

REGENCY



ELEGANCE

A Pen from the Glen

NEWSLETTER OF THE ROYAL GLEN HOTEL • SIDMOUTH



Sidmouth Town Councillors and Sidmouth Hoteliers celebrate the launch of The Golden Jubilee Edition of Sidmouth's Town Guide

GOLDEN JUBILEE EDITION

We were honoured to be invited to be the venue for the launch of The Royal Golden Jubilee edition of the Sidmouth Guide. Officially launched by Joy Seward, president of Sidmouth & District Hotels & Caterers Association, with 50 golden balloons outside the Royal Glen. The first of the 30,000 guides off the printing press was sent to the Queen in a gold envelope along with a letter from the town clerk. It was handed over by Councillor Mr Hughes Chairman of Sidmouth Town Council's tourism and publicity

committee to John Dunster, postman for the council, who said it would be franked with a Sidmouth stamp before being sent registered post to Buckingham Palace. The 2002 edition has been dedicated to the Queen with a double-page feature on the royals and their contacts with Sidmouth. The guide has a special leather-feel cover and contains some stunning photographs of the town and its attractions. See the reply from Buckingham Palace to Mrs Trina Jarrett, Town Clerk overleaf...





BUCKINGHAM PALACE

20th December, 2001

Dear Mrs Jarrett,

I am commanded by The Queen to write and thank you for your letter, and for sending Her Majesty, on behalf of The Town Council, the special Golden Jubilee Edition of the Sidmouth Holiday Guide 2002.

The Queen was interested to read the feature on the town's connection with Queen Victoria in her infancy, and other Royal visits made to Sidmouth, and I am to thank all members of The Town Council for your kind thought for Her Majesty at this time.

Yours sincerely,
Richarda Elton

Lady-in-Waiting

Mrs Irina Jarrett, Town Clerk, reply from Buckingham Palace

FROM THE 2002 TOWN GUIDE

A Town with a Royal history

The band played and the bells rang out in December 1819 when the Duke and Duchess of Kent, with the infant Princess Victoria, arrived at Woolbrook Cottage, now the Royal Glen Hotel. Their stay, however, was tragically short, for the Duke died on January 23rd from complications after a heavy cold. His coffin lay in state here for several days and was seen by some 3000 people. But the funeral was delayed because of the death, six days later of his father, King George III. Not until February 7th did the cortege leave Sidmouth through streets lined by silent crowds. In 1856 Edward, Prince of Wales, stayed at the Royal York Hotel, visiting Woolbrook Cottage to see where his grandfather died and where his mother slept as a baby.

Fortunately, not all Sidmouth's royal connections are tinged with such sadness. A favourite Royal visitor was the Duke of Connaught, Queen Victoria's third son. He first came in 1931 and in 1934 gave his name to Connaught Gardens so admired today by visitors from all over the world. In 1986 the present Duchess of Kent visited Sidmouth for the Salcombe Hill Landscape Appeal. In February 1999 Princess Anne carried out the official opening of the modernisation of Sidmouth Victoria Hospital.



THE DEVORAN 'THE PINK HOTEL'

Many of our regular visitors will know that along with our respective husbands at the end of last year we acquired The Devoran Hotel on the esplanade, known to many as the pink hotel. We are pleased to say that we have had a very successful season and are following along the previous owners tradition for friendliness, fine food and flowers. The two hotels are not in competition with each other, the Devoran is popular with those who want to be very close to the town centre and immediately on the esplanade with sea views. There is also a lift that services many of the rooms.



The Duchess of Kent with the infant Princess Victoria whose nursery window can still be seen at the Royal Glen Hotel

THE ROYAL GLEN HOTEL





RED ARROWS SPECTACULAR BACK DROP

It was the ideal place to watch the Red Arrows in August who began the Regatta week with a flying start. The Red Arrows have not been to the town for 15 years when they flew several years in succession. I have to say that I have still yet to see a more spectacular back drop for their manoeuvres than the red cliffs, blue sea and sky in front of our esplanade.

ENGLANDS PICTURESQUE

And yet another enviable setting is that of our picturesque thatched cricket pavilion looking out across the wicket to the sea. Hotel Guests can obtain from reception a concessionary membership ticket that entitles them to sit in the deckchairs and use the club house renowned for their typical English teas. Cricket is played most days throughout July and August and we are pleased to report that our youngsters were in the following local paper as Brothers Bess Notch Double Devon Century. Vivienne's three sons all represent their local club, their school and Devon.

MEMORABLE STAY

Launched this year was the film *Iris* based on books by John Bayley, husband of author Iris Murdoch. In a book that has Iris's Alzheimer's Disease as a prevalent theme, it is ironic that some of the details got confused. Do you recognise any of the following:- *"I would drive them for a brief holiday to Sidmouth, staying at a little hotel in a sort of crevasse that ran down to the promenade and the sea. The hotel was an old one and claimed some connection with the Duke of Wellington, which seemed unlikely. But the bar was stocked with an excellent Australian red wine called Long Tom, or maybe something else, of which we always drank a bottle at supper, and sometimes two."* Father, Orson Crane remembers the visits. In the Charles room there is a portrait of the Duke of Wellington, but the more likely ducal connection that Iris's husband was intending to refer to is that with the Duke of Kent... And the wine, Long Tom? is of course Long Flat Red still on the wine list and very popular.

WIN A 2-DAY BREAK

As well as Historical connections there are some interesting literary ones. Can you answer any of the following:-

- A.) Who wrote "A Horseman riding by"
The author lived in Manor Road just a few hundred yards away from the Glen.
- B.) Which Poet Laureate described "if it were not for the sea, Sidmouth, I thought, would be tropic forest"
- C.) Lord of the Rings author was holidaying in Sidmouth when writing some of the passages.
- D.) Elizabeth Barrett later to become Elizabeth B..... B....., stayed at No 8 Fortfield Terrace.

First to reply with all four correct answers will win a 2 day Winter Break, and the runner up a complementary bottle of Long Flat Red.

FEDERATION HOLIDAY A SUCCESS

Cambridgeshire Townswomens Guild Federation secretary Mrs Sheila Turner organised a very successful 6 day trip to Sidmouth and the Royal Glen in May. The local coach firm Otter Coaches collected members of Cambridgeshire and Mid Herts from pre arranged pick up points. During their visit they enjoyed a full day trip to Dartmouth and Buckfast Abbey including a trip up the River Dart to Totnes. A half day tour to Exeter. A guided walk of Sidmouth and talk given by Dr John Travis, a writer and historian, one of the acknowledged UK experts on the history of the British seaside resort particularly those in Devon.

Mrs Rickie Hanson of Mid Herts is hoping to arrange a similar trip in October 2003, maybe including the Eden Project into their itinerary

It is possible for groups to enjoy a discount depending on the numbers booked, especially in May, October and November. Arrangements can be tailor made to suit whatever particular interests a group may have whether it be bridge, walking, history, bowling etc or even a family gathering or celebration of course.

PLANNING PROGRESS

It is hoped that it will be next Autumn that work may start on building three more bedrooms and incorporating a lift. Our plans have been passed and now the final stages of building regulations are in progress. When complete this will mean there will be lift access to the first and second floors in the vicinity of the linking corridor between the 1930s and 1970s extensions from the garage.

This winter will see the second stage of our kitchen refurbishment started last winter. Also a perspex screen in the pool which will enable the viewing area to be used once again for

other recreational facilities with improved dry air conditions.

NEW FACES

At the start of the year Jeff joined as Porter to welcome guests and help first time visitors get acquainted with our intricate building. Since June, Mark in Maintenance and the Garden has done a marvellous job. We have had many complementary comments how noticeably neat and cared for the garden has been looking; and we were very pleased to receive a commendation for the *Britain in Bloom* competition which is a first for many years.



Lee has joined our Kitchen brigade along with David and Head Chef Kieran. With further updating in the kitchen service area Kieran will continue to build and extend on the menu he has introduced in the past 2 years bringing you all your favourite dishes.

Laura previously working in the restaurant whilst still at school and college, is now training in other departments. We shall be working closely with her in creating opportunities to go on various courses to build a career path for her. The first of which is Welcome Host, well done Laura.

THANK YOU TO ALL

For the constructive criticism and enthusiastic complements which means so much to us all. Mrs Ferguson of Cumbria says:

"We consider you our Little Gem" and Mrs Lamparter of USA writes:

"This was my fifth holiday at the Royal Glen... This lovely, Victorian hotel (and its staff) holds a warm place in my heart. Time spent here is restful and rejuvenating. Although there is sufficient "modern" conveniences to provide a comfortable stay, much of the charm of being here involves feeling as though one has stepped back a bit in time-to a period when life was slower, people more polite, and service more gracious. Thank you all for a lovely week."

Whilst we received an email from Roslyn Stanley of L.A.:

"October 1976 went to Europe with cousin and we discovered Sidmouth & The Royal Glen had lovely Sunday Lunch."

May 1982 This time I travelled with my husband to England. I had told him what a pretty town Sidmouth was and we found a very nice B&B stayed 2 days."

May 1986 Back to England, same B&B, owners suggest we have dinner at Royal Glen which we did. While having coffee after dinner

we both agreed that some day we will stay.

May 2000 stayed at Royal Glen for 3 days and we knew we would return.

April 2002 Spent 6 days at Royal Glen and this did it for us. We are in love with Sidmouth and The Royal Glen.

August 2002 sent e-mail to Royal Glen for 2 weeks reservation in April 2003! Counting the Days!!!!"

Well Done to all our team for all their hard work and efforts over this past busy year.

I would like to thank Dr Drake for playing and recording not just one but two compilations on CD for the restaurant.

We wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous year in 2003. We look forward to hearing from you and hope we may have the opportunity of welcoming you once again.

*Mr & Mrs Orson Crane,
and daughters Hilary Caldwell & Vivienne Bess*

WINTER TARIFF

November 1st 2002 - April 30th 2003

		Standard Room	Small Room
Weekly	(D B&B)	£294.00	£266.00
Daily	(D B&B)	£52.50	£48.50
3 Day Break	(D B&B)	£142.50	£130.50
2 Day Break	(D B&B)	£101.00	£43.00
Daily	(B&B)	£36.00	£32.00

*Winter Special November 2002 - March 2003 5 nights DBB
£195.00 per person (no specific room guaranteed).*

MAY & OCTOBER (ONLY) 2003

		Standard Room	Small Room
Weekly	(D B&B)	£371.00	£350.00
Daily	(D B&B)	£57.00	£54.00
3 Day Break	(D B&B)	£165.00	£156.00
Daily	(B&B)	£42.00	£39.00

SUMMER TARIFF

1st June - 30th September 2003

		Standard Room	Small Room
Weekly	(D B&B)	£392.00	£371.00
Daily	(D B&B)	£60.00	£57.00
3 Day Break	(D B&B)	£174.00	£165.00

THE ROYAL GLEN HOTEL

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Proprietors: Mr & Mrs O.G. Crane & Family

