

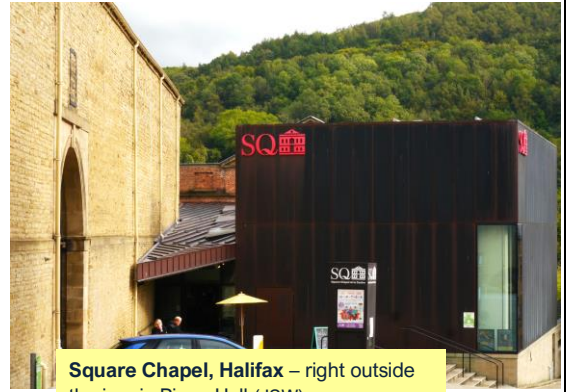
Join us in Halifax on the 25th!

Railfuture Yorkshire and North West joint branch meeting Saturday 25th November 2023, Halifax

- Starting at 14.30 (2.30 pm),
- Cornerstone Room, in [Square Chapel Arts Centre](#), Halifax HX1 1QG.

Old part of Square Chapel standing out in Georgian red brick, is visible from station exit - upwards and to the right, 5 minutes' walk:

- Watch out for traffic on station approach.
 - Bear right using lights to cross road beyond station approach, pass to right of hotel and then turn left into Blackledge going up towards town.
 - The old chapel is on the right; **entrance in new part at top doubling back** next to the Piece Hall.
 - Bar will serve drinks and light refreshments (**see you there before meeting?!).**
 - And we have tea & coffee ordered in the meeting room from 2.30pm.
 - Lift or stairs give access to the Cornerstone meeting room downstairs. Late start because of earlier event in the room. We hope to be able to access the room a little before 2.30pm.
- **Why not make a day of it and enjoy lunch and sightseeing in Halifax before the meeting?** Walk up through the unique Piece Hall for town centre. but cross the piazza and go up into town. Lots of places for refreshment!



Square Chapel, Halifax – right outside the iconic Piece Hall (JSW)

Speaker **Prof Paul Salveson** of [Rail Reform Group - A Railway for the North](#)

Paul will lead a workshop session on **“After HS2: building a new agenda for rail”**. Sometimes billed as the inventor of community rail, Paul Salveson will need little introduction for Yorkshire and North West Railfuture members. We have given him a wide remit and topics covered may depend partly on what's in the news. Whatever Paul's subject, this will be a thought-provoking afternoon!

Workshop sessions were supported by Yorkshire Railfuture members in recent poll of views. We do not intend this to be a conventional speaker meeting but hope it will allow – even encourage! – everyone who wants to contribute to do so. So who knows what could come up? We can only speculate. The following are our ideas (not Paul's!), and the workshop will aim to let you contribute yours: **High speed – or more passengers on present routes?** How can we justify state support for a railway that only a few people use? **How do we press effectively for development of existing routes that are not as sexy as high-speed rail or (low speed!) mass transit!** What about integration with active travel and other transport modes? **How can we make rail more reliable?** How do we get more freight on rail? **How can rail better serve people with special needs (including those with disabilities)?** What about staffing and retailing on stations? (Still topical – see below.) **And last but not least how can we build on the success of community rail?**

Paul had a newspaper letter published recently [Creative ideas to turn train stations into social hubs | Rail transport | The Guardian](#) (open link to read) [responding to a leading article on the future of ticket offices](#) [The Guardian view on England's train stations: make them part of a rail renaissance | Editorial | The Guardian](#) (5 Nov, 8 Nov online.) Paul has a thought piece on RRG's website on ticket offices: [Opening the Railway's Front Door - Rail Reform Group](#). Ticket offices may not be main feature of our meeting's discussion, but the issue may come up! – JSW

Yorkshire Branch looks forward to welcoming Railfuture friends from the North West branch.

A business meeting will follow the workshop session:

- Among other items expected is a short update from MEMRAP – who presented at our recent Sheffield meeting on the Buxton/Chinley-Matlock reopening campaign.
- There should be time for discussion on cross-Pennine aspirations linking Yorkshire and the North West...
- ... as well as any urgent branch business. (See separate agenda.)

Halifax is accessible by rail from across the north with direct trains from Chester, Manchester, Blackpool, Preston, Leeds, Hull, York and Huddersfield. (**But note** the Blackpool service is replaced by bus Preston-Halifax on 25th November.) **Buses** also run direct from Huddersfield, Leeds, Bradford and Rochdale, and there is also **the hourly 502 bus from Keighley**. It's doable by bike from lots of places. **If arriving by car**, there is parking in the Eureka! car park just below the venue (former railway goods yard) and elsewhere around town to south of venue. The meeting will finish soon after 5pm – everyone out by 5.30.

**Please be there, bring your ideas, and join the discussion.
Enjoy your day in Halifax and support our two branches!**