



## **The Watch Ashore National Triennial**

### **May 2009**

The national Triennial meeting was held at the Quality Royal Hotel in Hull on 7-9 May 2009. (Next year the AGM will take place 9-10th April at The Holiday Inn, Pembroke Road, Portsmouth).

National Chairman Mrs Susan Vickery was unable to attend due to illness and in her absence Mrs Margaret Gray, Vice Chairman took over the duties of the Chairman.

The Humber branch along with the National Executive had organised a very interesting weekend from our arrival, meeting up with each member as they arrived at the hotel and giving them details of the proposed plan for the few days we were at the hotel.

The first evening was an informal buffet followed by a very amusing entertainer Judith Hibbert who treated us to a medley of songs – the group of ladies were able to relax and catch up with friends from other branches during the buffet and then join in the evening's entertainment.

Saturday morning found the groups heading out to see their surroundings including the lovely Holy Trinity Parish Church, before heading to a Civic Reception and buffet in the Reception Room at the Guildhall in Kingston upon Hull. The Mayor Councillor Elaine Garland, made us all most welcome and a superb buffet lunch was enjoyed by all.

The formal dinner took place at 7:30pm and the guest speaker was Peter McEwan from Nautilus, who spoke on the links between them and the Watch Ashore over many years. Interestingly he also mentioned that this year there are 900 cadets in the first stages of their training, a big boost to the British MN numbers. He also went on to say it is his intention to issue a leaflet about the Watch Ashore with a future Telegraph.

Pat Warren was presented with a cheque for her National Charity the Jubilee Sailing Trust, and thanked all present for the wonderful amount of £1562.

The following morning the AGM took place and Mrs Pat Warren stood in as Chairman in the absence of Sue Vickery. She said it was a great shame that Sue was not able to chair this, her final meeting but she thanked her for all her hard work along with the other retiring members of the Executive committee and she presented them with gifts of appreciation. Jean Jones our secretary was thanked for all her hard work and diligence and also Ina Bruce for her hard work as the Executive Member.

Margaret Gray then took over the meeting as the new Chairman and welcomed Chris Rankin (Plymouth branch) as her Vice Chairman, Ina Bruce (Glasgow branch) as Secretary and Judy Slator (Humber branch) as Executive Member.

## The Watch Ashore



The next AGM will be held in the Portsmouth/Southampton area 9th and 10th April 2010 at The Holiday Inn, Portsmouth.

The group then headed out after a buffet lunch for a coach trip which included a visit to Burton Agnes Hall and gardens before a bracing walk along the front at Bridlington and then on to a lovely fish supper in Hornsea.