



ABTT NorthNet
“Back to The Good Old Days”
Thursday 18th August 2011

Venue: The City Varieties, Swan Street, (Back of The Headrow),
Leeds, LS1 6LW

Time: Meet at 11:00am for 11:30am start.

Tel: 0113 391 7777

The world-famous City Varieties Music Hall is believed to be the successor to a Tavern singing room dating from the 1760's, with a music hall built or radically altered in 1865 for Charles Thornton. A music and dancing licence was granted in 1867. The three tier hall originally, (pit or area plus two end balconies), was subsequently altered to have side-slips added to the top tier in the 1880's. The flat supper room floor was raked about the same time, with box divisions being added also about the same time.

Known to millions through the long-running BBC TV series “The Good Old Days”, the theatre had been in need of major works for a number of years now.

This grand survivor of the genre must rank alongside Wiltons and Hoxton Hall in London and Glasgow's Britannia. It has just been the subject of a major restoration and re-building contract that has seen external access completely re-modelled, whilst stripping back the years internally to re-create the ambience of Victorian Music Hall alongside the technical and safety needs of today's users. ABTT member Dr David Wilmore of Theatresearch, has been the consultant responsible for the restoration works.

We are amongst the first to see this re-incarnation with the staff of the theatre as our guides.

Please note that, unusually, there will be a £4.00 per head charge on the day.

Visitors may wish to use any remaining free time after the visit to see Matcham's County Arcade nearby, being the survivor of his 1897 Empire Palace development. This is well worth a visit!

Getting there:

Rail: Leeds is well served by rail and the venue is a short 10 minute walk from the station.

Bus: The city Centre Circular Bus Service, (formerly free, but English national passes accepted), leaves from outside the railway station every 10 minutes or so, and stops adjacent to the theatre on the Headrow.

Car: Those travelling by car are advised to familiarise themselves with the Leeds Urban Motorway, including the City Centre Loop.

Please complete the registration slip below and either email or post to:

(with the subject heading “*City Varieties*”)

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:	