

# Chairman's Message

2008 has been a year of considerable change for the Group, with the departure of our Deputy Coordinator, Laura, and the arrival of our new Coordinator, Anne, in preparation for Michael's retirement.

2008 was also the last complete year of the National Lottery grant, which has been the largest single source of our funding since 2006. Against the background of a deepening recession which is likely to bite hard into both the funds available for distribution by funding charities and the discretionary income of individuals, it is clear that 2009 is going to be a challenging year.

Mindful of the fact that a further three years of funding from the National Lottery is unlikely, we have already embarked upon a programme to secure alternative funding streams which has already borne fruit, to encourage a higher level of donation from our existing donors, and to widen our supporter base. We have also implemented a reduction in our expenditure budget for 2009 pending the successful reshaping of our income by the time the Lottery funding comes to an end in June. The recruitment of a Deputy Coordinator will be contingent on our fundraising - we would hope to appoint later in 2009.

I am constantly encouraged by the large impact such a small charity as Haslar Visitors Group can have in so many ways on the lives of the vulnerable and destitute. Our supporters have continued to be most generous, and I should like to particularly mention the individuals who provide the bulk of our destitution funds and those who turn out in all weathers to visit the men in Haslar. I would like on behalf of the Trustees to warmly thank all our visitors, staff, donors and supporters for their hard work and dedication throughout 2008.

*Mike Brown*  
*Chairman*

*January 2009*