

REGENCY



ELEGANCE

A Pen from the Glen

NEWSLETTER OF THE ROYAL GLEN HOTEL • SIDMOUTH



The Royal Glen circa 1830

'NAME NEWSLETTER COMPETITION'

We are very pleased to send you our second issue of the newsletter with its new name "A Pen from the Glen" sent in by Mrs S. Pannett of Bickley in Kent who wins the first prize of a free 2 night weekend break for two. Congratulations, we look forward to seeing you. We were very impressed with the number of entrants and all the various ideas - 24 entrants, 48 titles with only 2 being duplicated.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

This second issue sends Christmas Greetings and Best Wishes from myself and Mrs Crane, Hilary, Vivienne and their families and all your friends and staff at the Royal Glen. It is of course meant to keep you up to date with the Hotel, the family, the staff and what has happened or is going to happen in the near future in Sidmouth. I hope issue 3 won't be quite so long in following.

OUR 'THANK YOU'

We have been delighted to welcome many of you again this season and we want to thank every one of you for your support over the many years that we have owned and run the hotel. We all thank you for your support and friendship, without which the wider Royal Glen family, which includes you all, would not be as wide and extensive as it is today. There are so many of you who have made many many visits but we think Mr Summers of West Byfleet Surrey is the longest and most frequent visitor. In 1932 he first brought his parents here and has returned many times, in the last 10 years at least once a year if not more. If you can beat this record please let us know!

We would like to congratulate Mr & Mrs E. Jackson of Gravesend Kent on the celebration of their Golden Wedding Anniversary last May. They chose to celebrate it by renewing their acquaintance with the Royal Glen and Sidmouth having spent their honeymoon here in 1950.



THEN AND NOW

We have a great pair of photos, one taken this year and the other taken 8 years previously, courtesy of Tewin Cricket Club tour who have been staying every year for 30 years. Mrs Crane and I have seen 2 generations of families grow. The 1935 Morris 8 has been part of the Crane family for a similar number of years.



Tewin Cricket Club party 1992...



...and the same party in 2000

You may know that we have a special interest in vintage and veteran cars. We were pleased to welcome back Mr & Mrs Miles and Mr & Mrs Bosworth from Coventry who tour every Summer in their 1936 Black Riley Merlin (12 horsepower) and a 1934 Cream Kestrel (9 horsepower). They enjoy the peace and tranquillity of the area. We are very excited and looking forward in May 2001 to welcoming the return visit of the Midland Vehicle Preservation Society all arriving in their classic cars some 25 of them.

And even more on the car front. If you want something a bit more special than a quick spin along the seafront in 'Myria' with myself, how about being chauffeur driven along the Devon Lanes in a 1930's Buick (Al Capone style) complete with gramophone, coffee and a gourmet picnic with bubbly. The three hour tour costs £137.00 for two taking you to some of the most exquisite locations in the area.

SIDMOUTH ON THE HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

Did you see the Holiday Programme in February? Unfortunately we were not mentioned although there was a good glance of our front porch recognised and spotted by some of our Guests. The programme concentrated on the unspoilt attractiveness of the area and its peace and tranquillity. Craig Doyle presenting the programme used the Blue Plaque Guide to explore Sidmouth. A marvellous way of appreciating the history of many of our most interesting buildings which have Blue Plaques fixed near their front doors. The Guide gives more detail on each building and is quite the most delightful way of bringing the past to life. There are similar stories to our own - of Princess Victoria and the Kents - and all sorts of others from across the centuries. A Free copy of this guide has been given to all visitors this season. We hope that it has been a source of both interest and enjoyment. We shall continue to do this until the end of the year.

SOUTH WEST IN BLOOM TITLE

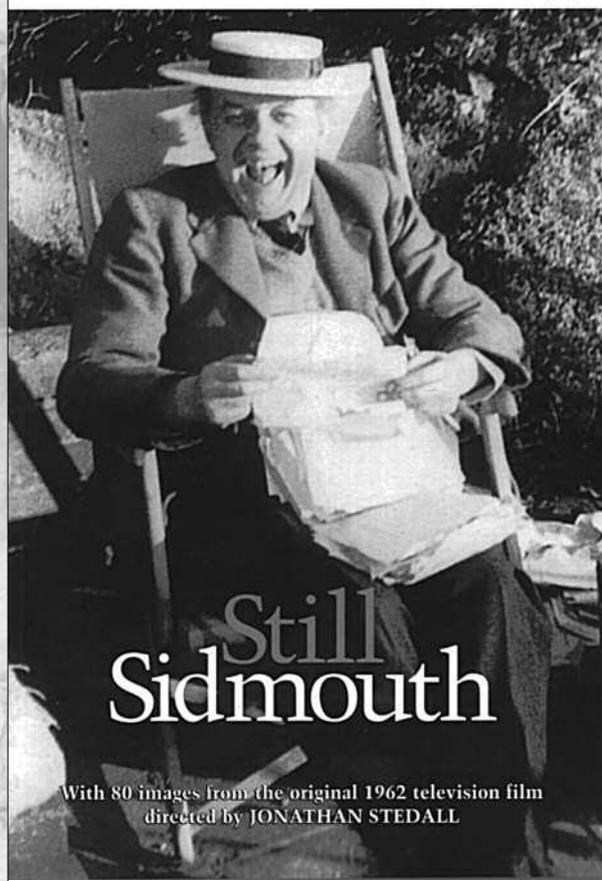
Sidmouth does it again! In September the Sidmouth in Bloom delegates were delighted to hear that it had gained the Preece Cup for winning the category for towns with a population between 6000 and 9999. It was then announced as the overall winner and holder of the Abbiss Cup from 74 entrants.

The date for private gardens open to the public is usually early in July. Many an interesting afternoon can be spent wandering around and seeing what other keen gardeners have been up to. It is another way of exploring parts of the town you didn't know existed.

SIDMOUTH BATHING WATERS

You may be aware of the extensive work that has been carried out in the last 18 months to upgrade our town sewerage plant. It is now complete and state-of-the-art technology pumps it away to be refined and ultra violet treated. After the extensive pipe laying work, the beautiful Byes is now back to its former glory having escaped any flooding in the recent national floods, in fact Sidmouth did not suffer at all. The Ham has been improved and the Boat area tidied up and made most attractive. Although never below EEC recommended levels we are looking forward to Sidmouth's bathing waters being of the highest quality.

JOHN BETJEMAN



JOHN BETJEMAN'S LOST POEM

Recently published locally for the first time in print is Sir John Betjeman's 'lost' poem about Sidmouth. Written as the commentary to Jonathan Stedall's 1962 television film of the town, the film remained in a television company's archive and forgotten for a generation.

We feature on one page with 3 photos from the 60's with Betjeman's words

"Yon Gothic castle is the Royal Glen.

Princess Victoria, a baby then

Played with her mother in this garden green

And Sidmouth nurtured England's future Queen."

According to Sir John Betjeman "if it were not for the sea, Sidmouth, I thought, would be tropic forest." And we still like to think our climate is on the whole very mild - almost a micro climate with an early Spring and a late Autumn - its a great place to get away any time of the year.

TEAM WORK

Our team of staff have had a busy season and you have seen many familiar faces and just one or two new ones. Welcome to Kieran Duncan who takes over the position of Head Chef joining our Kitchen brigade Stuart, Dave, and Paul who have all been with us for a number of years. Kieran comes with a wealth of experience including Wentworth Golf Club, Hilton Hotels, the Savoy Group and Royal Corps of Signals Officers Mess H.Q. We continue to present carefully balanced menus with a variety of choice, using fresh local produce and deliciously naughty sweets.

WINTER WARMERS

Our Winter Warmer Breaks started in November and run throughout till Christmas Eve. Guests can take advantage of very reasonable prices whilst having a short break to recharge the batteries and delight in quiet and sedate Sidmouth. In the town, guests enjoy traditional Christmas shopping in the numerous quality shops and atmospheric streets where the service is as it used to be. I know of many a Guests who can only find certain items in Sidmouth even though they shop in large provincial towns at home!

Christmas will be upon us before long. In December many local organisations and office parties delight in our Christmas fayre.

Although we are not open over the Christmas Holiday, for non residents we are already fully booked for Traditional Christmas Day Lunch.

New Year 2000/2001 perhaps is not as important as the last, but we shall be welcoming in the New Year with our usual friendly and convivial celebrations. We are delighted to be fully booked and are looking forward to a delicious Candlelight Dinner on the 31st.

DID YOU KNOW

The indoor and heated swimming pool, a rarity in the town, was built in 1986. I have to admit it was just one of my construction ambitions and although the rest of the family were rather concerned at the enormous investment, it has proved a tremendous success and is still only one of two in the town. It is always surprising that you can often have it all to yourself even though it is used so much. In December 1986 we were very pleased to welcome Sarah Hardcastle (a former Olympic swimmer for Great Britain) to officially open the pool.

TELLING YOUR FRIENDS

We thank you for the countless new friends which you have introduced to the hotel through your own personal recommendations. This is our second largest source of business after your own return visits, where 70% of you return to us. We are enormously pleased that you can so frequently personally recommend what we offer to your friends and families. Again may we say thank you - and keep it up! Some of you took advantage of our 'Introduce New Friends' discount which gives you some direct reward for your thought and effort on our behalf - as well as provide a 'Welcome Discount' to any new guests you invite.

'INTRODUCE NEW FRIENDS' DISCOUNT

If you have friends or family who have not been to stay with us before, you can book them in with your own party - both with a 5% discount off our normal rates (5 day break excluded). Alternatively, provided the booking is made at the same time, you can book for your friends to come at a different time.

All you have to do is make a booking for you and your friends at the same time for a stay, from now until May 31.

HISTORY AND HERITAGE

Our Guests are very helpful in often making positive suggestions and comments on ways in which we can improve what we have to offer. However one comment that is often voiced:

'Hope it isn't changed too much' *Mrs Clements Wiltshire.*

'You have something here that is sadly lacking in most hotels. Old world charm, service and good old fashioned hospitality and friendliness. Long may it continue in the same tradition. Please don't change your unique building, superb staff and lovely old fashioned standards'. *Mr & Mrs Ferguson Keswick.*

We promise to continue to upgrade and refurbish in keeping with the Grade 1 listing of the building and in your enjoyment of its historic charm and heritage. We will continue to offer quality food and service, and to retain the unique atmosphere, of which you say, brings you back year after year.

WINTER BREAK SPECIALS

Our very popular Winter 5 Day Breaks are again available until March 31st. Terms are £175.00 per person for 5 nights Dinner Bed and Breakfast.

ANNUAL HOLIDAYS & REFURBISHMENT

Many of the staff are off on their holidays on January 2nd, but Reception is open Monday to Saturday 9.00am to 3.00pm throughout January. At other times the phone is manned by Hilary and Vivienne except in a few circumstances when you may get an answer machine, but we will return your call as soon as possible. We look forward to hearing from you.

Everything returns to normal on Thursday 1st February, with hopefully, all our decorating projects complete and ready to welcome visitors.

We wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous Year in 2001. We hope we may have the opportunity of welcoming you once again,

*Mr & Mrs O Crane,
& daughters Hilary Caldwell & Vivienne Bess*

WINTER TARIFF

November 1st 2000 - April 30th 2001

		Standard Room	Small Room
Weekly	(D B&B)	£264.00	£239.00
Daily	(D B&B)	£50.00	£45.00
3 Day Break	(D B&B)	£134.00	£120.00
2 Day Break	(D B&B)	£96.00	£86.00
Daily	(B&B)	£35.00	£30.00

*Winter Special November 2000 - March 2001 5 nights DBB
£175.00 per person no specific room guaranteed.*

MAY & OCTOBER (ONLY) 2001

		Standard Room	Small Room
Weekly	(D B&B)	£362.00	£342.00
Daily	(D B&B)	£55.00	£52.00
3 Day Break	(D B&B)	£160.00	£151.00
Daily	(B&B)	£40.00	£37.00

SUMMER TARIFF

1st June -30th September 2001

		Standard Room	Small Room
Weekly	(D B&B)	£382.00	£362.00
Daily	(D B&B)	£58.00	£55.00
3 Day Break	(D B&B)	£169.00	£160.00
Daily	(B&B)	£43.00	£40.00



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