

REGENCY



ELEGANCE

# A Pen from the Glen

NEWSLETTER OF THE ROYAL GLEN HOTEL • SIDMOUTH



*The original Grade 1 listed building with the Jubilee Wing to the right*

On behalf of Mr & Mrs Orson Crane, Vivienne Bess, myself and all our family and staff at the Royal Glen may we wish you all good health and happiness in the new year that is before us. 'A Pen from the Glen' gives all our guests who are part of our wider Royal Glen family news of the past year and maybe ideas on what to do on your next visit.

After a delayed start, our Jubilee Wing building project was at last completed for the main season. The three new bedrooms have proved very popular. Guests have commented favourably on the walk in showers, under floor heating and the light, airy and contemporary furnishings.

They can also enjoy free Wi-Fi, 12 inch freeview TV, and a king size double bed.

Parking and visibility has improved without the garage. The gym has been updated with new equipment, so enthusiasts need not fall behind on their fitness programs. The remaining 6 rooms in the Jubilee wing will be updated similarly whilst the Historic part of the building will remain with period furnishings but up to date bathrooms, so that the enthusiasts for both clean lines and contemporary and for heritage and antique can continue to make their own choice and preference.



## CONGRATULATIONS...

...to Michael our gardener who has done an excellent job this year getting our garden back into shape. We were awarded 'Silver Gilt Award' in the Hotels – Medium Gardens Class.

...to Ian and Melissa on the safe arrival of baby Seth, born Thursday 21st October. Ian is second chef, and many may remember Melissa when she was Restaurant Manager at the Glen.

...to Joshua, Vivienne's eldest son who was awarded his County Cricket cap at the close of a three day game versus Oxfordshire, an event which was even more special as it was at our own local Fortfield



Ground. Unfortunately Devon lost but Joshua, who has turned in a number of good all-round performances for the county this year, made an unbeaten 88 in Devon's second innings. The Fortfield Cricket ground has a club house open for teas, snacks and drinks with the amazing back drop of the sea and cliffs cricket can be watched every day in August.

## MORE STORIES OF SUCCESS

**Sidmouth Town Band** play every Sunday evening in Connaught Gardens during the summer and also Ottery Town Band play on Tuesdays. The Sidmouth band came third in the National Brass Band Championships of Great Britain Competition, entering as the south west champions against the whole of Great Britain and achieving its best result since 1929.



*Town band at Connaught Gardens*



In the **Britain in Bloom** entries, Sidmouth won more awards this year than at any other time in its 39 year history - Gold and the Preece Cup, for best small town in the south west and the McDonald's Coastal Cup for best coastal entry.

## FOLK WEEK



Folk Week enjoyed excellent weather this year and we were very fortunate to have not just one, but two sing-alongs during the week. The first was performed by our resident guest Mr Roy Torrens - 'Sing along with Roy and friends' in the Kent Bar. He can usually be found busking along the seafront, from which he donated a considerable amount to the RNLI. The second event was organised by Mrs Linda Murphy, who also used to stay every folk week until moving down to Sidmouth. Linda introduced us to 'The Sid Valley Folk Singers' and an enjoyable sing-song was held before dinner on the Thursday. Our event which we sponsored (chosen for us) was performed by Belshazzar's Feast held at the Methodist Church. As well as the organised singing, dancing and concerts, many talented musicians could be seen and heard around the pubs during the week, even some local talent, including our own bass guitarist Martin Caldwell at the Volunteer Inn. We had a very enjoyable afternoon in the pub garden.

## BRANSCOMBE AIR DAY

Crowds flocked to the annual classic Branscombe Air Day. The sun shone and the crowds came out for this charity event. Usually held on the first weekend of the school holidays, it really is a special event in that you can see 90 visiting aircraft and a host of classic cars at a local venue.



*Mustang at Branscombe Air Day*

## SIDMOUTH CARNIVAL

Carnival night and the fun fair always go down well with youngsters, and although only a small event it is always great to watch the highly lit floats and the ingenuity of the smaller groups. The fun fair, run by the Anderton Rowland family founded 156 years ago, runs for a couple of days before and including carnival night. The first full tour of the West Country was most likely in 1890 as a travelling theatre including conjuring tricks and hypnotic performances.

## 'WHAT'S ON'

On our website can be found all the expected dates and events for 2011. The weekly 'What's On' is updated every week whilst we are open to let you know exactly what is on. If at any time there are special offers these can be found on the News items on the home page. [www.royalglenhotel.co.uk](http://www.royalglenhotel.co.uk)

## WALKING



One of several walking groups who stayed this year was the Wycombe Ramblers group from Buckinghamshire. After their visit an article appeared in their local newspaper in which Mandy Williams their publicity officer was quoted as saying: - *"We stayed at the Royal Glen Hotel just yards from the sea. Over 40 walkers went on this break and we enjoyed a wonderful programme of rambles led by Ted Swan and his team, who used to be members of our group. The photo shows us returning to Sidmouth on our first walk. In the evening after dinner we took part in a quiz and there was very much a House Party atmosphere the whole weekend"*

For anyone wanting more information on Jurassic Coast walks, cycling in East Devon, our favourite National Trust days out or family half term rates please contact reception.

Our favourite walk this year has been to Golden Cap, just over the border between Lyme Regis and Charmouth. We had picked a glorious day at the end of August albeit very windy. We drove to Stonebarrow lane where even those who are unable to take advantage of the walk can enjoy the beautiful views and coastline from this point.

Golden Cap is the highest point along the entire English south coast climbing to 191 metres from sea level.

The walk is steep in places, but there are other easier options that still reward you with stupendous views. On top of the Golden Cap plateau a few yards past the bronze age burial mounds to the east can be seen Seatown a



*View from Golden Cap*

long way below in its gully, and further along glimpses of West Bay and even further Chesil Beach and Portland. To the west one can make out the Quay at Lyme, famous for the film 'A French Lieutenant's Woman' and then the landslides that mark the dinosaur fossils of the Jurassic coast. Then if this is not enough the views are glorious inland over the Dorset countryside with knobbly hills and undulating vales.

## SUPPORTING CHARITIES 2010

Thank you to all our Guests for supporting the Lions Club Annual Duck Derby when they visited the hotel selling tickets for the race of hundreds of plastic numbered ducks let loose down the river Sid. Well done Mrs A Dawkins, who stayed with us, who won 6th prize. Due to the overall excellent response, the Club was able to donate £1500 to each of the chosen charities Devon Air Ambulance and Brainwave.

Our Macmillan Biggest Ever Coffee Morning held in September raised £230. Thank you to Lyn (Bar Manager) for all her hard effort for this event.

## FAME & PHOTOGRAPHY EXTRAORDINAIRE

Terry (Restaurant manager) was surprised to see his picture in a publication of Devon Life (right) when they printed a profile on photographer Iain Burns who is also known as the Apache Tramp (and our winter caretaker). Iain's photos not only catch extraordinary views of nature, due to his incredible patience to stake out the subject, learnt when he lived in the woods for 2 years and his expertise in people watching allows him to catch some very special moments of



local characters, sportsmen and activities. Iain's pictures and story can be found at [www.apachetramp.com](http://www.apachetramp.com). October Devon Life publication and lots of other articles and information can be found at [www.devon.greatbritishlife.co.uk](http://www.devon.greatbritishlife.co.uk).

## 'ROYAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT'

Jean Crane's book was acknowledged by Jonathan Marsden Director of the Royal Collection St James's Palace London. He writes "You were so kind as to send a copy of your book on Queen Victoria and the Royal Glen. It is both entertaining and informative and adds a little more to the picture we have of the young Princess Victoria."

## ON LINE BOOKINGS

During the course of 2010 we have participated in the Eviivo on line booking system. Whilst it has had its disadvantages, it was interesting to see how many used it and as we know that we will have to move forward with the times it was a good introductory exercise. We are hoping that we will be fully on line within our own system for 2011, although with our very individual rooms and our guests having favourites, I don't think the internet is going to take away the personal telephone call just yet! Thank you to all those giving their honest comments about us, we were pleased to score mostly 4 out of 5, on the Eviivo system. Thank you to all those who fill out our comment forms. Suggestions and constructive criticism help us a great deal in striving to give our guests the type of facilities and service they expect.

## COMMENTS FROM 2010

*'I think this is a unique hotel and I hope it does not change & become more commercial – everyone very personal & friendly but efficient too. Very relaxed. Would definitely recommend to friends – well done! Hope to visit again' Mrs McRoberts, Surrey.*

*'Just keep it as it is! Very enjoyable 3 Day break, thank you' Mr & Mrs Mitchell Hampshire*

## WINTER RECEPTION TIMES

During December Reception will be open from Monday – Saturday from 9am – 1pm and in January and February from 9am – 4pm. At other times the telephone will be answered by Hilary or Vivienne or by answer machine. Your call will always be returned promptly. We look forward to hearing from you and hope that we may have the opportunity of welcoming you again or for the first time.

## TARIFF 2011

Whilst every effort has been made to offer value for money, VAT will be increased to 20% in January which unfortunately has to be passed on. The best deals will always be the weekly 7 night half board option available throughout the season and from February 27th the Special Winter Warmers run through to end of March offering 5 nights for the price of 4 on stays starting on a Sunday (based on the 3 day break tariff).

Group rates can be offered in March, April May and October and best prices are dependant on minimum numbers, weekend or weekdays. We can cater from 20 to 55 approximately and welcome, bridge players, walkers, history enthusiasts, golfers and cricketers or just family gatherings to name but a few.

Half Term holidays offer families value deals as well as the normal reductions for children in their own rooms depending on the time of year, and sharing with adults.

The popular Christmas shopping special will run again from Sunday 30th October 2011. Please contact Reception for details for any of these special rates or our website [www.royalglenhotel.co.uk](http://www.royalglenhotel.co.uk).

### MARCH & NOVEMBER TARIFF 2011

*Prices per person per night*

	Superior	Standard	Selected
5 Day Break (DB&B)	£68.00 (£340)	£61.00 (£305)	£55.00 (£275)
3 Day Break (DB&B)	£76.00	£69.00	£64.00
2 Day Break (DB&B)	£78.00	£72.00	£67.00
Daily (B&B)	£56.00	£53.00	£48.00

*Winter Special March 2011 - arrive Sunday, depart Friday, 5 nights at the price of 4, based on 3 day rate, also Christmas Shopping Special Sunday October 31st to Friday morning November 4th: DBB: Superior £304.00, Standard £276.00, Selected £256.00 per person*

### APRIL TARIFF 2011

*(including Easter) Prices per person per night*

	Superior	Standard	Selected
5 Day Break (DB&B)	£71.00	£65.00	£58.00
3 Day Break (DB&B)	£79.00	£72.00	£67.00
2 Day Break (DB&B)	£81.00	£75.00	£70.00
Daily (B&B)	£64.00	£58.00	£52.00

### MAY & OCTOBER TARIFF 2011

*Prices in brackets are per person per night*

	Superior	Standard	Selected
Weekly Break(DB&B)	£553 (£79)	£518 (£74)	£483 (£69)
3 Day Break (DB&B)	£258 (£86)	£240 (£80)	£222 (£74)
2 Day Break (DB&B)	£180 (£90)	£168 (£84)	£158 (£79)
Daily (B&B)	£70	£64	£59

### SUMMER TARIFF 2011

*(1st June - 30th September 2011) Prices in brackets are per person per night*

	Superior	Standard	Selected
Weekly (DB&B)	£581 (£83)	£539 (£77)	£497 (£71)
3 Day Break (DB&B)	£264 (£88)	£246 (£82)	£231 (£77)
2 Day Break (DB&B)	£186 (£93)	£174 (£87)	£164 (£82)
Daily (B&B)	£72	£67	£62

*All terms are per person inclusive of VAT at 20%*

THE ROYAL GLEN HOTEL

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Proprietors: Mrs H Caldwell and Mrs V Bess



★★★

