

REGENCY



ELEGANCE

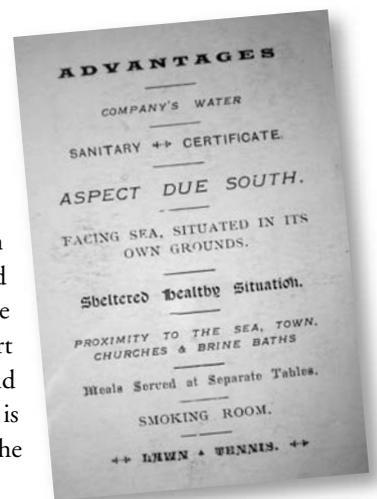
A Pen from the Glen

NEWSLETTER OF THE ROYAL GLEN HOTEL • SIDMOUTH



Old photograph taken when the Culverwell family ran the 'Boarding House' at that time! circa 1919 or before.
Below a notice stating the 'advantages' of a stay at that time!

2009 - A year when no one could foresee how the recession would actually affect individuals. On the one hand the media told us more people would holiday at home which would lead to a bumper year. However, most of us felt that this was perhaps optimistic as generally there was just less to spend on holidays. What is true, is that people understand the benefit of getting away from it all, and Sidmouth is a beautiful and charming place where it is easy to relax and which has an abundance of places of interest to visit, a wealth of sporting activities in which to participate, and a massive variety of choice in accommodation and food outlets. At the Royal Glen we are fortunate to have our extended family, which includes you all. We thank every one of you for your support over the many years that we have owned and run the hotel. We thank you for your loyalty and friendship, without which this wider Royal Glen family, would not be as wide and extensive as it is today. It is with this encouragement that we promise to continue to upgrade in keeping with the Grade 1 listing of the building and in your enjoyment of its heritage and charm.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR VISITORS OF THE YEAR

Mr & Mrs Hill from The Isle of Man first came to visit The Royal Glen 32 years ago on their honeymoon. They have come every year since, and are our Visitors of the Year.

CULINARY NEWS

The new kitchen has worked well and efficiently in 2009. The team Angela, Ian and Toby have worked hard to ensure a varied menu, with many of your favourites, and sometimes with a more unusual twist. At the start of the season a different service was carried out which tried to bring together appropriate combinations of vegetables with dishes. However, it was not to the majority's preference and so we have reverted back to silver service, and our previous system. Every effort is made to accommodate visitors' special dietary needs. Just inform us on booking and the kitchen team and Terry, the restaurant manager are always happy to discuss requirements with you during your stay.

Roasted Red Pepper Soup
Mediterranean King Prawn Risotto
Tender king prawns held in a rich tomato scented risotto
Ruby Poached Pear
Presented on a rocket salad with creamy dolcelate & roasted pine nuts

Roast Loin of Lamb
Carved over a rich port wine & redcurrant jus
Pan Fried Duck Breast
Presented on a sweet potato purée, finished with a cointreau & orange reduction
Grilled Fillet of Wild Sea Bass
Simply served with a salsa verde

Bouquetière of seasonal vegetables, potatoes of the day and boiled new potatoes

Homemade Desserts include
Tarte au Citron
Ian's Baked Rice Pudding
Crème Brûlée
Pear, Chocolate and Almond Tart
Glen Bread and Butter Pudding

Cornish Yargue
Somerset Brie
Exmoor Blue
Dorset Cheddar

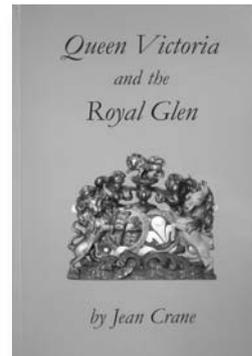
A typical Royal Glen Dinner Menu

WWW.ROYALGLENHOTEL.CO.UK

Visit our website, it is updated each week with events going on in Sidmouth, and the new heading on the home page opens quickly onto late deals or special offers that we may have due to late cancellations or special activities.

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

Congratulations Lyn (Lyn Whitehall Bar Manager) for beating last years total. Our participation in Macmillan's world wide coffee morning made £250.00 for the charity.



QUEEN VICTORIA & THE ROYAL GLEN

At last, we can announce the long awaited second edition of Jean Crane's publication, on sale at the hotel.

OWNERS OF THE GLEN

Mr King of Bath (earliest records)

General Baynes 1817-1856 (leased to Duke of Kent during this time).

Mr & Mrs Alexander 1878 (it became an orphanage)

Misses Caroline & Elizabeth Culverwell leased the property and in 1883 started taking paying guests.



Annie Webber (pictured left) a friend of the Culverwell sisters came and worked for them when she became a widow with 2 daughters in 1923.

Daughter *Dora Webber* married *Harvey Culverwell* (Local Newspaper Printer) thus continuing the family ownership.

Daughter *Jane* took over the running of the hotel in 1935 (Dora

becoming a full time housewife and mother).

Jane Webber married Walter Martin owner of Belle View Dairy Sidmouth and divorced some years later.

In 1954 she married *Harold Crane* a widower.

In 1957, Jane and Harold were looking to take things a little quieter, but having none of their own children they approached Harold's youngest son *Orson Crane* and daughter-in-law *Jean* who undertook to change their careers and take on the venture.

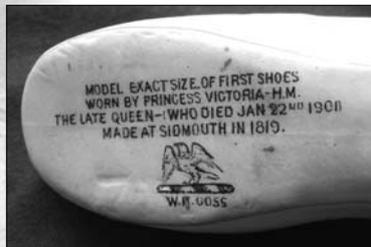


Jane Crane

Jean and Orson are now both in their 80s, and still enjoy the social side of guests at the Glen but have relinquished the every day running to their two daughters *Hilary* and *Vivienne* who took up the role working along side their parents after taking Higher National Diplomas at Oxford Brookes in Hotel Catering and Institutional Management. And so, the Royal Glen is once more female owned.

THE PRINCESS'S SLIPPERS

We are lucky to have a number of very high quality shops in Sidmouth. One of these is the excellent China Shop Govier's. The Govier deeds have details of ownership going back to 1815. In 1904 William Govier converted the cottages into a small china shop for his wife Ada. Sidmouth's railway made it easy for transportation of china right from the factories in Stoke on Trent. Whilst the Duke and Duchess of Kent lived in Sidmouth, a local shoe maker received the order for the first pair of shoes for the infant Princess Victoria. Instead of making only two, he made three and kept one as a memorial and curiosity. His daughter married Mr Goss the porcelain agent in Sidmouth. Mr Goss then made copies in porcelain to sell. We are fortunate enough to have a pair, which are in our collection of memorabilia.



BRITAIN IN BLOOM 2010

The Chairman of South West in Bloom spoke of 'Sidmouth as being one of our jewels in the crown. It always puts on a fantastic entry and people return to this seaside resort year after year to see the floral displays'. Next year's theme is *Local Roots*. There are 3 elements towns and villages have to adhere to in the competition, horticultural achievements, environmental responsibility and community participation.

GRANDMA'S PARTY!



From 7 to 17, The Sheehan family get together to celebrate Grandma Sheehan's 70th birthday. This was one of many, family get-togethers at the Royal Glen this year. Thank you to the Gore family for sending us the picture.

The extension to the restaurant is the ideal setting for a table up to 15, almost a private room. The Drawing Room is a home from home for afternoon celebrations, where you can spill out onto the veranda and garden if the weather is good or take your coffee and cake and continue the family celebrations.

Other small groups are welcomed, such as walkers, bridge players and cricketers. Please ask for details of our local walks, we have a large selection and the file is growing at reception.

SPORTING OPPORTUNITIES

We are close to the Cricket Field where matches are played by visiting teams every day in August. Sidmouth had a very successful year in 2009, the first and second team winning in their respective leagues, and the third team reaching a respectable position. (All four of our boys play in these teams Joshua, Luke, Zac and Ashley. Josh represented Devon against Herefordshire playing at the Fortfield, a prestigious game for the Sidmouth club to hold, and extra special for Joshua to be on home ground). Tennis and croquet are also played here, and the club house is open for excellent afternoon teas whilst you watch cricket with the unique back drop of the regency Fortfield Terrace and the sea and the Jurassic coast. Sidmouth Golf Club is just 5 minutes up the road, a challenging course that is steep, but there are a further four excellent courses in the locality. Sidmouth offer special concessions to hotel visitors during the week.



The thatched pavillion at Sidmouth's spectacular Fortfield Cricket Ground



SISTER ACT



Hilary & Vivienne

Imagine our surprise when the AA included us in their editorial on family run hotels. See the 2010 AA edition. The text includes some of the following; Guests often can't tell Vivienne Bess and her sister Hilary Caldwell apart. "We're quite similar to look at and that causes guests some amusement because they don't know who they're talking to" Vivienne explains. It was home to them both until they were teenagers and before that to their parents, grandparents and great grandmother, the formidable sounding Grandma Webber, who started off this fourth-generation business in the early 1920s....



Orson and Jean Crane in the garden in the 1960s

The sister's mother, Jean, and father Orson, still help out even though they're in their 80s. "It was their life for so long they can't stay away, which can be good and bad. Dad comes in every day to chat to their guests and mum does the flowers. She cuts them from her garden and arranges them in the restaurant – every table has flowers. I've said to mum I'll do the flowers, but she won't let me." Has the strain of working with family ever become too much? "We haven't really had tiffs", Vivienne replies "I don't think my sister and I ever had a really bad row. Well, I'm bossy and she's not, you see."

NEW FOR 2010

I know there are many who enjoy the character of the bedrooms in the original part of the hotel, however, the 3 new rooms will be decorated with a contemporary feel but with our own unique historical influence.



Work in progress

Access from the top car park to the entrance level will be improved, and we hope that with the demolition of the garage this will improve visibility and manoeuvrability in the car park. There will still be some under cover provision for mobility scooters and bicycles. Originally, the garage was supposed to be under the bedrooms. However it took 7 years of talks to find a plan that English Heritage, then at Whitehall, local planning and the family were happy with; compromises had to be made.

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TARIFF 2010

As usual we shall be offering great deals to those who can stay for 7 nights, and early and late breaks offer good value. There are special terms for parties over 20/30/40, please telephone reception for these. In half term dates we shall be offering families value deals on top of the reductions for children sharing with adults in rooms.

Mr and Mrs Orson Crane and Vivienne and I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy Healthy New Year in 2010. We hope that we shall have the opportunity of welcoming many of you back and look forward to introducing those for the first time, to our warm welcome, traditional hospitality in delightful and cordial surroundings.

MARCH & NOVEMBER TARIFF 2010

Prices per person per night

	Superior	Standard	Selected
5 Day Break (D B&B)	£65.00	£58.00	£52.00
3 Day Break (D B&B)	£72.00	£66.00	£61.00
2 Day Break (D B&B)	£74.00	£69.00	£64.00
Daily (B&B)	£53.00	£50.00	£47.00

Winter Special March 2010 - Sarrive Sunday, depart Friday, 5 nights at the price of 4, based on 3 day rate DBB:

Superior £288.00, Standard £264.00, Selected £244.00 per person

APRIL TARIFF 2010 (including Easter)

Prices per person per night

	Superior	Standard	Selected
5 Day Break (D B&B)	£68.00	£62.00	£55.00
3 Day Break (D B&B)	£75.00	£69.00	£64.00
2 Day Break (D B&B)	£77.00	£72.00	£67.00
Daily (B&B)	£61.00	£55.00	£50.00

MAY & OCTOBER TARIFF 2010

Prices in brackets are per person per night

	Superior	Standard	Selected
Weekly Break (D B&B)	£532 (£76)	£497 (£71)	£462 (£66)
3 Day Break (D B&B)	£246 (£82)	£228 (£76)	£213 (£71)
2 Day Break (D B&B)	£172 (£86)	£160 (£80)	£150 (£75)
Daily (B&B)	£66	£60	£55

SUMMER TARIFF 2010

(1st June - 30th September 2010) Prices in brackets are per person per night

	Superior	Standard	Selected
Weekly (D B&B)	£553 (£79)	£511 (£73)	£476 (£68)
3 Day Break (D B&B)	£252 (£84)	£234 (£78)	£219 (£73)
2 Day Break (D B&B)	£176 (£88)	£166 (£83)	£156 (£78)
Daily (B&B)	£68	£63	£58

All terms are per person inclusive of VAT at 17.5%

THE ROYAL GLEN HOTEL

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Proprietors: Mrs H Caldwell and Mrs V Bess



★★★

