

SENUG Press Release: 1st July 2014

SENUG HOSTS NATIONAL RAIL JOURNALIST AND COMMENTATOR AT PUBLIC MEETING

SENUG, the group that campaigns for better rail transport in South East Northumberland, will be welcoming Christian Wolmar, the highly respected national rail journalist and commentator, to its public meeting at Morpeth Town Hall at 19:30 on Thursday 10th July 2014.

Arguably the UK's leading commentator on rail matters, Christian is a TV and Radio broadcaster, rail historian, writer, columnist, and a London Mayoral candidate for 2016.

The meeting will include an informative and lively talk from Christian on both historic and current UK rail issues with time for questions and answers afterwards and opportunity to purchase signed copies of Christian's various books. The meeting will be followed by SENUG's AGM.

William Keegan of the Observer wrote about Christian "That great authority on the privatisation of the railways, Christian Wolmar, made it clear in his superb book **Broken Rails** that he regarded the privatisation of the railways as being criminally irresponsible"

Christian is also a declared opponent of HS2, commenting the money could be better used on dozens of smaller rail projects

across the country, a view putting him in opposition to many other pro-rail campaigners.

Dennis Fancett, Chair of SENRUG, stated: “We are delighted to be welcoming such a nationally highly respected figure as Christian Wolmar to Northumberland. I always enjoy reading his comments in “Rail” magazine. Whether you agree with Christian’s views or not, or simply want to know what he thinks about how the rail industry is operated today, the challenges it faces and what should be done to improve things, we urge you to join us for what promises to be a lively and enjoyable meeting.”

SENRUG’s public meetings are open to anyone and you don’t have to be a member of SENRUG to attend, though you can join on the day if you wish, which only costs £5 per year. Tea and coffee are also available prior to the start of the meeting. For more information about SENRUG, or to download an application form, go to www.senrug.co.uk.

Ends (332 words)

Notes For Editors

SENRUG is The South East Northumberland Rail User Group, a pro-rail campaign group that campaigns for better rail services for existing and potential passengers in South East Northumberland.

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Christian Wolmar website: <http://www.christianwolmar.co.uk/>

Photo caption: Christian Wolmar - see here alongside the statue of Sir John Betjeman at London St Pancras Station - is now heading to Morpeth.