

New Central Library and Archive



Inside this issue

- 1 Planning Application is Approved
- 2 West Yorkshire Archive Service
- 3 History of the Square Church
- 4 Library and Archive's critical friends
- 5 The Piece Hall
- 6 Coming Soon!
- 7 Timeline

Planning Application is Approved

Plans for the new Central Library and Archive and a fourth gate for the Piece Hall were approved at Calderdale Council's Planning Committee meeting on Tuesday 1 October 2013.

During the planning consultation period Calderdale Council and English Heritage agreed changes which mean that the new building and the new fourth gate complement the neighbouring Piece Hall and Square Chapel.

The changes include the removal of the railings facing Square Road, allowing a clear view of the striking new library building on the approach from the railway station. The new Central Library and Archive will also be more prominent as the plans have been altered to increase its size, making it

closer to Square Road. This scheme and the Piece Hall extension were submitted to the Secretary of State for listed building consent which was granted on 21 October 2013.



Entrance to the library and archive through the Piece Hall

The main entrance to the library will be from inside the Piece Hall, and from the Westgate entrance it is just a short walk from the Market Street bus stops.

History and Heritage

West Yorkshire Archive Service

The West Yorkshire Archives will be moving with the public library service to the lower ground floor of the new building on the Square Church site. A search room for the consultation of archive material and a temperature-controlled store are being created, which will meet the specialist conditions needed for their resources.

The store will provide 3913 linear metres of shelving on high density rolling stacks designed to accommodate all the items that are currently held. The archive collection has new items added regularly and the new store allows for 20 years growth. This safeguards our historical records, ensuring that important material is retained for future generations.



New search room

History of the Square Church site

The history of Square Church is closely linked to the history of Square Chapel. They were the vision of two men: its first minister, Titus Knight, and its founder, James Kershaw.

Titus Knight was a pastor of a chapel formed from two cottages in Chapel Fold. However, after 9 years the congregation outgrew the premises. Kershaw, a local merchant and a member of the congregation planned with Knight the building of Square Congregational Chapel. The Chapel was licensed as a place of worship in January 1772, the congregation grew significantly and Sunday Schools were established. By 1850 the chapel was so popular they had to turn people away because of lack of space.

In 1852 the land next to the chapel yard was bought, where a new chapel was built and the old chapel was refurbished for the use of the schools. The Crossley brothers were heavily involved with the new building and Sir Francis Crossley met the £1500 cost of the tower and spire.



One of the remaining corbels



Square Church before fire damage



Flexible space next to the children's library

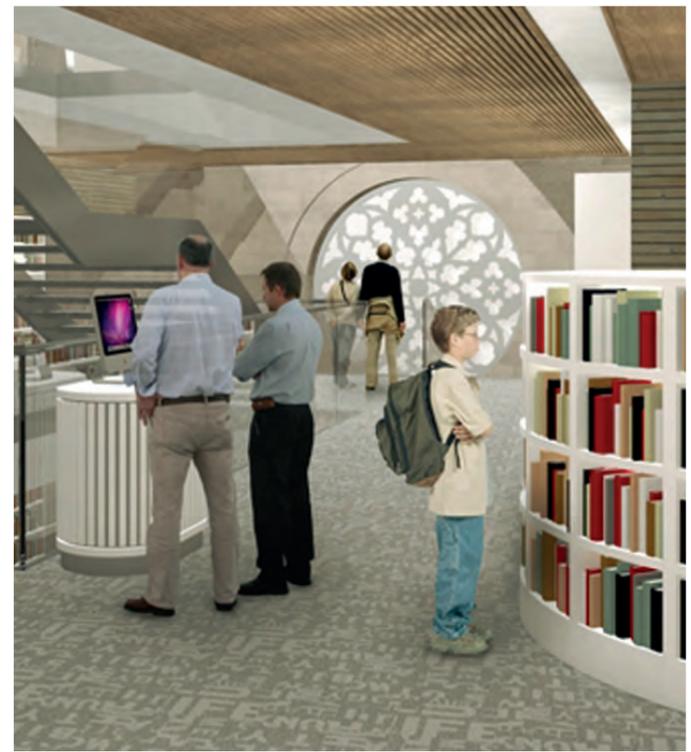
The spectacular Square Church was built to the design of a young London architect, Joseph James, in the decorated Gothic style, and at the time of building was taller than any other building in Halifax. The new church was dedicated for worship on 15 July 1857.

Under the ministry of Rev Enoch Mellor, the church attracted the largest congregation in the town. However, as congregations dwindled over the years, it was closed for worship in 1969.

On 3 January 1971, the roof and interior of Square Church were destroyed by fire and later that year the Environment Secretary gave permission for the building to be demolished, with the exception of the tower and spire. Much heated local debate followed and demolition only took place in December 1976, leaving behind what we see today. Its future will now be linked to the new Central Library and Archive, preserving and conserving over 150 years of history.

To find out more visit the new Central Library and Archive web pages www.calderdale.gov.uk

The new library and archive will be joined to the remains of the church and incorporate its standing architecture into the design.



View of the rose window from the first floor

Meet two of the new Library and Archive's critical friends

Georgina Fellows and Michael Felton are members of the new Central Library and Archive's Reference Group. This is a group of people who each represent a particular library and archive user, who meet on a regular basis to hear of the project's progress and feed back their ideas, thoughts and concerns to the Architect and other members of the project team. The debate is often very lively and their influence has already shaped some of the services within the new building.



Georgina and her children

Georgina represents families with young children. Her two boys are aged 2 and 4 and they love to visit their local library and attend story and activity sessions. Georgina appreciates the particular needs of parents and reminds the design team of the importance of colour and activity space for children as well as lots of books and IT. Toilets and baby change facilities are also high on her list of priorities and these have been carefully designed into the area adjacent to the children's library.

Michael is a trustee of Calderdale Forum 50+ and brings the views of his fellow members. Disabled access and parking are high on his list of priorities together with convenient public transport. He regularly reminds the project team that this is a major concern for older library visitors.



Michael Felton

He sees his role on the Reference Group as observing what is proposed, suggesting improvements and raising points that may have been overlooked.

Children and older people are amongst the most frequent users of Calderdale Libraries and Georgina and Michael's continued input to the design process will help to ensure that the new facility will meet their needs.

We are continuing to meet with a variety of local groups to help shape the services that will be available in the new library and archive. The internal designs will be put on public display as they develop and we will welcome feedback and ideas.

For more information contact: libraries@calderdale.gov.uk

The Piece Hall

The Piece Hall will close to the public from 17 January 2014. Many of the shops will move to new locations or to temporary locations until the Piece Hall reopens and details of their relocation will be placed on the Piece Hall website. The Piece Hall Visitor Information Centre will close on 24 December 2013 and will reopen on 2 January 2014 in its temporary location in Halifax Central Library on Northgate.

The Project Team are currently selecting the contractor to carry out both the Piece Hall and library and archive construction work and the successful team will start the repair and construction work on site in Spring 2014 and will have the necessary heritage skills, to make sure we protect this Grade 1 Listed building.

Keep in touch with their progress throughout the construction period by subscribing to their newsletter through the Piece Hall website:

www.thepiecehall.co.uk



Coming Soon!

Future Newsletters will carry features on different aspects of the new Central Library and Archive project:

- Library layout and interior design floor-by-floor
- Technology for customer use
- How construction is progressing
- Showcase displays from the Libraries and Museums collections



Timeline

October 2013 to early Summer 2014
Contractor procured

Summer 2014
Development starts on site

Spring 2016
New Central Library and Archive opens