

Newsletter Historic Sussex Hotels

Autumn / Winter 2011



**ELEGANT NEW
OCKENDEN
MANOR SPA
OPENING SOON**

**CHRISTMAS AND
NEW YEAR...
CELEBRATE
IN STYLE**

**LOCAL
EVENTS TO
TEMPT YOU**

**EXCLUSIVE
AUTUMN
OFFERS**



Welcome

to the Historic Sussex Hotels newsletter for 2011/2012; it's your chance to find out a little more about what's in store for the coming months



Hotel news



Historic Sussex Hotels reach down under

2011 has been another busy year for us, with local historic houses, country gardens and South Downs National Park drawing groups from Denmark, Holland, Belgium, Russia and even Australia to all three hotels. We're always delighted to welcome guests from all over the world and show them the best of Sussex heritage.



Our family began running the first of our three luxury hotels, the **Spread Eagle**, back in 1957. Those of you who've visited the Spread Eagle, or the more recently acquired **Bailiffscourt** and **Ockenden Manor**, will know that we've always balanced traditional and modern – giving a contemporary edge to buildings with a fantastic heritage. Which brings us to our big news for this year: the opening of Ockenden Manor Spa.

The Spa is a brand new building that, thanks to some canny architectural design, somehow blurs the lines between old and new. We think it'll offer visitors to beautiful Cuckfield and Ockenden Manor a truly serene experience. You can find out more about what's on offer on page 5.

Our new and improved restaurant at Ockenden has now been open for a full year, and we've had some lovely feedback from guests. Now our Michelin-starred team there has a brand new kitchen too!

And there are more changes at all of our hotels: we have refurbished rooms, rejuvenated gardens, introduced new beauty products and treatments, enticing new menus and special weekend and event packages too.

We do hope we'll have the chance to share some of these experiences with you very soon.

Miranda & Pontus Carminger

Classic cars rally at HSH

We've had glorious classic British sports cars purring and growling up the driveways, with visits from Aston Martin, Bentley, Jaguar and Morgan classic car owners' clubs. On 23 July Ted James and the team at the **Spread Eagle** played host to a dinner for HERO, the Historic Endurance Rally Organisation; we hope they'll be back in 2012.

A century for Macmillan Cancer Support

Ockenden Manor brought together the culinary expertise of four Michelin-starred chefs for a gala dinner to mark the centenary of Macmillan Cancer Support. Ockenden Manor's head chef Stephen Crane was joined by fellow Michelin-starred experts Steve Drake, Matthew Tomkinson and Jake Watkins, and a magnificent £12,265 was raised to help build the Sussex Macmillan Cancer Support Centre. A huge thank you to everyone involved!

Charity in action

On 17 July Chris Alger and Adam Smith, our general managers of **Bailiffscourt** and **Ockenden Manor**, led spa members and friends on a 52-mile sponsored cycle from Ockenden Manor to the Spread Eagle, finally ending up at Bailiffscourt. Between them the team raised nearly £1,000 for Hospitality Action, the industry's benevolent organisation. Well done all!



Hotel news

Refurbishment at Bailiffscourt

Baylies, **Bailiffscourt's** top feature room, has had a refurbishment which retains the character and charm that makes it so special. Fresh fabrics and carpet, completely new bathroom and a wood-burning stove combine to make it even more welcoming than ever. Chris Alger, general manager at Bailiffscourt, urges early booking for this magnificent suite.

Luxury new rooms at Ockenden

As part of our exciting new Spa at **Ockenden Manor**, we've added six beautiful junior suites with private terraces overlooking the Sussex downs. Due for completion in late 2011, book now for the ultimate in relaxation.

Bailiffscourt History

We were delighted to meet Sally Jones, the granddaughter of Mrs Birer who ran **Bailiffscourt** as Birers Hotel from shortly after the end of the Second World War. Ms Jones lived in the hotel as a child, and has been gracious enough to help us put together a history of Bailiffscourt over the ages. The scrapbook and collection will soon be available for visitors to enjoy.



À la carte at the Spread Eagle

The **Spread Eagle** is making some exciting menu changes for the new season, and introducing a new à la carte menu. The old tradition of the Spread Eagle going back 30 years is à la carte, so we're moving with the times and changing our style of menu while staying true to the Spread Eagle traditions as a coaching inn. Moving into winter, game will feature heavily, so book now to savour the rich tastes of grouse, partridge, pheasant and more. Dine like a queen – after all, Elizabeth I reputedly stayed here in 1591.

An 'auld alliance' at the Spread Eagle

Franck Mercier will be recognised by many guests as a real character in the restaurant with his Scottish kilt and broad French accent. He was always very popular when working at Bailiffscourt and we and Franck were delighted when the opportunity came along to invite him back to work with HSH and the **Spread Eagle** Hotel.



Ridgeview charms royalty

Sussex residents and regulars at any of our hotels will be enthusiastically familiar with Ridgeview sparkling wine – winner of numerous national and international awards over the past 15 years. We hold several wines from the range, and they're particularly popular choices for weddings held at our hotels, with **Ockenden Manor** closest for those wanting to visit the vineyards.

The Queen recently chose the South Downs vineyard's Fitzrovia Sparkling Rosé 2004 to serve President Barack Obama at a state dinner in May. Nothing but the finest for royalty, world leaders and visitors to Historic Sussex Hotels, it seems!

To keep up with all the latest developments, hotel offers and local events, do follow us on:

http://twitter.com/#!/hs_hotels

www.facebook.com/Historic.Sussex.Hotels



Spa news

Ockenden Manor Spa - opening December 2011

A harmonious blend of modern design and natural inspiration, the Spa has been purpose-built within the 19th century walled garden of **Ockenden Manor**. A natural underground spring feeds the Spa's river-stone-floored indoor swimming pool with swim-through to the heated outdoor pool.

Walk-through rain showers, indoor spa bath, outdoor hot tub and a flotation tank complete the aqua experience, while the roof terraces offer a stunning view over the South Downs.

You can work out in the well equipped gym and fitness studio, before being truly pampered in our treatment rooms, nail bar, steam room and sauna, lounge and relaxation rooms.

We've chosen the all-natural combination of ila, REN and Electric Body products for the holistic beauty, health and relaxation treatments available at Ockenden Manor Spa.

Su Hauffe, Spa Manager, has joined Ockenden from Bailiffscourt Spa – and she has a few special treats in store too: some all-new, holistic massage and wellbeing rituals to soak up the stress and put back the peace.

The spa is for the exclusive use of members and hotel guests. Individual spa membership rates start from £1,100 per year.

Six luxury new bedrooms with private terraces have also been added – book your secluded and relaxing Spa break now!

New treats and treatments at the Aquila Spa

The **Aquila Spa** at the **Spread Eagle** has introduced a range of REN skincare products and treatments to provide a total skin workout. Book one of our luxurious, all-natural REN facial and body treatments, and we're sure you'll agree we've made the right choice. Make a day of it with a light lunch in the conservatory or tea in front of a roaring fire.

Autumn & winter Spa days at Bailiffscourt

Book an indulgent 85-minute treatment, access to all spa facilities, lunch and champers, tea and coffee, all for just £99. The offer runs until 15 December 2011.

Call 01903 723576 to book.

Brides, hens and friends...

Why not book a day retreat or overnight pampering spa package, and get together with girlfriends at the same time.

Enjoy a delicious light lunch, sumptuous surroundings and all those little extras like warm home-baked cookies.

Available at all three of our lovely spas. See our website for more details and seasonal offers.



Events diary

October

Savour Sussex's autumn colours, then enjoy a little luxury at Historic Sussex Hotels

Autumn themes on the Bluebell Railway
Until 3 November 2011, weekdays only

Sussex is famed for its blazing autumn colours, and **Ockenden Manor** has arranged a special leaf-peeping deal: two nights in superior accommodation, enjoy the Sussex menu on the first night and the tasting menu on the second. Entrance to Capability Brown's Sheffield Park with its glorious foliage and lakes is included, as is the Bluebell Railway Autumn Tint Train.

Call to book on 01444 416111.

Horse Racing

At Plumpton near Lewes, just 30 minutes from Ockenden, there are horse racing event days on 17 and 31 October, 14 November, 5 and 19 December.

Guided Grape Harvest Walk

18 October 2011

Book a stay at the **Spread Eagle** and take a fully guided walk through the Sussex countryside to nearby Upperton Vineyard to learn about winemaking.

Duck herding at Bailiffscourt

Available at any time by prior arrangement

Great fun and something truly unique! A lively gang of Indian runner ducks is let loose from a pen, and a well-trained border collie is awaiting instructions so it can guide the ducks around an obstacle course.

November

After a bonfire and fireworks, warm up in front of our log fire with your favourite tipple

Bonfire nights

You'll find a bonfire and fireworks evening in villages across Sussex most weekends between October and December. Lewes, one of the UK's most famous Guy Fawkes Night festivities, is just 20 minutes from **Ockenden**, and definitely worth experiencing! Alternatively visit Ockenden Manor on 5 November for views of Cuckfield's own firework display from the Manor grounds.

Michelin Anniversary Dinner

11 November 2011

The **Spread Eagle** restaurant features in the latest Michelin guide, and appeared in the very first, 100 years ago. We're celebrating this centenary with a culinary tour of France – champagne and oysters followed by five courses of traditional dishes and wines from different regions. Book your table now, and why not make a night of it?

Game dinner

25 November 2011

A series of game dinners and talks begins at **Bailiffscourt** with a three-course game menu accompanied by Ridgeview wines. Look out too for the new autumn game menu arriving at the **Spread Eagle** from 14 October.

Christmas Fair at the Spread Eagle

9 December 2011

Local businesses and craftspeople will be selling their Christmas wares; from clothes and hampers to jewellery and gift wrap, you'll find everything to please those hard-to-buy-for friends and family members. Make it into a true pre-Christmas event with dinner as well.

January sale

Our gift vouchers will be discounted by up to 40% if you purchase between mid-October and the end of November, and redeem them in January. They can be used for accommodation, spa treatments and dining at all our hotels. Visit our website - and don't miss out on this great deal!



Christmas & New Year

There's nothing like Christmas at Historic Sussex Hotels - book now for a truly memorable festive break

The most restful Christmas possible

All three of our hotels offer a unique Christmas experience – but share one theme in common – the chance for someone else to do all the hard work. Christmas is always popular and availability is limited, so book now!

Bailiffscourt Christmas

The three-night house party offers total indulgence, from champagne reception and carols on Christmas Eve, the perfect Christmas dinner on Christmas Day, to a falconry display and a Gala Dinner on Boxing Day.

Ockenden Manor Christmas

Everything you'd expect from Christmas in such elegant surroundings, including a traditional six-course Christmas luncheon from our Michelin-starred chef.

Or why not book one of our new luxury Spa suites? A December stay at the Spa could prove to be the ultimate winter warmer. Call Ockenden Manor for more details.

Spread Eagle Christmas

Enjoy an effortless Christmas with all the classic customs and the added bonus of a Boxing Night Black Tie Gourmet Dinner in the Jacobean Hall.

Christmas gift vouchers

Christmas can be a whirlwind of giving and receiving, wrapping and unwrapping. Our gift vouchers offer an experience instead; a memory to be created. From Sunday Luncheon overlooking the South Downs, a luxury spa day, or midweek or weekend accommodation with a variety of entertainment included, each of the Historic Sussex Hotels has a voucher to help you give the perfect Christmas present. Visit our website to buy online.

Ring in the New Year

Hail 2012 in style with a Scottish themed dinner and dance at **Bailiffscourt**, black tie meal and celebrations at the **Spread Eagle**, or for those who prefer a more laid-back entry to the New Year, a six-course tasting menu accompanied by our resident pianist at **Ockenden Manor**. Don't delay as rooms are booking up fast!



January

Savour homemade biscuits in front of the fire after frosty country walks

January rejuvenation

The gutsy among you may wish to join us for what's becoming an increasingly popular way to start the new year.

Staff and guests at **Bailiffscourt** brace themselves for breakfast with a morning rush into the January waves breaking on Climping Beach.

It's unforgettable, and more popular than you might imagine, so book a New Year stay at Bailiffscourt for a breakfast you'll have truly earned.

January respite

After the festivities of Christmas and New Year, January should be all about a little you-time. Book from mid-October to the end of November to snap up some bargain treats and retreats for January. See our website for special offer details.

February

Book a pampering treat for yourself and a loved one

Valentine's Day 14 February 2012

All of our hotel restaurants honour the date with a special Valentine's menu, and if a four-poster stay in one of the South of England's most beautiful hotels, or a selection of treatments at our gleaming spas, doesn't say love, well we're not sure what does.

March

From daffodils to wellies ready at the door, Historic Sussex Hotels has the perfect Spring break

Talk and taste of cheese 16 March 2012

Bailiffscourt hosts an evening celebrating fine local English cheeses and French fromages. The main course is followed by a selection of cheeses and port, and a talk by a cheese expert.

Mothering Sunday 18 March 2012

Why not let us help you to show your affection on Mother's Day?

We'll be serving traditional teas, lunches and specially prepared evening meals on the day itself; and perhaps a pampering treatment in one of our spas will give back the glam and soak up the stress. Call any of our three hotels now and book mum in!





LUXURY FOR LESS THIS WINTER AT HISTORIC SUSSEX HOTELS. BREAKS FROM JUST £67.50

Spread Eagle, Midhurst

A classic coaching inn with comfortable accommodation, traditional dining and a modern Spa, this is the perfect base for exploring Sussex.

Special offer breaks just £67.50 in a traditional room with full English breakfast plus full use of the Spa and entrance to the Weald & Downland Open Air Museum. **Plus a £30 spa voucher** when you book dinner for two.

To book call 01730 816911
Midhurst, West Sussex, GU29 9NH

Ockenden Manor, Cuckfield

A fine Elizabethan manor house in eight acres of beautiful grounds – luxurious, tranquil and with an outstanding Michelin-starred restaurant. Near Kew Gardens' 'country estate', Wakehurst Place, with 465 acres of woodland and ornamental gardens.

Relax and unwind for just £72 in a superior room with full English breakfast and **admission to Wakehurst Place.**

To book call 01444 416111
Cuckfield, West Sussex, RH17 5LD

Bailiffscourt, Climping near Arundel

With its stunning medieval architecture and luxurious accommodation, Bailiffscourt offers the quintessential country escape. Enjoy our 30 acres of parkland leading to unspoilt Climping Beach and our contemporary Spa.

Winter Spa Special just £140 in a superior room, dinner and full English breakfast plus full use of the Spa. Stay for two nights and receive a **spa voucher worth £60.**

To book call 01903 723511
Climping, West Sussex, BN17 5RW

Find out more – visit our website at www.hshotels.co.uk

Prices are per person, per night based on two people sharing a twin or double room and include VAT. Bailiffscourt offer available Sunday to Friday nights, Spread Eagle offer available Sunday to Thursday nights. Treatment voucher value is per couple. Single room rates available on request. Valid until 23 December 2011 subject to availability. Not combinable with any other offer and not available on some key dates.