



GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY
LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE

PRESS INFORMATION

Date: 31st August 2011

Contact: Richard Patching, 07515 597055

REAL BEER, REAL STEAM!

**Take your taste buds on a sentimental journey at
GCR's three day beer festival**

SEPTEMBER 23rd, 24th, 25th 2011

The award winning preserved Great Central Railway's annual beer festival returns for a fifth year and is bigger than ever! This year there are more than 40 guest beers and ciders on offer specially selected from breweries across the former LNER lines. Breweries featuring will include Blue Bee, RAW, Blythe, Nottingham, Funfair, Muirhouse, Oldershaw, Oakham, Ossett, Ufford, Jarrow and more!

The three day festival starts on Friday 23rd at midday at Loughborough Central station and, new for this year, we're extending the festival down to Quorn – Butler Henderson Cafe will be a shrine for Castle Rock brewery enthusiasts.

Richard Patching, General Manager for the Great Central Railway and real ale enthusiast has put together the programme. **"This year's festival is going to be just the opportunity for steam railway and beer enthusiasts to join forces!"**

"It costs just £3 to enter but best of all it's free to anyone buying a ticket to travel on the GCR's steam trains that weekend! With live music and hot food on offer it's set to be a great weekend" Richard added.

The festival is also free for members of CAMRA and members of the Friends



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of the Great Central Main Line.

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WORDS 221

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

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.