



SEAHORSE



Number 22

October 2009

Newsletter of the Friends of the Midland Hotel, Morecambe

Hello to all members old and new. Firstly, my apologies for the delay in producing this edition of *Seahorse*. We have been working hard to update the Friends' website and this has proved more difficult and time-consuming than we envisaged. To have engaged a specialist website designer would have proved quite expensive, so remodelling the site has been undertaken by Ian (my husband) with help from books, a friend who kindly donated a software programme and phone calls to the professional we buy the web space from. We offered to pay for his advice but he declined – what a nice chap. By the time you receive this newsletter we should have a fully updated website (www.midlandhotel.org). Many thanks Ian. If you want to access the Members' Area of the website (where there are past issues of *Seahorse*, additional photographs and the latest news about the Midland) you will need to enter a new password. This can be found in the box on page 2.

Back in June (gosh! that does seem a long time ago) we held our second Members' Weekend in the hotel. It was lovely to see everybody who came – and the weather was much kinder than last year. On the Friday evening we were entertained with songs from the Thirties by vocalist Lynne Fox accompanied by Richard on piano. Committee member and Morecambe Tour Guide Peter Wade then led us on a gentle stroll along the promenade. On the following day Peter offered a choice of walks, giving members the opportunity to discover more about the local area. Saturday evening saw Boogie Bill Roberts playing piano in the foyer as we sipped pre-dinner cocktails before taking our seats for dinner in the Oliver Hill suite. Everyone enjoyed an excellent meal before setting out to watch the sunset over the bay from the end of the Stone Jetty. By this time the temperature had dropped somewhat so it was back to the hotel for a warming cup of coffee and the drawing of the raffle. Then it was on to the dance floor where Boogie Bill and his band, with Lauren on vocals, kept everyone entertained until midnight. Thanks to all who attended and made it such an enjoyable weekend.

On a sad note we were sorry to say goodbye to Matt Redhead who left the Midland at the end of September. Family circumstances meant that he had to return to Cornwall. As you know, Matt was the first General Manager of the refurbished Midland and had been responsible for guiding the hotel through its difficult early days and then taking it forward. Thanks to his efforts the Midland has improved markedly and it is now a very successful hotel. On a personal level, Matt had become a close friend to many of us over the two years he spent in Morecambe and we wish him and Ashley all the best for the future. Keep in touch Matt!

Sue Thompson

