

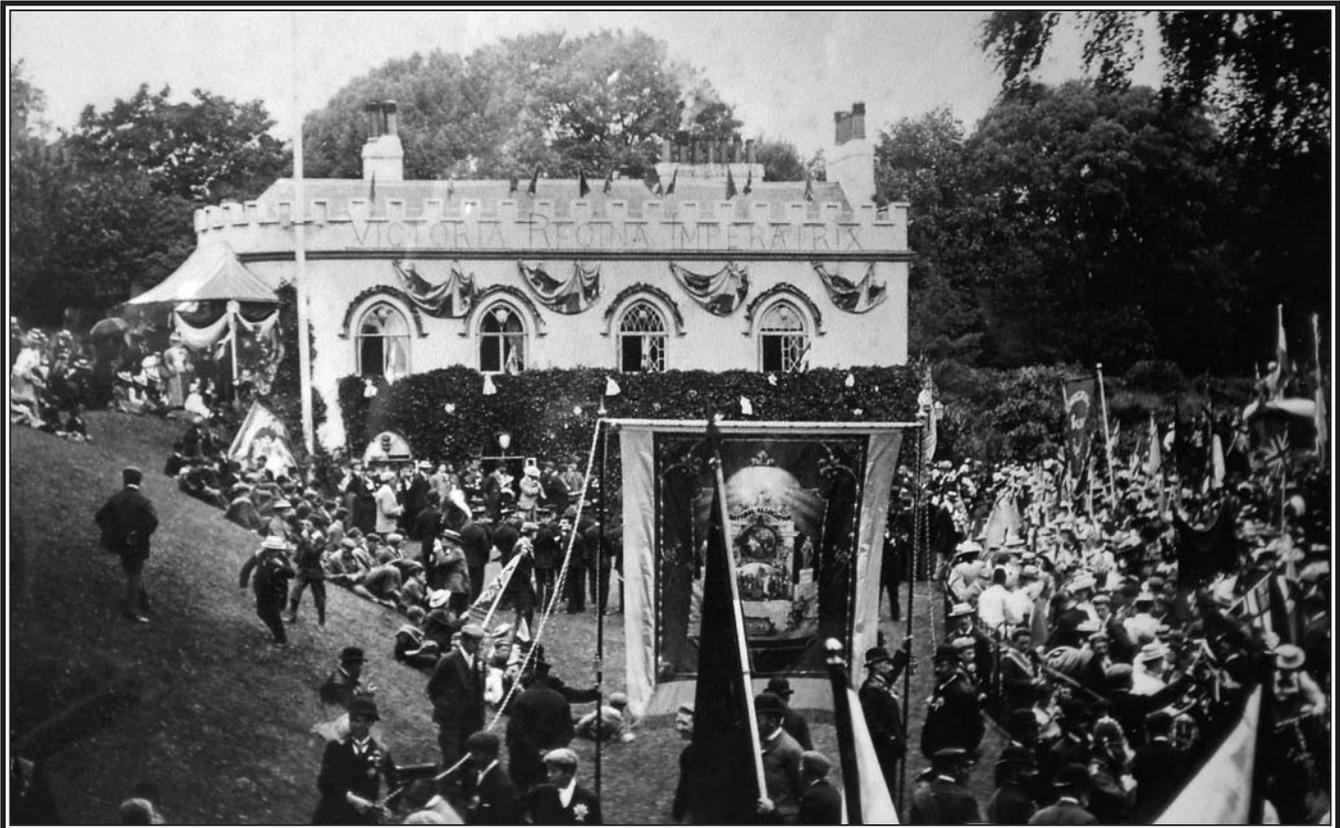
REGENCY



ELEGANCE

A Pen from the Glen

NEWSLETTER OF THE ROYAL GLEN HOTEL • SIDMOUTH



A busy scene from Queen Victoria Diamond Anniversary celebrations at The Royal Glen in 1897

Another year has flown with all the activities in the Sidmouth area keeping us busy one after the other. Highlights have to be the Cycling Tour of Britain Race, the lovely summer weather and our refurbished Kent Bar was voted a resounding success. Special thanks to Julian Wood 'Exeter Antique Lighting' and Mark Turner of Topsham for their advice and expertise in the refurbishing of our Victorian oval Girondale mirror lights in the bar.

We welcomed visitors from overseas including Germany, France, The Netherlands, Spain and even Russia.

The pool was in constant use this year without a day when it was not enjoyed. It was a real pleasure to welcome Guests returning that had not been for a few years and welcome

them as part of the extended Royal Glen family; on speaking to regular visitors who had been on numerous occasions I still managed to find something that they had not yet explored and another reason to return. There really is a wealth of things to do in our beautiful often forgotten part of east Devon.

Refurbished Victorian oval Girondale mirror lights in the bar



REVIEWS

We still have our comment sheets in the rooms, but on line reviews are becoming more and more common and in general use to aid making choices in all different aspects of life. Not everyone uses Trip Advisor and this year we have used Customer Alliance that has prompted guests to make a review. The reviews have highlighted good areas that are important to our Guests and those that we can improve on. Of course personal attention to each individual means that hopefully we get to know special requests and needs and ongoing personal feedback benefits our ability to meet expectations and allow us to endeavour to exceed them.

"We have been coming to the Royal Glen for about 5 years now and it is just like home from home. We are never disappointed with the hotel and especially enjoy the lovely relaxed atmosphere. Food great - staff great. Whatever you do please don't change a thing. Looking forward to our next visit next Spring."

"Absolutely outstanding we have known the place for over half a century and it never disappoints for it is a unique experience and the family who are its custodians couldn't be more welcoming and solicitous to their guests. We have spent key moments in our lives as well as the odd break here and the intimacy of the hotel, its ambiance, its setting, its comfort, its charm... are unrepeatable."

"Good location, staff welcoming, free wi-fi. This hotel is a welcome change from the usual corporate identity, it has character. I would certainly recommend a stay here. We will certainly return."

All reviews made by email can be found on the link on our facebook page or website. www.royalglenhotel.co.uk

FOLK FESTIVAL

The folk festival was its usual splendid success. I was lucky enough to attend the welcome concert at the Ham Marquee, which was full of variety from the Sidmouth Town Band; folk songs of personal struggles and heart warming stories; a vibrant and contemporary dance and musical acts; followed by classic Celtic songs. Last but not least, 21 year old Blair Dunlop whose performance of pop and acoustic folk with mature soulful lyrics was my favourite.



The Royal Glen sponsored event was a particularly traditional folk Sunday afternoon at the Bedford. The whole week was full of lively Morris dancing, family ceildahs, headliner acts such as Eliza Carthy, Bella Haray, Lucy Farrell and Katy Young all respected artists in their own right but joined together to form an exciting ensemble. Dates for next year are Friday 1-8th August which will be the 65th Anniversary. Early booking advisable

Music in the area does not stop with the festival; the Parish Church has classical concerts frequently, there is an annual Jazz festival at Budleigh, and there are popular festivals at Bicton and Escot's Beautiful Days Festival.

ROUND BRITAIN CYCLE RACE

Sidmouth prepared itself for the prestigious Tour of Britain Cycling Race: all around could be spotted brightly coloured cycles of all shapes and sizes, along routes and in shop windows.



Sir Bradley Wiggins

We were pleased to host some of the film crew, two of whom precariously film at speed close to the cyclists on motorbikes. Cycling stars Sir Bradley Wiggins and Mark Cavendish were warmly welcomed and supported by crowds as they set off from Sidmouth Esplanade on the 85 mile Devon stage in 3 and half hours. They sped through the glorious Devonshire countryside at 60 miles per hour, the sun shining through leafy roads and rolling green hills to the distinct moorland and peak of Haytor in a spectacularly exciting finish which could have seen anyone the winner, it almost looked as though it might have been Sir Bradley but at the last it was Great Britain's Simon Yates who took the yellow jersey.



Cycle Race film crew who stayed at the Royal Glen

Devon is hilly, and I know there are those enthusiasts who enjoy those steep inclines, but we also have numerous cycle routes along canals, rivers and disused train tracks. We have personal knowledge and can tell you all about them. Some helpful websites include Dartmoor.gov.uk/cycling devon.gov.uk/cycling

Bringing your cycles? Indoor lock up and wash down hose available.

MORE FILM CREW

Chris Packham and crew stayed at the Glen whilst filming for 'The Burrowers' shown on BBC 2 in August, it involved recreating a cross section of a rabbit warren; a water vole burrow; and a full size badger sett.

NEW WEBSITE GONE LIVE

Visit our new website: www.royalglenhotel.co.uk



CRICKET DATES FOR 2014

The Royal Glen is an enthusiastic supporter of Minor Counties Cricket, and especially proud of our own Josh Bess being made captain of Devon this year. The Devon v Cheshire fixture is 5th - 7th July. 2014 is a special year for Devon cricket at Sidmouth as it will be celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the first minor counties game played at the Fortfield.

CORONATION DIAMOND CELEBRATION

2013 was actually the diamond celebration of the Queen's Coronation, admittedly far more low key than her jubilee celebrations it was still marked in Sidmouth at the Blackmore Coronation Gardens and at the Glen with its Royal connections with an exhibition of our Royal Memorabilia of both Victoria and Elizabeth II. Pride of place was our copy of the Illustrated London News Diamond Jubilee Number (1897) inscribed

'Printed in this 60th year of Her Majesty Queen Victoria's Glorious Reign by Orford Smith & Co St Albans England'. The introduction written by Sir Walter Besant KT.



We were pleased to get a mention by author Sophie Campbell who writes a monthly column on UK heritage for the Telegraph in her piece 'Coronation Celebrations around Britain of Queens Victoria and Elizabeth II'.

TOP FLIGHT RUGBY ACTION

Exeter Chiefs continue to strengthen their position in the premier division.

In 2015 the Exeter Chiefs ground at Sandy Park will host 4 games of The Rugby World Cup. Planned scheduled fixtures will see Tonga take on the qualifiers of Africa one; Winners of Africa one and Europe One; Italy versus Europe Two.

The Royal Glen and Sidmouth is ideally situated with easy access from the main A3052 to Sandy Park, just 25 minutes away.



HAPPY HOPPER

Sidmouth free Hopper Bus ran again taking visitors up both Peak Hill and Salcombe Hill and as far as the Donkey Sanctuary, yet another firm favourite with our visitor from June until the end of September.

SIDMOUTH'S WATER ACTIVITIES EXPAND

With the glorious summer weather this year full use was made of this new facility where one can hire stand up paddle boards and kayaks including wet suits at Jurassic Paddle Sports.

From Sidmouth sea front one can take a cruise along the Jurassic coast with Stuart Line Cruises sailing to Exmouth, up the Exe or eastwards viewing the Triassic section of the Devon coast line. The UK's only natural World Heritage Site lies between Exmouth in Devon and Studland Bay in Dorset. The cliff contains 185 million years of history of the Earth's development in only 95 miles. The sequence of rocks records the Triassic, Jurassic and Cretaceous periods of time.



Paddle boarding was a new sight off Sidmouth in 2013

The Scorpion National Championships took place in a week that was perfect weather ending in the Regatta weekend. This year saw the first gig racing competition hosted by Sidmouth which will now be extended to a larger field of competitors as it was such a success and will become an annual event.

WALKING THE COASTAL PATH

The Royal Glen is ideally situated for walking. We can help with walking itineraries, whether along the South West Coastal Path, the Jurassic Coast, National Trust, Hidden Places or Wildlife Commons, East Devon has it all. We have drying facilities and a boot room.



Spectacular coastal footpath between Beer and Branscombe

TEAM OF 2013

Congratulations to Ian Holloway on his first successful year in his new position as Head Chef. Ian has increased the use of local produce and our support of local producers and the local economy. Sidmouth Trawlers found at the end of the Esplanade land their own fish at Brixham only from day boats. Our fruit & vegetables come from Total Produce of Newton Abbott who deal with over 30 farms to provide us with seasonal local produce. Game is from M.C.Kelly of Coplestone who provide us with wild game from Dartmoor and Exmoor National Parks, so all our game has had a natural life that comes through in its quality and flavour. The remainder of our meat is supplied by Churchills who source from local farms which gives us trace ability of all our produce. We do not support intensive farming. In 2014 we anticipate extending our staffing in the Kitchen building on our traditional and fresh menu.

We welcomed Bar Manager Emma, who has quickly got to know all our extended Glen family and made the Kent Bar a friendly, fun place for conversation with a good pint of Branscombe brew, a sunny Pimms in that wonderful summer weather or a classic glass of our house Malbec Shiraz.

A big thank you to you both and the rest of the long serving team, Judith (20 years); Terry (6 years); Heather, Maria Therese, Sam, Laurie, Yvonne, Derek, Lewis, Susi and Anthony.

It is now that time of year to wish all our Glen family which extends to all our Guests 'Seasons Greetings & A Very Healthy Happy New Year'. We look forward to welcoming you all and assure first time guests of our attention to make their visit the first of many; with best wishes Hilary, Vivienne, Mrs Crane and Staff.

Reception will be open 9-1pm during December and 9-4pm in January and February, at other times the telephone will be redirected to Vivienne or I, or should you reach the answer machine, please leave your message and we will get back to you as soon as possible. Of course on line booking will be available, however we know that the majority of our return Guests like to reserve particular rooms, and we like to make sure that first time Guests' needs and requirements are matched with individual rooms.

TARIFF 2014 SPECIALS

Early Bird Reservations:

Make your booking direct with us in January and receive a complementary cream tea per person.

Winter:

27th February - 4 nights for 3 daily rate

27th February - 2nd March - 25% offer minimum 2 nights Bed & Breakfast from £41.25

Spring: 21st April - 5th May 4 nights for 3

Autumn: September 28th - October 24th - 4 nights for 3

Winter Warmers & Christmas Shopping Special from Sundays in March and 26th October and 2nd November.

Half Term Holidays. Children Age 15 and under sharing with 2 adults Bed and Breakfast includes children's evening meal of daily roast, fruit juice and ice cream. Half tariff for children 15 and under in own room.

Activity Breaks tailored for your interest, and available at times using local events, if you want help planning your visit or wish to take part in an organised or escorted event please telephone reception who can send details or look on our website for further details of these. These will include Jurassic, History days, Science, Golf, Cricket, Rugby, Escorted walks, and Cycling routes.

Group Rates are available 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 (4 courses within 10 miles), cricketers or family gatherings to name but a few. We do not accept large coach companies.

TARIFF 2014

FEBRUARY 27TH - APRIL 17TH 25TH OCTOBER & NOVEMBER

Prices per person per night

| | Superior | Standard | Selected |
|--------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| 4 Day Break (DB&B) | £71.00 | £65.00 | £60.00 |
| 3 Day Break (DB&B) | £81.00 | £75.00 | £70.00 |
| Daily (DB&B) | £86.00 | £80.00 | £73.00 |
| Daily (B&B) | £61.00 | £55.00 | £48.00 |

Winter Special March 2014 & Christmas Shopping Special Oct 26th & Nov 2nd - Arrive Sunday, depart Friday: 5 nights at the price of 4. D,B&B Superior £324.00, Standard £300.00, Selected £280.00 per person. Join our email listing for up to date news.

APRIL 18TH - MAY 31ST & SEPTEMBER 28TH - OCTOBER 24TH

Prices in brackets are per person per night

| | Superior | Standard | Selected |
|--------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Weekly (DB&B) | £567 | £539 | £504 |
| 3 Day Break (DB&B) | £264 (£88) | £243 (£81) | £225 (£75) |
| Daily (DB&B) | £94 | £87 | £82 |
| Daily (B&B) | £69 | £62 | £57 |

SUMMER TARIFF

JUNE 1ST - SEPTEMBER 26TH

Prices in brackets are per person per night

| | Superior | Standard | Selected |
|--------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Weekly* (DB&B) | £602 | £567 | £511 |
| 3 Day Break (DB&B) | £282 (£94) | £255 (£85) | £240 (£80) |
| Daily (DB&B) | £99 | £90 | £85 |
| Daily (B&B) | £74 | £65 | £60 |

* Saving 11% or more

All terms are per person inclusive of VAT at 20%



★★★

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