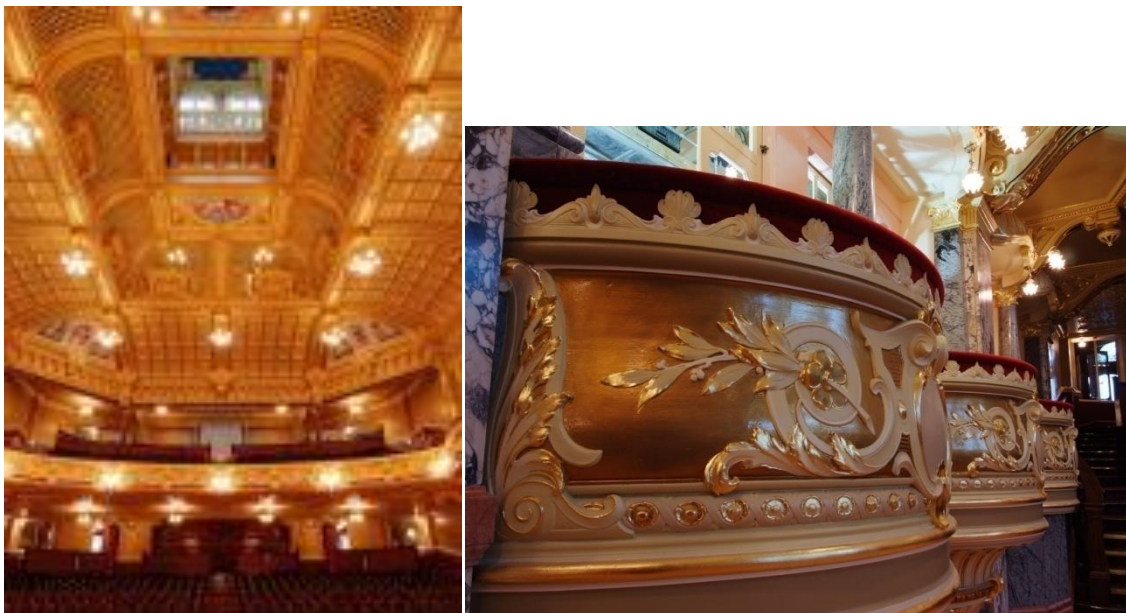


Gala Dinner – Friday 2 October 2009

The pre dinner reception will be held in The Royal Hall from 7.00pm until 8.00pm, where drinks will be served and musical entertainment will be provided by The Pachelbel String Quartet, who will play a selection of music from around the United Kingdom. You will be able to sit in one of the opera boxes, in the auditorium or wander around the 'promenade' which encircles the theatre, enabling you to view it from every angle.

Built in 1903 at the height of Harrogate's spa period, the Royal Hall underwent a complete restoration work costing £10.8m and was reopened in April 2008 by HRH, the Prince of Wales. Designed by Frank Matchman, it is also considered uniquely important in terms of our national heritage as it is thought to be the last remaining Kursaal in Britain.

Tagged the 'glittering palace of gold', over 112,500 sheets of 23.5 carat gold leaf and over 37,000 man-hours were needed to complete the project. Afghani Blue paint cost £3,000 for the one ounce needed to replicate the original design features.



The Royal Hall is part of the Harrogate International Centre complex, and following the reception, we shall make our way to the Banqueting Hall in the International Centre. The walk is about 100 metres, but transport will be provided for anyone who may have difficulty in making the journey.

The three course dinner will be served from 8.15 pm, and will be followed by dancing. The music will be provided by 'Triple Scotch', and will take the form of a Ceidlidh (pronounced KAYLEE) – a traditional Scottish entertainment which is very enjoyable and which everyone can join in. It doesn't matter if you have never done it before as there will be a friendly 'caller' to help every step of the way and if you can claim the smallest bit of Scottish roots, or even if you can't, why not wear some tartan? Otherwise, dress formally or informally, but wear your dancing shoes!

The cost of the Gala Dinner is £45 for delegates, £60 for guests and includes the reception, three course dinner, wine or soft drinks and coffee.

You can book tickets for the Dinner on the Congress website. If you have any special dietary requirements, please tell us so we can make sure your needs are catered for.