

# Buzz

## The Beeston Express

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### EDITORIAL POLICY

The Beeston Express is independent of any organisation, commercial or political. Our policy is to provide readers with news and information that is fair, accurate and balanced.

We try hard to avoid mistakes, but some may inevitably slip through. If you have any comments to make about the paper, or any complaint, please contact us. We will, as far as possible, try to put things right when the error has been ours.

### NEXT ISSUE

Friday, 15 January 2010

Deadline for Adverts  
Monday, 11 January

### ADVERTISING in The Beeston Express

#### Classified

£3 per single column  
centimetre (scm).  
Minimum: 3 cm.

#### Notice Board

(8cm x 8cm Box)  
Mono: £45  
Colour: £55

#### Display

Price on Application

#### Meeting People Column

Subscription:  
£24 per annum (24 issues)

[www.beestonexpress.co.uk](http://www.beestonexpress.co.uk)

### Useful telephone numbers

#### Police

0115 943 0999

**NHS Direct Line (24 hours)**  
0845 46 47

#### Queens Medical Centre

0115 924 9924

#### City Hospital

0115 969 1169

#### Broxtowe Borough Council

0115 917 7777

#### Citizens Advice Bureau

0844 499 1193

#### Beeston Library

0115 925 5168

#### Train Timetable Enquiries

08457 48 49 50

## Unscrupulous metal thieves target Nottingham's heritage railway at Ruddington

WHILST the 'Santa Special' steam trains are full of cheery youngsters and families having a day out with Santa, the Great Central Railway (Nottingham) Ltd (GCRN), Nottinghamshire's own heritage railway, is seeing regular visits from a very unwelcome sector of society.

In the last month alone, thousands of pounds worth of damage and theft has been caused to rolling stock, track and equipment at the Ruddington railway centre. A rail-mounted crane has been stripped of its main components and the vehicle reduced to scrap, when there had been plans to use it to improve the facilities at East Leake and Loughborough. The crane had already been instrumental in readying the new platform at Ruddington, commissioned earlier this year. Loss of the crane will delay improvement projects and increase costs for the volunteers at the heritage centre.

But the crane wasn't the only vehicle targeted by the thieves. A carriage, which was due to be converted into a heating generator for the passenger coaches, was also targeted by the thieves. This carriage has been rendered beyond restoration and has also been reduced to scrap.

GCRN Spokesman Mark Fowley said: "All along the railway, which operates 10 miles from our base at Ruddington, through East Leake to Loughborough, we have seen a huge increase in thefts of the material we use to maintain and develop the railway. In November, track components were removed from locked stores and from the station at East Leake, effectively quashing our plans to install better facilities there in 2010.

"Our railway isn't owned by some faceless bureaucracy. It is staffed by a committed team of volunteers, and all of our rolling stock is privately owned by enthusiasts. All of our development funding comes from our ability to operate trains and through the goodwill of our members and the local community.

"We've invested heavily in CCTV and other security measures, and are having to invest even more to try to combat the attacks, the vandalism and the thefts. These have now reached epidemic proportions with the almost daily discovery of more thefts and damage. Our facilities at Ruddington and East Leake have been particularly hardest hit.

"Unfortunately, the local police seem powerless to help. After

more than 18 months of sustained visits by metal thieves, we have lost thousands of pounds worth of track materials and had four carriages and a crane damaged beyond repair. The costs and losses are mounting, and we face the need to invest in tighter and more draconian security measures.

"Although the government and police have made it an offence for scrap dealers to accept railway materials from unscrupulous individuals, we know that some scrap dealers are still happy to accept railway material 'no questions asked'.

"We seek the help of all members of our community, especially those in the communities at Ruddington, East Leake and Loughborough, to report ANY suspicious behaviour on or around the railway.

"We are also now offering a reward of £1000 to any individual who provides the police with information leading to the successful identification and conviction of the thieves targeting our railway."

Contact the Nottingham Transport Heritage Centre on tel: (01332) 516 716.

## 'Shedloads' of salt ready

"BAD weather is on the way and we have plenty of salt to cope with it and keep the roads clear well into the New Year," says Nottinghamshire County Councillor, Richard Jackson, Cabinet Member for Transport and Highways.

Cllr Jackson's statement comes as the Met Office warns of very cold weather this week, with ice and snow likely in east and central England, including Nottinghamshire.

Cllr Jackson said: "We do not want people to be concerned that the salt will run out in six days. Stocks have been replenished by our supplier, adding to our already high levels of current stock. We are confident that this will take us well into the New Year, even if there is bad weather.

"Our gritting teams are on standby 24 hours, seven days a week, during the winter months, to ensure a prompt and effective

response to icy weather. This year, the teams will be gritting the roads with a new and improved salt crystal stored undercover in sheds at our new facility on the on the A1 at Markham Moor, and at our Newark depot.

"When ice is predicted, over 200 tonnes of salt are used to treat 1,800km of the county's roads."

### To make sure you're prepared for motoring in wintry weather, follow these county council tips:

- always check your route and the weather forecast when driving in poor conditions
- listen to the travel bulletins whilst on the road
- use dipped headlights and drive slowly
- ensure your windscreen, mirrors and lights are clear, clean and free from ice frost and snow
- carry an ice-scraper, de-icer,

food, hot flask, blanket, a torch, shovel, sturdy boots and a warning triangle in the car.

- check that tyres have plenty of tread depth and are maintained to the correct pressure
- be prepared for the cold and dangerous driving conditions – once out on the road, motorists should drive with caution and care
- keep a safe stopping distance between you and other vehicles – stopping distances can be ten times greater than on dry roads
- if you have to brake, use short even applications rather than heavy sustained pressure

Drivers are also advised not to use their cars when the weather is severe and to take advantage of public transport instead.

## News in Brief

### Public toilets Christmas closures

OVER the Christmas holiday, the public toilets in Beeston and Stapleford, which are normally open Monday to Saturday, will be closed for a short period.

Notices will be posted at the facilities to keep people informed.

The toilets at Beeston Bus Station and Broadgate, and at The Roach, Stapleford, will be closed on Friday, December 25; Saturday, December 26; Monday, December 28 and Friday, January 1.

Those with a radar key will be able to access the disabled toilets.

### Getting care right this winter

WITH the arrival of the cold winter weather, NHS Nottinghamshire County, alongside NHS Nottingham City, is launching a campaign to help people know the different ways they can get advice and treatment.

And in the run up to the festive holiday season, they are also reminding people to make sure they get their repeat prescriptions arranged in time, and know where they can access healthcare on Bank Holidays.

The 'Right care, first time' campaign will highlight the ways people can access healthcare:

- If you think you have swine flu, you should stay at home and contact the **National Pandemic Flu Service** on 0800 1 513 100 or [www.direct.gov.uk/pandemicflu](http://www.direct.gov.uk/pandemicflu)
- If you need advice for minor health problems you can speak to your pharmacist for on-the-spot advice and remedies for a wide range of problems like stomach upsets, coughs and colds. You can also call **NHS Direct** on 0845 4647 for an assessment and advice service.
- If you have a minor illness or injury you can go to an **NHS Walk-in Centre** at London Road, Nottingham and Stapleford Care Centre, where you can see an experienced nurse for treatment of minor injuries and illnesses.
- If you think you need to see a GP out-of-hours, call the Practice number and you will be told how to contact the out-of-hours GP service for assessment. GPs and nurses are available through this route to see emergency cases 24 hours a day.

You should only call 999 or go to A&E in an emergency – if you have a serious injury or life-threatening problem such as loss of consciousness, severe breathing difficulty, heavy bleeding, severe chest pain, suspected broken bones, deep wounds (e.g. stab wounds), swallowing something harmful or poisonous or a drug overdose.