



Visit to Harrogate 12 May 2010

Following the very successful visit to Cusworth Hall in October last year, the Yorkshire Branch of the IHBC has arranged a visit to Harrogate for the morning of **12 May 2010**.



The visit will focus on the **Royal Hall**, a building designed by the well-known Edwardian theatre architect, Frank Matcham, which reopened last year following extensive restoration. We will be shown round by Mark Foley, partner-in-charge, Burrell Foley Fischer, and by David Wilmore, a national authority on theatres and on the work of Frank Matcham, who played an important advisory role. Funding was a critical part of the project, as the Council on its own was unable to fund the entire cost of the repairs. Both the HLF and the Royal Hall Restoration Trust, under the chairmanship of the late Lilian Mina, played a vital role in providing funds to see the project through to completion. Howard Hughes will tell us about the role of the Trust.



We will also see parts of the late-Victorian **Royal Baths** (by Baggalley and Bristowe) which by the 1990s had become surplus to Council requirements. The Baths were leased to a developer on a long lease and then divided into four 'leisure' units, whilst the Council retained and refurbished the famous Turkish Baths (architect Peter Pace will show us round) and developed another part of the building as a Tourist Information Centre.

Due to limitations on the numbers which can be accommodated at each venue, we will split into two groups, the first touring the Royal Hall followed by the Turkish Baths and second *vice versa*, following which we will take lunch either in the Royal Baths Chinese Restaurant (which will enable us to see the principal room in the Royal Baths) or in the former Lounge Hall (now a Wetherspoons pub). After lunch we will make a brief walkabout to look at other interesting recent developments in Low Harrogate. There is no obligation to stay for or after lunch if you have to get back to the office.

Provisional timings are as follows:



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- 9.00 *Meet at the Heritage Lounge, Royal Hall, Ripon Road, for tea/coffee, before splitting into two groups.*
- 9.30 *Group 1 to visit Royal Hall - Presentations by Mark Foley, David Wilmore & Howard Hughes, followed by tour of the building.*
Group 2 to visit Turkish Baths - Presentation and tour, led by Peter Pace.
- 11.00 *Group 1 to visit Turkish Baths. Group 2 to visit Royal Hall.*
- 12.30 *Lunch*
- 1.30 *Walkabout in Low Harrogate (optional)*
- 2.30 *Depart.*
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BOOKING FORM