



GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY

LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE

PRESS INFORMATION

Celebrating 40 years of preservation in 2009

Date: **2nd August 2009**

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PRESS CALL - PRESS CALL - PRESS CALL

**11.20am, Leicester North station, Great Central Railway, The Sidings
(Just off A563, Red Hill Way close to Red Hill circle), Leicester.**

A ROOF OVER OUR HEADS!

**New canopy complete at
Leicester North railway station**

**Lord Mayor of Leicester and Mayor of Charnwood to
officially open £60,000 development on August 6th**

Passengers waiting for trains at the Great Central Railway's Leicester North station can now wait in the dry! At a cost of sixty thousand pounds a new glazed canopy has been added to the heritage station.

Work on the new structure was completed in July and now the Lord Mayor of Leicester and the Mayor of Charnwood will join forces to declare the canopy complete and celebrate the investment at the station. The ceremony takes place on August the 6th at 11.30am with some of the guests arriving by steam train.

Tony Sparks, the Great Central Railway director behind the canopy project said, **“It’s fantastic to see the new canopy at the station. Thanks to generous grant aid support we were able to complete the project to a very high standard. It really improves our southern terminus, not only in terms of the facilities we can offer to passengers but the look and ambience of the whole area. Visitors are already telling us it makes the station a more welcoming environment and the volunteers who work there are naturally delighted too!. With the way the summer is going, its ready not a moment too soon!”**



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The steel structure of the canopy was built in January 2009, paid for by money from a section 106 planning grant. The roof was completed in the last few weeks following a grant from Biffaward of twenty six thousand pounds. Some money for the project came from the David Clarke Railway Trust, the Great Central Railways registered supporting charity.

Gillian French, Biffaward Programme Manager, commented **“Biffaward is pleased to support the completion of the Great Central Railway canopy, which will help ensure the preservation of this important heritage attraction and make using the station more comfortable for all its visitors.”**

While the station building (which was completed in 2002) is also new, both the building and canopy have been designed in a heritage railway style. Leicester North station opened in 1991. It was built just to the south of the original Great Central Railway station in the area, “Belgrave and Birstall”. The new terminus is inside the city boundary and just ten minutes walk from the National Space Centre and Technology Museum. The Great Central Railway hopes to continue to develop the station to encourage more visitors to use it, either to join the heritage trains, or to alight and explore the attractions of north Leicester.

The completed canopy will allow events to be held on the platform. A new leaflet about the station has also recently been produced.

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MEDIA CALL FOR OPENING CEREMONY.

The media are invited to for the opening ceremony with the Lord Mayor of Leicester and the Mayor of Charnwood. You may travel from Loughborough by steam train or arrive directly at Leicester North (parking is available.)

For those travelling from Loughborough: please make your way to the Great Central Railway station, Great Central Road, Loughborough by 10.50am for an 11am train. You will return to Loughborough by 12.30pm.

For those arriving at Leicester: please arrive at Leicester North station (address above) by 11.20am.

The ceremony will begin at 11.30am with the arrival of a steam train from Loughborough. Guests will be invited to assemble under the canopy, there will be short speeches before the canopy is officially declared complete and ‘open’!

The return train to Loughborough will depart from Leicester at approximately 11.55am.



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NOTES ABOUT THE GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY

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 railways 110 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.

NOTES ABOUT Biffaward

In 1997 Biffa Waste Services agreed to donate landfill tax credits to the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts (RSWT) to administer under the fund name **Biffaward**. Grants made from the fund currently amount to £100 million, supporting many worthwhile projects.

Biffa Waste Services Limited is one of the largest single suppliers of waste management services in the UK. It collects, treats, recovers and disposes of municipal, commercial and industrial waste nationwide. It is ultimately owned by a private equity consortium comprising Montagu Private Equity, Global Infrastructure Partners, Uberior Co-Investments Limited and other co-investors.

The **landfill tax** came into operation in 1996. Its purpose is to reflect the impact of landfill on the environment and also to help achieve the targets for more sustainable waste management. The tax, levied on the tonnage of all material disposed of in landfill sites and collected by Biffa on behalf of HM Revenue and Customs, aims to encourage recycling and reduce waste by raising the cost of disposal.

The regulations allow landfill site operators to direct approximately 6% of the tax they have collected towards approved environmental projects. However, any approved project can only receive 90% of its desired funding from the landfill tax. The remainder must come direct from the landfill site operator or from a third party organisation or company.

www.biffaward.org