

REGENCY



ELEGANCE

# A Pen from the Glen

NEWSLETTER OF THE ROYAL GLEN HOTEL • SIDMOUTH



*Belmont House in the foreground 1814 - 1825 and The Royal Glen can be seen as Woolbrook Cottage to the left immediately behind the bridge over Glen Soyle. The slopes to the left are similar to today*

**I**t was circa 1700 that the Royal Glen was built by Mr King, of Bath. It was then a modest farmhouse with a dairy, outhouses, a hay loft and a well that still exists in the centre of the house. It was first known as King's Cottage taking the name of the owner. From 1775 the house was part of the Manor estates until 1817 when it was purchased by Major General Edward Baynes who added considerably to the grounds, and converted the original into Regency splendour with delightful castellated pediments, tent-

roofed verandah and Gothic casements complete with painted drip moulds. Other names followed, Woolbrook Cottage, Woolbrook Glen, the Royal Glen. In 1819 the Duke and Duchess of Kent chose to stay at Woolbrook Cottage in Sidmouth. On 23rd January 1920 the Duke of Kent died after a short illness. In 1878 the house became an Orphanage. In 1883 it was bought and managed as a boarding house by the Misses Culverwell and first advertised as such in the Sidmouth Directory of 1887.



## QUEEN VICTORIA VISITS SIDMOUTH!

In an effort to boost funds for Sidmouth Hospicecare we were approached by the Charities event organiser to hold an afternoon with Queen Victoria. Accompanied by her lady in waiting, Lady Charlotte Ponsonby and favourite Doctor, Dr James Reid, the trio travelled from Herefordshire to re-enact tea and conversation with the queen, portrayed by Sylvia Strange of Strange and Grange Presentations. Jean Grange was her lady-in-waiting and David Harding was Dr Reid.

Everyone joined in the spirit of the occasion, curtsying and bowing as the queen entered the room. The performance brought history to life with an accurate and amusing look at Victoria's life, and we found ourselves taking part in a Victorian quiz. The audience did particularly well, much to the surprise of Dr Reid! The two visitors chairing the teams were given a Victorian penny. A cream tea and selection of cakes including, of course, Victoria sponge was laid on after the delightful encounter. Through the generosity of those involved, including Tom Griffiths who drove the royal trio in style in his toast rack, ourselves for the venue and tea, and Strange and Grange who waived their fee, £300 was raised for Hospicecare.



## BUILDING UPGRADES & IMPROVEMENTS

This year we have enjoyed a busy year welcoming new guests and those of you who keep on returning and are part of the wider 'Glen' family. The feedback has been very positive about our redecorating in the public rooms and entrance. As has always been our policy we wish to upgrade in keeping with the Grade 1 listing of the building and in your enjoyment of it's historic charm and heritage.

The renovated stained glass in Room Princess was damaged but miraculously not shattered when the window was blown out during the winter. The coloured glass was originally placed in the window to remember the close miss the baby Princess Victoria had when a young apprentice was shooting at small birds and smashed the nursery window. Fortunately the shot, which passed near to the infant's head, missed her.



*More renovation takes place on the entrance porch*

Described in 1951 in Devon County Council's environmental Director's document listing grade 1 properties "Good Gothicised porch with trefoils in spandrels of arched openings and iron balustrade to parapet. Doorway itself has pointed head and rustic posts and flint work.

## MSC NAPOLI WRECKED IN LYME BAY



Lyme Bay hit the headlines at the beginning of the year with the grounding of the stricken Napoli. The people of Branscombe were deluged with crowds of people trying to find treasure. From the seafront at Sidmouth and the cliffs on Salcombe Hill we had a bird's eye view and many have been watching its progress. At first it seemed it would be a very long job to take off all the containers, but this was finished ahead of schedule. Oil was pumped out of the ship to stop any further environmental damage. There has been some oil on the beaches, but nothing too catastrophic, I remember growing up with tar on the beach in similar quantities. I am sure it will have improved by 2008, if not completely back up to the very high standards to which we have become accustomed.

When it became apparent that the ship was unsafe to tow away, we all wondered what would happen next. It took three attempts over a number of days for salvagers to split the MSC Napoli in two, and so it was still causing some interest from the shore as people watched with their binoculars. At last, in August we bid farewell to one part of the ship as the bow section was towed away from the East Devon coast to begin its long journey to a shipyard in Belfast to be dismantled and recycle the metal. As we go to press we still do not know when we shall see the back of the stern part of the ship, or what has been decided.



## FESTIVAL WEEK & THE REGATTA

This season we have had some very varied weather along with other parts of the country. However we were blessed with a very good Folk Festival Week, and it was great to see all the music, dance and song going on along the seafront and in the various marquees and venues. The week ended with a magnificent fire works display in celebration. 2008 Folk Festival dates are Friday August 1st - 8th.



Thanks to Sidmouth Regatta committee, who organised an array of sailing and other sea front activities over the bank holiday weekend we were treated to a really warm, balmy evening after the raft race, listening to a local band outside the sailing club before fireworks completed this event. This is always a fun family weekend. In July and August we offer special rates for children sharing with adults, and also in their own rooms reduced rates except for folk week.



*A member of the family in the Sidmouth regatta raft race: Ashley and his friends*

### BOOK EARLY FOR SEPTEMBER!

Every September we hear the comments, 'we thought it would be easier to get in!' It is the busiest month of the year, Please, to avoid disappointment, you need to book favourite rooms well in advance.

## WHAT GUESTS SAY

*"As I have been coming for 14 years that indicates my enthusiasm for this superb hotel. I can't wait to return."*

*J. Pearce. Hants.*

*"This is my first visit... All the staff have been most friendly and helpful, food very good and well varied. The swimming pool was a real bonus – so lovely and warm! Thank you for a lovely holiday."*

*J Harper. Bristol.*

Our Tariff follows for 2008, with our best breaks being the 5 nights in February, March and November if starting on a Sunday.

With most staff on their annual leave in January, Reception is open from 9.00 until 3pm. At other times the phone is manned by Hilary or Vivienne or answer machine, but we will return your call as soon as possible. We look forward to hearing from you.

Mr and Mrs Orson Crane and Vivienne and I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy Prosperous New Year in 2008. We hope we may have the opportunity of welcoming you once again, and look forward to seeing you.



### WINTER TARIFF

February 8th March 31st 2008 (excluding Easter)

		A Grade	Standard	Small
5 Nights	(D B&B)	£295.00	£265.00	£240.00
3 Day Break	(D B&B)	£198.00	£180.00	£165.00
2 Day Break	(D B&B)	£136.00	£126.00	£116.00
Daily	(D B&B)	£71.00	£66.00	£61.00
Daily	(B&B)	£50.00	£45.00	£40.00

*Winter Special - Sunday-Friday 5 nights DBB:*

*Grade A £245, Standard £240, Small £235.00 per person*

### APRIL TARIFF 2008

		A Grade	Standard	Small
5 Nights	(D B&B)	£310.00	£280.00	£255.00
3 Day Break	(D B&B)	£207.00	£189.00	£168.00
2 Day Break	(D B&B)	£140.00	£130.00	£116.00
Daily	(D B&B)	£71.00	£66.00	£61.00
Daily	(B&B)	£55.00	£50.00	£45.00

### MAY & OCTOBER TARIFF 2008

		A Grade	Standard	Small
Weekly	(D B&B)	£483.00	£455.00	£427.00
3 Day Break	(D B&B)	£222.00	£207.00	£192.00
Daily	(D B&B)	£77.00	£72.00	£68.00
Daily	(B&B)	£60.00	£55.00	£50.00

### SUMMER TARIFF 2008

1st June - 30th September

		A Grade	Standard	Small
Weekly	(D B&B)	£497.00	£469.00	£441.00
3 Day Break	(D B&B)	£228.00	£213.00	£198.00
Daily	(D B&B)	£79.00	£74.00	£70.00
Daily	(B&B)	£62.00	£57.00	£52.00

*All terms are per person inclusive of VAT at 17.5%*



★★★

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

