

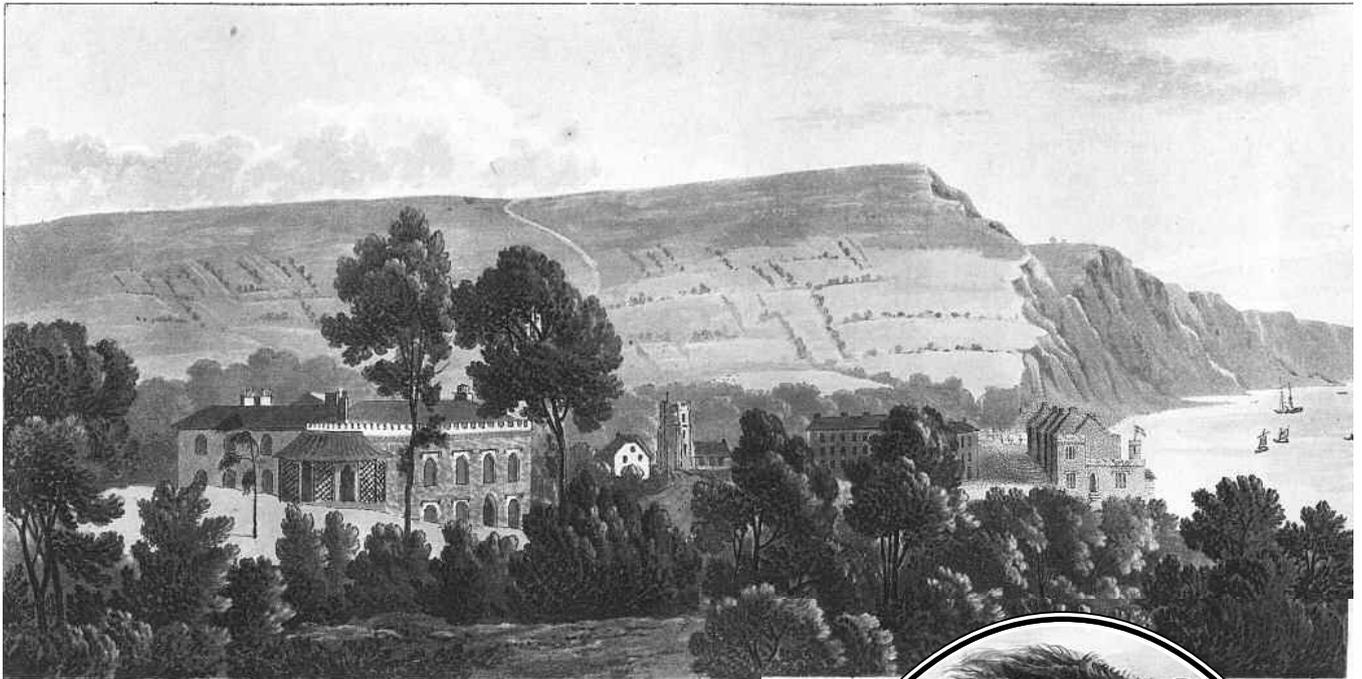
REGENCY



ELEGANCE

A Pen from the Glen

NEWSLETTER OF THE ROYAL GLEN HOTEL • SIDMOUTH



View of 'Woolbrook Cottage' (now The Royal Glen Hotel) 'The late residence of Their Royal Highnesses The Duke & Duchess of Kent'. The view is east towards Salcombe Hill and was published in 1820 by John Wallis, Royal Marine Library, Sidmouth.

Did you see the Glen and Sidmouth on Saturday 18th October on BBC 2? The *Timewatch* broadcast was an informative programme on young Victoria. We were very proud to be included in such an excellent production. The historian Kate Williams told the story of how the Duke and Duchess of Kent came to Sidmouth in order to live as inexpensively as possible, and then how the Duke died after getting thoroughly wet after one of his many walks by the sea.

The documentary uncovered the fact that despite Queen Victoria's dour 'we are not amused' image, she was a passionate and vibrant young girl who was to bring Britain into the modern age. (picture opposite shows Victoria aged 4). There were some beautiful views in the programme of our coast and the Royal Glen.

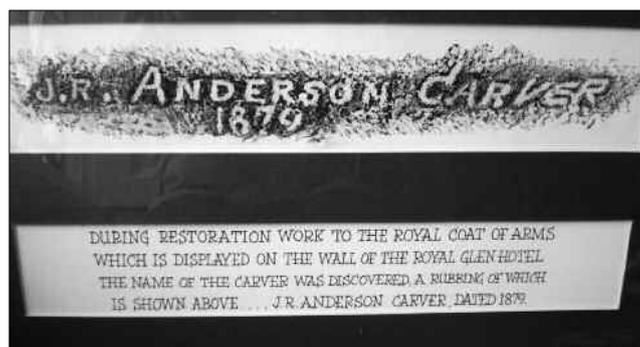




THE REFURBISHED COAT OF ARMS

The coat of arms found on the front elevation of the Royal Glen was removed for refurbishment this year and given a new coat of paint. In some ways its origins are a bit of a mystery and there seems to be no information handed down over the generations.

The hotel became "royal" in the 1930s, when the king was George V and Edward (later VIII) was Prince of Wales. The only known personal connection between the hotel and a Prince of Wales was in 1856 when Queen Victoria's eldest son (later Edward VII) paid a brief visit and of course his mother spent a few weeks here as a baby during the winter of 1819/20. At first it was thought that these arms would have been installed in the 1930s as pictures at this time all show it in place. However, the previous renovation which was done about ten years ago shows the original inscription on the back as *J.R. Anderson, Carver 1879*. It bears many features of the Royal Arms, the Lion on the left, facing the Unicorn on the right, a smaller lion top centre seated on top of a Sovereign helmet, the shield at the centre showing the royal arms of England, the three lions, the harp of Ireland and lastly the top right hand quarter that of Scotland. The first motto that of the order of the garter reads *HONI SOIT QUI MAL Y PENS* (Old French: "shame upon him who thinks evil upon it", or "evil to him who evil thinks"). *DIEU ET MON DROIT* belonging to the sovereign translates (God and my right). The right hand shield shows the 'Prince of Wales' feathers and his motto *ICH DIEN* (I serve).



WELCOME BACK

We welcomed many returning for their winter-pick-me up or spring break, and were pleased that so many were happy to celebrate their special anniversaries with us, whether quietly 'à deux' or as a big family get together. Our special congratulations and best wishes go to Mr & Mrs Watkins, Mr & Mrs Simister, Mr & Mrs Carter, Mr & Mrs Hill and Mr & Mrs Cosgreave and of course any one of our special guests that we have not mentioned by name. When coming to celebrate sometimes visitors like to arrange some special treats. We have an excellent florist in town, a local hand made fudge shop, a specialist chocolate shop and bakery for special cakes. Our cellar has champagne or sparkling wine available, or try our local Manstree, a white wine produced just outside Exeter, its delicious.

CHARACTER ARCHED DOORS RETAINED

In February everything was ready on time after our winter refurbishing programme. The enormous task of removing every single door and upgrading it to pass with the latest fire regulations went smoothly and fortunately we were able to retain our character doors by working closely with fire officers, carpenters and painters and sourcing specialist products.



FOLK FESTIVAL

A colourful and fun filled week with a wide variety and mix of music, song and dance. With more than 500 events nearly all under cover the changeable weather really could not dampen the high spirits and enjoyment of visitors, musicians, performers and artists. When the sun did come out the sea front and market place were packed with impromptu acts. The Blackmore children's area and the Anchor were particularly popular.

THE MANOR PAVILION THEATRE

The Glen is situated very close to the Theatre, only 5 minutes walk away in Manor Road. The Summer Play festival runs from the beginning of June until the end of September with a complete change of programme every Thursday. Our Restaurant opens early for those visiting the Theatre. Out of season there are numerous amateur local productions.

The local cinema now offers up to 4 films daily, showing the latest releases and something for everyone in very comfortable surroundings.

SOME OF OUR FAVOURITE OUTINGS



Bicton Park, only 5 miles from Sidmouth spans nearly 300 years of gardening history. The park is home to many rare and beautiful species collected from around the world. It is an unspoilt park with activities for children sympathetically incorporated into the stunning grounds.

March 2009 **Escorted Walks** on each Thursday. Please ask for further information on booking. These will take place except in extreme weather conditions when an alternative route may have to be taken. Higher Peak to Ladram/ South West Coastal Path Budleigh to Ladram part of the Jurassic Coast/ Lyme Regis Fossil Hunting/ Branscombe – Beer Coastal Path.



Take the Hopper bus to the top of Peak Hill, cross over the road and take the footpath to *Ladram Bay*. This is steep in places, but the view of the red stacks and cliffs are incredible.

At Ladram the pub at the holiday park is not very exciting. If you are not turning round and walking back, its worth while continuing down into *Otterton* village where the pub is excellent, or a cream tea at the working Mill is delicious. You can now get the bus back to Sidmouth, or even carry on further alongside the river to Budleigh, this is all flat. Yet another option is to park at Budleigh and walk to Otterton Mill. The mill has a craft exhibition well worth a browse.

For a quiet relaxing day, spent close by, there is nowhere better than *Connaught Gardens*, or exploring the rock pools on the beach, or sitting in a deck chair watching the cricket with a spectacular view towards the coast. If you are feeling slightly more energetic, walk along the river Sid through Sid Vale and National Trust land up to Sidford for a pub lunch.

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

Well done Lyn (Lyn Poulton Bar Manager) for organising our participation in Macmillan's world wide coffee morning in which we were able to donate £220.00 to the charity, and enjoy the array of cakes.

INDOOR POOL

Our Indoor Pool was built sometime ago now, in 1986, and we were lucky enough to have an Olympic swimmer open it for us. At the time it was innovative with its level of water right to the brim and lapping over, we used to get people worried that it was over flowing. The pool is open from 7.15am until 8.00pm, it is 10m long and 6.5m wide, at the shallow end, it is 4ft deep and 6ft at the deep end. There are showers, changing rooms and toilets and a large viewing area separately air conditioned with an exercise bike and a few weights.



Sarah Hardcastle Olympic swimmer in the 80's opens the pool with Mr & Mrs Crane and a very young Hilary & Vivienne in the crowd.

CLUB & GROUP VISITS

This year we have had many different groups of people visiting us as well as our individual regulars and first timers joining the 'Royal Glen Family'. These have included croquet, bowls, tennis, cricket, and bridge. One party arrived in style in their Morris cars. Only a few days ago 55 university geologists arrived, hard hats as well to investigate part of the Jurassic coast.



Dorset Morris Car Club visit the Glen

FIRST FLOOR PLEASE!



Construction work for the lift

Although many of our visitors tell us overwhelmingly not to change 'the Glen' too much, we are well aware of the benefits that having a lift will be to many of you. Some of you had given up on us, not believing that we could do it, but, at last we have come

up with an area more appropriate and this will service 16 rooms on the first and second floors, giving a wider choice in rooms for many. Unfortunately, because this is taking space from the kitchen, this has extended the work entailed considerably and therefore we shall not be open for visitors until March 2nd in 2009.

THE TEAM

We have had a really strong team in 2008 and we would like congratulate them all on the high standard and friendly professional service that they have achieved.

Angela Walker and Ian Holloway have continued to satisfy our appetites and tantalise our taste buds with a variety of traditional dishes, game, a medley of fish from near and far, delicious home made chutneys and hot puddings and deserts. Lyn our bar manager was welcomed at the start of the year and has become a firm favourite with guests. We congratulate her and Colin on their forthcoming marriage. We were very happy when both Terry and Maria decided to transfer from our sister hotel when it was sold and became part of the Glen team. Vladka with her happy smile and outstanding efficiency kept her male colleagues in order in the restaurant, Marek and Maros charmed the guests and Lolita helped make everything shipshape while Martin kept the place in good repair. Ian, Sue, Judith and Heather greeted our arrivals and competently made reservations. Thank you all for your hard work and loyalty.

The 2009 tariff follows with some special offers in March. We look forward to hearing from you, and as usual Reception is manned 9am until 4pm Mon-Sat and at other times by Hilary and Vivienne or answer machine, but we will return your call as soon as possible.

Mr and Mrs Orson Crane and Vivienne and I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy Prosperous New Year in 2009. We hope we may have the opportunity of welcoming some of you for the first time and many of you for the umpteenth time! and look forward to extending a warm welcome, traditional hospitality in delightful and cordial surroundings to all our visitors.



MARCH & NOVEMBER TARIFF

prices per person per night

		Superior	Standard	Select
5 Nights	(D B&B)	£62.00	£55.00	£50.00
3 Day Break	(D B&B)	£69.00	£63.00	£58.00
2 Day Break	(D B&B)	£71.00	£66.00	£61.00
Daily	(B&B)	£51.00	£48.00	£45.00

*Winter Special March 09 - Sunday-Friday 5 nights DBB:
Superior £279.00, Select £252.00, Standard £247.00 per person*

APRIL TARIFF 2009 (Except Easter)

prices per person per night

		Superior	Standard	Select
5 Nights	(D B&B)	£65.00	£59.00	£54.00
3 Day Break	(D B&B)	£73.00	£66.00	£59.00
2 Day Break	(D B&B)	£74.00	£68.00	£61.00
Daily	(B&B)	£58.00	£52.00	£48.00

MAY & OCTOBER TARIFF 2009

prices per person per night

		Superior	Standard	Select
Weekly	(D B&B)	£511 (£73)	£476 (£68)	£441 (£63)
3 Day Break	(D B&B)	£234 (£78)	£219 (£73)	£204 (£68)
2 Day Break	(D B&B)	£164 (£82)	£152 (£76)	£144 (£72)
Daily	(B&B)	£63	£58	£52

SUMMER TARIFF

(1st June - 30th September 2009) prices per person per night

		Superior	Standard	Select
Weekly	(D B&B)	£525 (£75)	£490 (£70)	£455 (£65)
3 Day Break	(D B&B)	£240 (£80)	£225 (£75)	£210 (£70)
2 Day Break	(D B&B)	£168 (£84)	£158 (£79)	£148 (£74)
Daily	(B&B)	£65	£60	£55

All terms are per person inclusive of VAT at 15%

THE ROYAL GLEN HOTEL

Glen Road, Sidmouth, Devon EX10 8RW.

Telephone (01395) 513221/513456 Fax (01395) 514922

Email: info@royalglenhotel.co.uk Website: www.royalglenhotel.co.uk

Proprietors: Mrs H Caldwell and Mrs V Bess



★★★

