



SEAHORSE



Number 19

July 2008

Newsletter of the Friends of the Midland Hotel, Morecambe

MIDLAND HOTEL OPENS !

After three years of restoration work and over nine years of campaigning by the Friends, the Midland Hotel has re-opened its doors to the public. Thanks to all members, old and new, for your support. Well done to everyone!

As promised by Urban Splash, the Midland opened at 11am on 1st June 2008. Like hundreds of other people I went along to see for myself. By 9.15am there was a small queue headed by a lady determined to get in and revive old memories. Photographs were being taken and yes, there were still quite a few workmen buzzing around! Over the next hour the queue gradually grew and by 10.30am stretched back some hundred yards southwards along the pavement. Was crowd control required yet?

People had travelled from afar to be part of the first swell of folk inside the building. The lady was still in pole position on the starting grid. Everyone was in good cheer, even though they realised that shortly they would be in for a soaking as the weather began to deteriorate and the first spots of rain started to fall. The entrance to the car park was being manned by a member of staff who was chatting and laughing with the people waiting. Cars were slowing down in the road to look at the hotel and people were walking past gazing up at the building. There was a sense of expectancy in the air.

The queue must have been several hundred strong as 11am approached. Following my plea, the security man allowed me up to the entrance to take photographs as the doors were opened. Urban Splash staff held the queue back for a while and then it was like the January sales used to be when they were in January! Radio Lancashire was there getting people's views about the hotel and we (myself, Barry and Peter) were interviewed on behalf of the Friends. By now the heavens, as well as the Midland, had opened and everybody was becoming rather soggy. The queue was a sea of colourful umbrellas and waterproofs and seemed never ending as people continued to join it despite the weather. This hotel inspires such devotion.

