



**ABTT NorthNet present “A Day in the Dales”
Thursday 27th September 2012**

Venue 1: The Plaza Cinema, Sackville Street, **Skipton**, North Yorks, BD23 2PB
Time: Meet at 11.00am for 11.30am start with Manager Paul Stone and Joe Shevelan as our guides.

Tel: 01756 793 417

Website: <http://skipton.nm-cinemas.co.uk/>

The Plaza Cinema, (originally Temperance Hall and then latterly Theatre), was designed by local architect / engineer Jonathan Varley and opened in its original guise in 1873. By 1912 it had been converted to a cinema, though in its early days in that capacity, often served Music Hall in Skipton. It acquired its present ornate frontage in 1915, as The Gem Picture Palace, presenting a mix of live and screen entertainment. After purchase in the early 1920's by Matthew Hartley's family, where it remained for more than 3 generations, it was eventually bought by Charles Morris in 1998, as part of his Northern Morris Chain of Cinemas. It is now equipped with state of the art Digital projection equipment, the use of which, is one of our reasons behind this visit.

Now boasting 350 Pullman seats throughout, split between Stalls and Circle, where the original capacity had been as many as 630! As well as being able to screen 3D as well as Digital productions, the whole ethos of the cinema, and indeed the chain of which it is part, is to be able to offer modern entertainment technology in a traditional setting.

Like one of its sister cinemas, The Cottage Road in Leeds, The Plaza celebrates its Centenary this year, so it is fitting that we visit during this season. Also installed is a Conn 651 Organ which features regularly in the programming. A feature is also made of screening less commercial films as part of the general policy.

Venue 2: The Little Theatre, 1 Clifford Street, **Skipton**, North Yorks, BD23 2AD
Time: 2.00pm

Website: <http://www.skiptonlittletheatre.org.uk/>

Skipton Little Theatre is the home of a group of amateur players, producing a yearly season in their own unique venue. This was bought for £200 in 1960, having been part of stables.

Converted, largely by members at a cost of £2000, it holds 75, on ex Leeds Grand Theatre seats, courtesy of Warren Smith, in an auditorium 28ft long, with a stage 13ft wide, where the actors are an intimate 4ft away from the nearest audience member! Even now, with no crossover, certain entrances and exits are an acrobatic feat.

PTO for Directions & RSVP

Travel Notes:

Parking is available at the side of the cinema, which is situated just off Keighley Road before the canal bridge.

Skipton is well served by trains from Leeds, and is on the famous Settle Carlisle line.

Registration of Interest:

**Please complete (by Monday 24th September) the registration slip below and either email or post to:
(With the subject heading “A Day in the Dales”)**

Email: office@abtt.org.uk

OR

**Post: ABTT, Fourth floor, 55 Farringdon Road, London,
EC1M 3JB**

Name:	
ABTT Membership Number:	
Phone Number:	
Email:	
Number of attendees:	