



3rd July 2010

25th Year Anniversary

The Landmark Hotel

The first Housekeeper Association was going strong in 1959 but somehow disappeared and was restarted in 1985, as the UKHA.



25th Year Anniversary 1985 - 2010



The journey started in April 1984 when a small working committee met at the Sutton offices of the Caterer and Hotelkeeper.

The founder members were: Alison Shergold, Pamela Betts, Anne Doyle, Brendan O'Connor, Carol Betts and Jenny Poultney.

The UK Housekeeping Association was formed in May 1985 and Lord Forte of Ripley became our patron. Anne Doyle, Executive Housekeeper at the Royal Garden Hotel as Chairman and Brendan O'Connor Housekeeping Manager at the London Tara as Treasurer.

The first Housekeepers meeting, was held at the Old Great Western hotel in Paddington and membership was extended to Executive, Head and Floor Housekeepers with the aim of promoting housekeeping as a career.

By the end of the first year, it had over 100 members from all parts of the UK and from all areas of housekeeping, hotels, schools, institutions and hospitals with several branches.

In 1987 the National committee was formed with Mavis Holford, Executive Housekeeper at the Kensington Hilton as National Chairman with Lynn Smith- Hill

Liz Smith-Mills was instrumental in opening many branches outside London branches and the Midland.

In 1988 **Yorkshire Branch** started, founded by Liz Smith-Mills, Sue Jones (Holroyd) & Annie Collier at the Black Swan.

Jan Flynn has been involved in resurrecting the Manchester region on 2 occasions in the last 25years and was on the original committee.

In 1995 Liz helped with the opening of 3 further branches:

- South West Branch which included Plymouth, Exeter, Taunton, Bristol and Bath. The Chair was Jane Sagar. This branch later merged into the Midland Branch.
- Newcastle and the North East whose chair was Pam Harm at the Gosforth Park Swallow Hotel. Membership declined when several housekeepers retired and any existing members were encouraged to join Yorkshire.
- Bournemouth Branch was also resurrected for a few years in the mid 90's, originally Janice Lepave was chair and she worked at the Norfolk Royal Hotel in 1994.

- Audrey Belih (from the Bournemouth Moat House) was then chair for a few years until the branch declined in numbers and members were directed to join London and the South East.

Some of the achievements of the Association have included:

- ◆ The Room Attendants competitions sponsored by Sunlight Laundry
- ◆ Business Luncheons
- ◆ Annual Regional Summer Balls
- ◆ Annual BBQ's
- ◆ Annual Christmas Dinner Dances
- ◆ Bi monthly meeting with many informative speakers
- ◆ Uniform fashion show

The Caterer and Hotelkeeper sponsored the first Housekeepers conference held at the Royal Crest Hotel. These events eventually were organised by the London and South East Branch, the first was held at the London Metropole Hotel, which was a conference with a trade show.

Kimberley Clark sponsored the first Catey Housekeeper of the year award to recognise the importance and vital role the housekeepers have in the Industry. The current sponsor is Sysco Guest Supply.

And the Catey winners were:

1985 – Anne Doyle	1992 – Denise Bateson
1986 – Brendan O'Connor	1993 – Deborah Preston
1987 – Sheila Perera	1994 – Barbara Bush
1988 – Mavis Holford	1995 – Liana Sparks
1989 – Sheila Guthrie	2007 - Minjoo Leutwiler-Lee
1990 – Ilse Mohr	2008 – Jean Roberts
1991 – Liz Smith-Mills	2009 – Rachael Park

As the Association steadily grew, the membership was extended to Associates supplying services, goods and equipments to the Housekeepers. Their continued support has enabled the Association to grow and prosper. The UKHA is now recognised as a professional organisation within the industry. Special thanks, must be said, to all those Committee Members who have worked tirelessly throughout the past 25 years in order to achieve our success.

National Chairmen

- Mavis Holford

- Sheila Perera
- Ian Hughes

Regional Chairmen

❖ **London & SE Region**

Anne Doyle, Diana Yoxail (Eastbourne & Brighton), Linda Rudkin (Kent) Mavis Holford, Isle Mohr, Cliona McNally, Anne Britton

❖ **Midlands Wales & SW Region**

Jane Sagar (SW), Christine Gibbs (West Midlands), Jenny Poultney (Southport, Buckinghamshire & Oxford), Janet Colley

❖ **Northern Region**

Sue Jones, Pam Harm, Pauline Major, Rita Robinson, Jane Rushton, Claire James, Jean Roberts

❖ **Scottish Region**

Sheila Pererea, Sandy Campbell, Irene Napier, Sarah Homewood, Joanne Wilby

- ❖ Manchester Region (newly started)

Longest serving:

- **Committee Member/Secretary** = Lynn Yambao
- **National Chairmen** = Ian Hughes
- **Regional Chairman** = Isle Mohr

But we must not forget that, on top of the time given by the different Chairmen, Secretaries, Treasurers and Committee Members, this could not have happened without the financial help and support of a number of suppliers, headed at the beginning, by **Sunlight Laundries** and assisted by **Donau Express**.

It is a journey that we will continue to travel for many a year to come.