

JULY 2016

RDA led a successful Architectural Tour of Great Malvern for a small group of delegates who attended the IHBC Annual Conference held in Worcester this year. All IHBC Conference tours had limited numbers and that day also included visits in Worcester and some delegates went as far as Birmingham.

The subject of RDAs tour in Malvern was a walking tour looking at some of Malvern's key Buildings, listed and buildings of local interest. Malvern is a satellite town 8 miles south of Worcester. The tour on Saturday June 25<sup>th</sup> started by meeting delegates off the train they had caught from Worcester alighting at Great Malvern station, a GDII listed building by E.W.Elmslie of 1861-2 in a typical Malvern Gothic style with iron work by the sculptor William Forsyth. Our second stop was Malvern St James School. We were delighted that Malvern St James Girls School allowed us to take a closer look at their main buildings including Elmslies former Imperial Hotel then owned by the railway where hundreds of visitors coming to Malvern for the clean air, to drink the waters and for the water cure would have lodged. Delegates were given a plotted history of the origins of the water cure and how important this was for putting Malvern on the map as a Spa town. They were told how many of the large villas they were seeing were boarding houses as well as built for hydropathy treatments, such was the craze and demand for this in Victorian times. The tour looked at a variety of architectural styles in this relatively small area including the former community hospital by William Henman FRIBA 1909-11 recently saved from demolition but waiting a new use.[See News Sheet 2] We were also grateful to the owners of the recently named Elmslie House, formerly St Mungoes and The Grove that Elmslie built for his own use, for allowing us a closer inspection.



RDA with Delegates



RDA with Delegates  
looking at Elmslies House

As we meandered our way up to the centre of Great Malvern we reached our final destination the Priory Church of St Mary and St Michael where delegates were able to climb the tower to take in the panoramic views across the town. In all we looked at 26 buildings. 22 dating from the 19<sup>th</sup> century were surveyed and photographed from the public highway as part of the HER Buildings of Worcestershire Project together with a brief written architectural description by volunteers from Malvern Civic Society led by Louisa, hence the link to community and heritage for this years IHBC Conference. Delegates were given tour notes in the form of a Gazetteer to read and as a memento. RDA hope some will make a return visit to our unique town some day.



Former Hydropathic Hotel



Priory Gateway South side



Jacob Rock from RDA with Delegates on the Priory Church roof and above view from the tower.