



## 75 year old yacht becomes national Flagship: Ramsgate vessel *Sheemaun* is awarded new status as 2010 Flagship for the UK's Historic Ships



*Sheemaun* was built as a gentleman's pleasure yacht and requisitioned for naval duties during the 2nd World War. Now privately owned, she is enjoyed by the general public on both sides of the Channel. Included on the National Register of Historic Vessels, she has been awarded the accolade of Flagship of the Year 2010 by National Historic Ships in recognition of her wide-ranging public summer cruising programme. In this role, *Sheemaun* will be promoting the 1,200 other vessels on the National Register of Historic Vessels at events which include the Calais Fete de la Mer, the Swallows & Amazons Rally and the Mayor's Thames Classic Boat Festival.

Norfolk wherry *Albion*, valued member of the National Historic Fleet, has been named runner-up 2010. This honour has been created for the first time, due to the high level and quality of applications received. *Albion* carried 1,400 passengers in 2009, hosting public open days on the Broads. She has been given the sum of £250 in recognition of her runner-up status, with £1,000 awarded to *Sheemaun* as Flagship. Both amounts are to be spent supporting the vessels and promoting the Flagship of the Year project.

National Historic Ships, which is sponsored by the Department of Culture Media and Sport, is the official voice for historic vessels in the UK. We offer advice on ship preservation, promote historic vessels throughout the UK, and run a Strategic Grants scheme for the benefit of historic vessels on the National Register.

Members of the Press are cordially invited to join us on the following occasions:

- 18 May 2010, on board *Sheemaun*, Ramsgate Harbour

*Representatives from National Historic Ships will be hoisting the broad pennant marking Sheemaun's new flagship status*

- 13 May 2010, on board *Albion*, Ludham

*National Historic Ships will be awarding the runners-up certificate*

**Opportunities for interviews & photographs on request**

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