



SEAHORSE



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**Newsletter of the Friends of the Midland Hotel, Morecambe**

## 10<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY EDITION

Welcome to the tenth anniversary edition of *Seahorse*. Was it really all those years ago that a dozen or so of us met in the old sun-lounge of the Midland, all concerned about the deteriorating state of the hotel? But what could we do? The building didn't belong to us – in fact, nobody was quite sure who it belonged to following the death of Les Whittingham, the last owner, and the problems involved in settling his estate. We decided to start a group with the aims of letting people know what was happening to the building and publicising its architectural importance, both locally and nationally – and when it was sold we hoped we might work with the new owner to help the Midland have a successful future. A few days later we met again, drew up a constitution, appointed officers and advertised our existence locally. In July 1999 we issued our first newsletter to around 30 members and from then on the rest, as they say, is history.

It's been a long journey - often difficult, sometimes depressing and frequently frustrating – but in the end well worth it. To see the Midland restored and up and running once again is wonderful. Thank you all for your continued support, particularly in the difficult times. I pass the hotel most days and it is very gratifying to see the car park full and people going in and out. Under the management of Matt Redhead and his staff the Midland has been transformed over the last few months. The problems associated with its opening period have been sorted out and both residents and visitors are now assured of a warm welcome.

It was good to be able to hold our AGM in the hotel and my thanks to those of you who were able to attend. As it was our tenth anniversary the chef baked us a celebratory cake (complete with candles) which members enjoyed with their tea and coffee after the meeting.

Now, we have decided that you all need a night out and what better place than the Midland. Following the success of last year's Friends' Weekend (despite the weather!) we have decided to host another do. This will be on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June, with a sit-down meal and entertainment on the Saturday evening. By then the hotel will have been open for just over a year and we thought it would be lovely to celebrate this. Numbers will be limited so book early (see details enclosed with this newsletter). There will be live music, a raffle, Deco walks and other events. We don't mind what you wear but we thought it would be nice if you could come in some sort of 1930's attire. Anything goes – from formal black tie/tails and evening gowns to striped blazers, bathing costumes or anything in between! I look forward to seeing you in June.

**Sue Thompson**

