

REGENCY



ELEGANCE

A Pen from the Glen

NEWSLETTER OF THE ROYAL GLEN HOTEL • SIDMOUTH



The 1927 Austin 20 has been lovingly restored. The bus was last running as one of a pair up and down Peak Hill and Salcombe Hill in the 1950s. The owners hope to use the vehicle for weddings and perhaps film work and heritage tours of the town.

On another occasion locals and frequent visitors may remember the present Duchess of Kent in 1986 being driven in the Bicton toastrack from “next door” where she had officiated at a civic function for the National Trust via the Royal Glen, stopping just for a moment to read the tablet inscribed to the left of the front door.



The inscribed tablet



Our annual 'Pen from the Glen' hopefully keeps all our friends and wider family of the Glen informed of what is going on here and in Sidmouth. For those being sent one with a brochure for the first time it gives a more personal insight into the character of this holiday destination. It is always our intention to offer a friendly and relaxed family atmosphere in a genuinely 17C grade 1 listed building which we are working hard keeping up to date within the confines of its listing. Many of you tell us not to change it. Although staff have been international over the last few years there remains a nucleus of dedicated loyal members who clock up the years. The 2006 overseas contingent have all been truly hard working, cheerful and succeeded in working as a strong and professional team. We look forward to welcoming some of them back in 2007

BUILDING UPGRADES & HOTEL IMPROVEMENTS

It was hoped to start the building of a further 3 bedrooms above Room Charles, Andrew and Edward, this November, we extended the weeks that we would not be open for residents in anticipation. However this has again been delayed. This winter the entrance hall and bar will be carpeted and decorated, and 4 more bedrooms and bathrooms. A new state of the art fire alarm system will be up and running at the start of the new season.

Our Chefs will have some extra time this winter to experiment and consolidate menus. We know there are plenty of firm favourites, any comments would be of interest to us. The Winter A La Carte was very well received in 2006 and it is hoped this will be available again at certain times. Local produce is used where ever possible and we cater for different dietary needs, especially, gluten free, non-dairy as well as vegetarian. Inform us on booking and whilst staying the days menu is always ready at breakfast for anyone to discuss any special needs with our Chef. The children's menu also uses all local and fresh products, so it is necessary to order in advance.

We are continually trying to improve the experience of our visitors and find the questionnaires a useful tool for suggestions and new ideas for improvements, and the compliments not only let us know what aspects are most appreciated but go a long way too boost morale and confidence in sustaining the friendly and professional customer care. A big thank you also, to all of those who wrote to us this year after your holiday.

'SMOKE ROOM' REVERTS TO 'THE STUDY'



THE STUDY

Access for guests to the internet is now available in the small lounge. In 2006 the Hotel decided to allow smoking only in our small lounge, by the front door. It had always been named the Smoke room for as long as we can remember. Do you remember when Gentlemen smoked pipes and cigars! However with the changing attitudes to smoking we have decided to introduce a no smoking policy throughout the hotel. Please would anyone wishing to receive last minute offers by email tell us of your address at: info@royalglenhotel.co.uk

In November 2007 we are hoping to organise a **Victorian weekend**, or even a murder! Contact us for further information.

NIGHT TIME DIPPING

We would advise all our visitors against swimming at night. It is unbelievably dark and quite impossible to find your belongings if you get out further along the shingle. You may have to make your way back with nothing on. Then when your things are found in the morning, the authorities are called out in case of suicide, although if the hotel key is there too, at least the persons responsible are located. We could not believe the media attention this caused this summer even getting into the Times, but discretion was observed at all costs.

RETURN OF HONEYMOONERS

This year we saw more than one couple returning to visit us after many years. One such couple Mr and Mrs Kay spent their honeymoon at the Royal Glen in 1952. They even showed us the original letter and Brochure sent to them by our Grandmother Mrs Martin offering 'a very nice, large first floor double room...at 10gns per week per person inclusive', which would have been with breakfast, lunch and dinner. Mr and Mrs Kinch having honeymooned in Sidmouth and spent their Ruby anniversary with us, this year returned to celebrate their Golden Anniversary. Congratulations to you both.

OLD BROCHURE FOUND ON EBAY

Another old Brochure came to light, when a fellow hotelier saw it on Ebay along with his own hotel. It is sometime earlier than 1952, because the terms for October read 4 & half guineas per week, or 17/6 per day per person. It has some charming line drawings of rooms, and the smoke room is named the study, so perhaps we shall revert to that.



The old Brochure that appeared on Ebay

about the grounds for her daily airing. The Duke was known to proudly be in the habit of saying 'take care of her she may yet be Queen of England'.

The Duke died after a short feverish illness on 23rd January 1820. The body of the Duke lay in state for a short time at Woolbrook Cottage, and was seen by a great number of people in the neighbourhood with whom he had become popular. His brother in law, King Leopold paid the local debts before the coffin could be removed. The coffin was 7ft long and weighing more than a ton was taken to Windsor.



The Duchess of Kent and Princess Victoria holding a miniature of her dead father

HISTORY OF THE GLEN

We are always being asked about the history of the Glen. Mrs Crane has nearly completed a second edition of 'Queen Victoria and the Royal Glen' and we look forward very much to the publication of this. For now, the following tells us how she came to be at the Glen.

Victoria's father was born in 1767, Edward Augustus, fourth son of King George III. He was a young person full of self importance and extravagant. At 17 he went into the army, his career was erratic. In 1802 he was recalled after troops became mutinous under his command.

For the last 15 years of his life he was in retirement and constantly in debt. No longer a young man, but, with the line of succession to the throne looking decidedly weak, in his 50's a wife was chosen for him. Maria Louisa Victoria was 32 and a widow of the Prince of Leningen, but not wealthy. Her brothers were Leopold King of Belgium and the Duke of Saxe-Coburg Gotha (the father of Prince Albert). They decided to live in Germany thinking it would be less expensive. However when the Duchess became pregnant, Edward insisted that the child be born in England. They returned with very little money and the Prince Regent, his eldest brother George (not the King who was blind and insane) was hostile and angry refusing any approaches to public money.

By the autumn of 1819 lack of money made it impossible for them to live in London so to escape from the recriminations of his creditors he looked for an out-of-the-way place for retirement. He consulted his old tutor, The Bishop of Salisbury, who suggested Sidmouth as healthy and remote. The Duke kept up appearances by visiting the elderly Princesses at Windsor, and stayed with the Bishop at Salisbury saying that the trip was for their health. They arrived quietly at Sidmouth on December 24th to Woolbrook Cottage where the accommodation was much smaller than that to which they were accustomed. Their identity soon became known to the townspeople who felt it an honour, and watched with interest the Royal baby being carried

Guest Valerie Calvert who has a great affection for Sidmouth wrote to us 'Thank you all':

*From Connaught Gardens' ordered floral beds
A much less formal picture may be seen.
The sheer drop cliff-face glowing rusts and reds
Is carpeted with sweeping swathes of green,
While at its base, the smoothly pebbled beach
Is pale against the ocean's deeper hue.
A wooden Jacob's Ladder serves to reach
The brightly painted bathing huts below.
Go down toward the town, past neat hotels
Whose ambience evokes a yesteryear
Of lace trimmed bonnets, gloves and parasols;
gentility, which seems to linger here,
preserved by elder-citizens who've paid
to doze in deck-chairs on the esplanade.
Port Royal – such a grand, deceptive name
For where the local sailors keep their boats.
Perhaps The Slipway sounds a little tame
To those whose leisure hours are spent afloat.
Cross over now to find the shopping ways,
Where almost modern blends with older charm,
And even on the busiest of days
The atmosphere is quiet, unhurried, calm.
The narrow streets host one department store
Alongside smaller firms whose clientele
Must be of pensionable age or more
If measured by the fashions that they sell.
Dear Sidmouth, small resort, whose size belies
Its wealth of nourishment for soul and eyes.*

BLOOM CALENDARS Sidmouth has again been chosen to represent the South West in the coastal town section of the 2007 National Britain in Bloom competition. We have Bloom Calendars to be won. First 10 correct answers to the question:

Who was Queen Victoria's grandfather?

BLUE PLAQUE GUIDES A free copy will be given to visitors staying for 3 day breaks or longer in the month of February. This guide gives an account of many of the buildings in Sidmouth that have some historical interest.

The newly launched circular walks publications have been popular and are for sale at Reception. We also have our own folder of favourite walks.

THE INDOOR HEATED POOL, popular with all age groups has had equipment upgraded. This has resulted in better heat exchange and much less condensation.



THE DEVORAN

If being very close to the town centre, sea views and a

lift are important to you, don't forget our sister hotel 'the pink hotel' run personally by Vivienne and husband Graham Bess. In high season use the Sidmouth Hopper to take you to Connaught Gardens, to the top of Salcombe and Peak Hill. This is a free mini bus service.

DATES AND LOCAL INTERESTS 2007

Museum open April - October with guided town strolls

Charles Vance Theatre at the Manor Pavilion June - September Tel 579977. Early Theatre Dinner available

The Norman Lockyer Observatory Info: Tel 512096

Band Concerts Tuesday and Sunday in Connaught Gardens June-August

Sidmouth Golf Club reduced green fees for Guests

Sidmouth Cricket Club, Guest complementary daily membership to use club facilities. **Tennis and Croquet** visitors welcome.

Bowling Club 2 rinks for public use.

8th May Donkey Week

31st May Salcombe Regis Fair

29th July Branscombe Air & ClassicCars Show

3rd August Folk Week

24 August Regatta Weekend

22 September Sidmouth Carnival

BEACHES PASS WITH FLYING COLOURS This Summer saw water off beaches in Sidmouth being classed as excellent by the Marine Conservation Society. Town beach and Jacobs Ladder were both tested. At Jacobs Ladder at low tide one can walk half a mile to Laid Foot on the sand. The beach has a kiosk and a café and public facilities in Connaught Gardens above. There is a footpath

under the cliffs to Clifton Beach situated directly at the end of Glen Road, with a wealth of marine life in the rock pools at low tide. At high tide swimming is always pleasant with generally gentle shelving, but shoes are a good idea, the shingle can be hard on feet.

We would like to take this opportunity of wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy Prosperous year in 2007. Thank you all for your custom, and we look forward to welcoming you again, and renewing your acquaintance however long ago. Whilst staff holidays and refurbishment are in progress, Reception is open Monday to Saturday 9.00am to 4.00pm. At other times the phone is manned by Hilary and Vivienne at home except in a few circumstances when you may get an answer machine, but we will return your call as soon as possible.

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

WINTER TARIFF

November 1st 2006 - April 30th 2007
(except Christmas & New Year)

		Standard Room A	Standard Room B	Small Rooms
5 Nights	(D B&B)	£255.00	£240.00	£225.00
3 Day Break	(D B&B)	£177.00	£165.00	£159.00
2 Day Break	(D B&B)	£130.00	£122.00	£114.00
Daily	(D B&B)	£68.50	£64.50	£60.50
Daily	(B&B)	£46.00	£42.00	£38.00

Winter Special November 2006 - March 2007 Sunday / Friday 5 Nights DBB £225.00 p person

MAY & OCTOBER TARIFF 2007

		Standard Room A	Standard Room B	Small Rooms
Weekly	(D B&B)	£425.00	£411.00	£396.00
3 Day Break	(D B&B)	£192.00	£186.00	£180.00
Daily	(D B&B)	£72.00	£70.00	£67.00
Daily	(B&B)	£49.00	£47.00	£44.00

SUMMER TARIFF

1st June - 30th September 2006

		Standard Room A	Standard Room B	Small Rooms
Weekly	(D B&B)	£440.00	£425.00	£411.00
3 Day Break	(D B&B)	£198.00	£192.00	£186.00
Daily	(D B&B)	£74.00	£72.00	£70.00
Daily	(B&B)	£51.00	£49.00	£47.00



★★★

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

