

## ***Visit to Harrogate and Yorkshire September 2015-***

The four night visit to Harrogate and North and West Yorkshire went very well and we had good sunny weather, despite the dire forecasts.

**Ascot House** in Harrogate came up to expectations and can be recommended. The group can be seen enjoying dinner there.



We dined 'out' for two nights in the town at **L2D** and **William&Victoria** and both restaurants gave us excellent meals; Harrogate has some real bargains in the 'early bird' dinners .

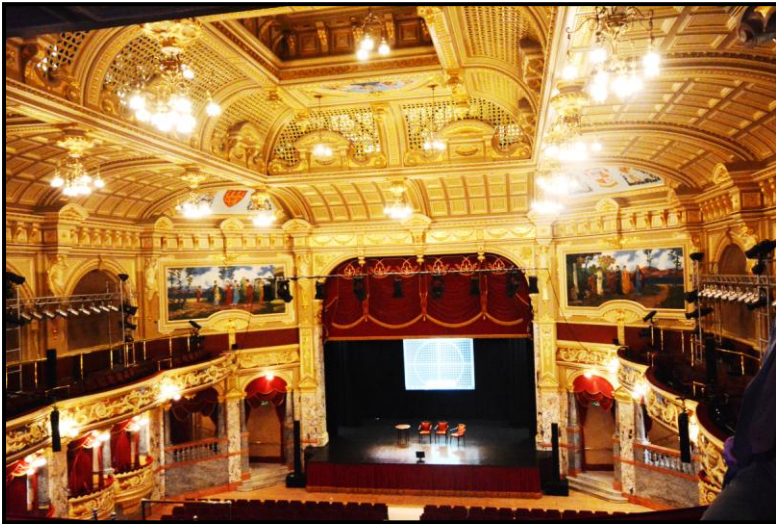
Highlights were **Kiplin Hall**, which most people did not know and the **Georgian Theatre in Richmond** (right). Also in Richmond we saw the Assembly Rooms where the welcoming mayor brought out their splendid historic maces especially for us. A member of the group tried on the impressive Mayoral chain of office.



**Markenfield**, below, was beautifully situated and enhanced in the autumn sunlight.







We admired the architecture and lush decor of the **Turkish Baths** and **Royal Hall** (left) in Harrogate, which has recently been restored to its former glory.

**Claire Bostel** proved an enthusiastic, knowledgeable and entertaining guide and Harrogate's Valley Gardens were a real 'hidden gem', even in the light rain.



Here Claire is holding up the traffic for us in front of the Pump Room. Another visit with her to the Stray was in beautiful evening sunlight.

**Cox's of Belper** provided the coach and **John Bembridge** was our driver for the third time; he must like us as he is keen to come to Taunton and South Somerset next year with us!

The Turkish Baths in Harrogate below.



The kitchen garden at Kiplin Hall above; Newby Hall below.

