Visitors can enjoy hot mulled wine, warming soup, mince pies, roast chestnuts and pint of ale and even toast themselves a teacake over the waiting room fire!

The station is officially haunted and visitors are welcome to peer into the gloom to see if they can meet the ghosts of Christmas past!

Children and adults alike will also be spellbound by the specially-lit garden railway.

Admission for the evening - from 7pm 10pm is £2 for adults and £1 for children, with free entry for anyone dressed in period costume or arrive in style on the 7.30pm steam train from Loughborough.

Train fare from Loughborough (return) including Rothley platform ticket £8 adult, £5 children / senior. From Rothley on the evening, a second class return trip to Leicester North (departing 8.20pm and returning approximately 9pm) is available. Tickets from the booking office at Rothley on the evening. (Fares from Rothley to Leicester and return are adults £5 and children/seniors £3 - gate admission is refundable against train ticket)

Rothley station has recently been shortlisted for the finals of the prestigious Ian Allan National Railway Heritage Awards. The judges' comments included: 'This was a surprising and excellent entry which was a pleasure to visit'; and 'This is a very good entry with enthusiastic volunteer support and definitely deserving of recognition'. Representative from the station will be attending the Awards presentation in London on December 3rd, to find out the final results.

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