

April 2006

## **Dr Robert Prescott is appointed Chair of the Advisory Committee on National Historic Ships**

David Lammy, the Minister for Culture, announced today that Dr Robert Prescott has been appointed as Chair of the Advisory Committee on National Historic Ships. His term of appointment will run from 12 April 2006 to 11 April 2010.

### Biographical notes

Since 2003, Dr Robert Prescott has served as Honorary Senior Lecturer in the School of History at the University of St Andrews. Before this, he was NATO Research Fellow at Yale University (1964 to 1966), before becoming Senior Assistant in Research at Cambridge (1966 to 1974). He then joined the University of St Andrews, as Lecturer. During his career at St Andrews, he became the Co Founder and Director of the Scottish Institute of Maritime Studies (1984 to 2002). In 2002/03, he held a Caird Senior Research Fellowship at the National Maritime Museum. He is a Trustee of the Scottish Fisheries Museum (1977 to date), and serves on the National Historic Ships Committee. He regularly lectures and publishes on historic ships policy.

### Background

The Advisory Committee on National Historic Ships (ACNHS) has been set up to act as the primary source of advice to the Secretary of State on national historic ship preservation and funding priorities. It will also act as a source of advice to the Heritage Lottery Fund on preservation priorities and individual applications it receives to fund historic ships, and to other public funding bodies. It will provide leadership and strategic vision across the national historic ships community and wider maritime sector by acting as a focus for advice on aspects of the preservation of historic vessels.

The Advisory Committee takes over from the National Historic Ships Committee the maintenance and development of the National Register of Historic Vessels and the development and monitoring of an 'At Risk' register.

The ACNHS Chair gives services on an honorary basis but Reasonable travel and subsistence costs will be reimbursed.

This appointment has been made in accordance with the OCPA Code of Practice. Appointments are made on merit and political activity plays no part in the selection process.