

*'the finest places to eat, drink, stay.'*



# Milsom Hotels & Restaurants

SUMMER 2011

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milsoms  
eat.drink.stay.  
*Ten years on!*

## Foreword by Paul Milsom

This is always an exciting time of year as we say goodbye to a long and very cold winter and look forward to the summer months ahead.

It's still early enough to hope that 2011 really will be the barbecue summer that the forecasters keep promising us and which we all long for. Whether this happens or not, rest assured that we are ready, our outside seating areas and gardens look as good as ever, particularly down in Harwich which is benefitting from a major investment in the quayside outside the Pier. The whole front has been re-paved using the finest granite sets along with new street lamps and appropriate street furniture, and, most importantly, the highway has been significantly reduced in width. This gives us a much bigger area for outside dining and we have naturally taken advantage of this by upgrading our tables, chairs, heaters and planters. Do remember the Ha'penny Pier is open all day every day and it's a wonderful spot to watch the sun set over the River Stour.

Having recently celebrated 30 years of the Pier in 2008 and 40 years of the Maison Talbooth in 2009 we are now in the build up to 2012. No, not the London Olympics or the Queens Diamond Jubilee, but the 60th anniversary of the creation of our business at Le Talbooth in 1952. We have some exciting plans for this event which we will outline in future newsletters, but in the meantime 2011 marks the 10th birthday of milsoms in Dedham. I know there will be a large number of you, like me, saying "Where have those ten years gone?" We have re-printed some of the photos from the launch party in April 2001 and many of the original team who were there on that occasion are still with us.

On a different subject, Trip Advisor has been much in the news recently, partly as a result of its long running dispute with Duncan Bannantyne from Dragons Den over a review of one of his hotels. Electronic media has really helped the smaller independent hotelier and our website now reaches nearly 40,000 visitors a month. The advent of Facebook and Twitter will, I am sure, give us further marketing opportunities in the future.

Word of mouth recommendation is probably our most important marketing asset and returning customers our most important business asset, so Trip Advisor, which gives our customers a voice to express their views, has to be something to be welcomed and not feared. Of course, like all businesses, we don't get everything right, with the result that this can now be plastered over the internet for all to see. However, in the main our reports on Trip Advisor give a really good balanced view of all our properties and those who use it know how to filter the information they receive from it. Of course if some of you, our best customers, decide to write a positive Trip Advisor report about us, well, that would be great!

All this aside I hope you will find a reason to visit us soon.



**Paul Milsom**  
Chairman and Managing Director



## Kesgrave Hall Four Stars

Congratulations must go to Garth, Sarah, Stuart and their respective teams both back and front of house, the AA inspector has awarded milsoms Kesgrave Hall a well-deserved four stars.

Gaining another star from the AA is a real achievement and a lot of work has gone into raising the already high standard. Garth and the team were beavering away for several weeks making minor improvements to the bedrooms and ensuring that residents have a 24 hour bar and room service to name a couple of examples. We always thought milsoms Kesgrave Hall had a four star feel and now it's official!



- Kids friendly Keats!

## All Aboard the Stour Trusty

Introducing Stour Trusty, the electric launch normally based at Flatford, now offering trips on the river from Le Talbooth. The silent engine provides a very tranquil way in which to see the river from a different perspective, and the famous scenes immortalised by John Constable.



- Messing about on the river with the Trusty

**For only £100.00 you can now hire out Trusty for an hour or two, so if you have a party booked with us or are thinking of doing so, give Alex a call on 01206 321105 to book.**

## Kids in Keats

Since the addition of the swimming pool, tennis court and spa we are now welcoming more families to stay at Maison Talbooth. With this in mind, we decided to convert the extra bedroom in Keats into a proper kids' bedroom with funky bunk beds and an X box.

**View our family breaks at Maison and Kesgrave Hall online.**

## Outside and 'All Day' Dining in Dedham, Harwich and Kesgrave

Don't forget that our brasseries offer 'all day dining' so there is no need to rush to meet last orders at lunchtime.

milsoms in Dedham, milsoms Kesgrave Hall and the Ha'penny at The Pier have their full menus available from 12.00 noon right through to 9.30pm (10.00pm on Friday and Saturday) so there's no rush! We will fit around your pace of life. As you know, Le Talbooth, milsoms and milsoms Kesgrave Hall benefit from having a sail on their terraces - perfect for relaxed dining!



- Summer outside dining, Dedham, Harwich, Kesgrave... You choose!



## All Set for Summer

**The new build at Le Talbooth is now complete!** Including permanent ladies, gents and disabled toilets for our summer marquee events. The new space also includes new washing up facilities, which will be of great help to the Talbooth Catering team.



- New ladies and gents for the marquee



## Introducing Our New Management Structure at Le Talbooth!



- Sarah Purkis, Ian Rhodes and Tom Bushell

We have recently restructured our team at Le Talbooth. Ian Rhodes, who has been with us for nine years as Executive Chef has now widened his role to become General Manager. Ian has overall responsibility for all aspects of life at Le Talbooth, including Talbooth Catering. Our kitchen is the beating heart of the organisation and driving the business from here clearly makes sense.

Sarah Purkis joined us in April 2010 as Restaurant Manager at Le Talbooth. Sarah was previously at Smiths in Ongar and has a passion for wine, so is currently upgrading the wine list. Geoff Hare continues as Talbooth Catering Manager, managing a growing number of outside catering functions. We're still delighted to have Tom Bushell as Head Chef in the restaurant kitchen and Jon Jones heading up the Talbooth Catering team as the Head Chef. Overall the clearer lines of responsibility and new arrangements are working well.



2001

## 2011 celebrates 10 years of milsoms

When milsoms first opened its doors in 2001, we hit the ground running. The restaurant was full from day one and has not looked back since. We knew we were on to a winner when our customers came in saying 'this is just what we've been waiting for - a little bit of London in East Anglia'.

The marketing budget was low and we relied purely on word of mouth - definitely the best type of marketing! At first glance milsoms may not appear to have changed much, but actually we have been improving the offering quite considerably over the years.





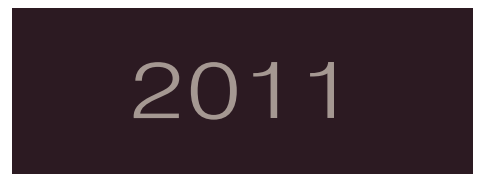
- Paul and Geraldine Milsom with milsoms team 2011



- Sarah Norman, Head Chef



- Charlotte and Zoran



From the landscaping of the gardens, the improvements on the terrace, the addition of the sail in 2003, doubling the size of the car park, decoration of the bedrooms and renewal of all the bathrooms to the refurbishment of Mr G's into a fabulous private dining room.

Several faces have been with us from the beginning - Zoran Durdevic and Charlotte Todd front of house, Ben Rush, Liz Todd and Mel Chadwick in the kitchen, Liz Smith in housekeeping and of course, Stas Anastasiades who started as Head Chef, then became General Manager and is now the Operations Director for the group.

*...and here's to the next 10 years!*



- Ben Rush, Head Chef



- Ed Keith



- Lauren



- Paul Milsom with Richard Stone, in front of Gerald Milsom's portrait

## Suffolk Show - We'd Love to See You!

Talbooth Catering are hosting the Vice Presidents' Marquee for the third year running, so make the most of this fantastic annual show... and become a Vice President!

The cost is £110.00, for which you gain free entry for two people, dedicated parking and access to the Vice Presidents' marquee and grandstand area on both days. And of course, you can have coffee, lunch or afternoon tea with us in the marquee!

Visit the Suffolk Show website for all the details at [www.suffolkshow.co.uk](http://www.suffolkshow.co.uk) or call 01473 707110



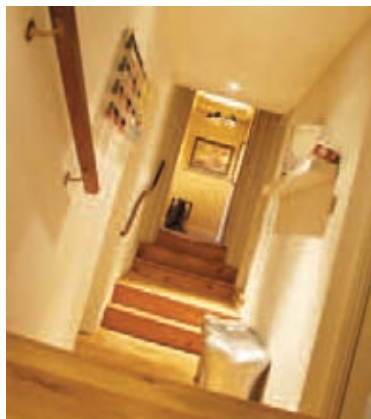
## Take Tea at Maison Talbooth

We are welcoming an increasing number of guests for afternoon tea at Maison Talbooth. In the summer there is nothing better than tea on the terrace! The full tea includes a selection of sandwiches, scones with clotted cream and jam and a splendid array of delicious cakes.

**Booking is essential so give the Maison a call on 01206 322367, and give yourself a treat!**



- Afternoon Tea priced at £16.85 per person



## While You're Here...

...visit our day spa for a treatment or two. The Treatment Rooms at Maison Talbooth are proving very popular with both hotel and local guests - especially at weekends! The new hydrotherm beds offer a different type of massage and we're finding that most guests are converted when they've tried it!

We are repeating the popular voucher in our What's On Guide, for you to redeem from Monday through to Thursday. Also, look out for the online **'Treatment of the Month'**.

[www.milsomhotels.com/maisontalbooth/treatments](http://www.milsomhotels.com/maisontalbooth/treatments)



- Neil Weston and Paul Milsom at a training session

## Dedham Cricket Club

The Gerald Milsom Memorial Fund was established four years ago within the Essex Community Foundation, a charitable institution which benefits groups and individuals in the county of Essex. We are currently helping Dedham Cricket Club fund the playing facilities (particularly the outfield and wicket) at the ground situated behind Dedham Church. Last year the fund helped with the installation of an artificial wicket. Paul is pictured here with Jo Murphy from the Foundation and some 20 youngsters handing over the cheque. Dedham Cricket Club is keen to encourage young cricketers and brings the game to the players of the future at the local primary school.

**New players of any age or ability are always welcome, so if you are interested, please get in touch with Neil Weston on 01206 323726, email him at [n.a.weston@btinternet.com](mailto:n.a.weston@btinternet.com) or visit [www.dedhamcc.co.uk](http://www.dedhamcc.co.uk)**

## Milsom Hotels Gift Vouchers

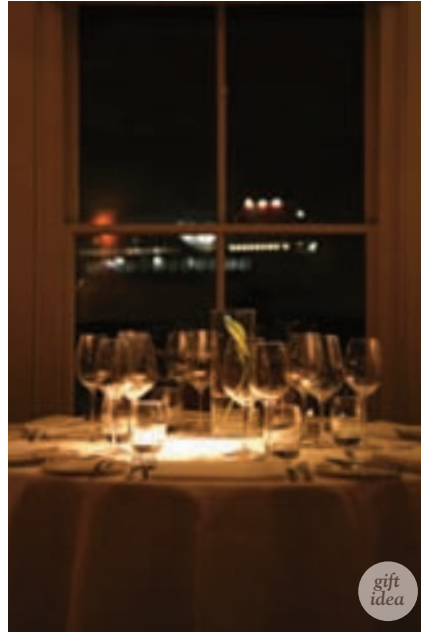
How will you spend yours?

A sunset dinner watching the boats come in at the Harbourside restaurant in Harwich...

Making the most of a long weekend with a Friday night at milsoms Kesgrave Hall...

A luxury afternoon of pampering with my best friend in the day spa at Maison Talbooth...

[www.milsomhotels.com/giftvouchers](http://www.milsomhotels.com/giftvouchers)  
or call 01206 321101



- Dinner at The Harbourside



- Luxury Friday night dinner at Kesgrave Hall



- Treatment at Maison Talbooth



## Cocktails at milsoms

The summer sun brings out the cocktail diva in us all. Here at milsoms, our expert bar staff are always on the look out for new cocktails to tempt you. Sample our cocktail menu and try a new cocktail every time you visit milsoms over the summer - are you up for the challenge?

[www.milsomhotels.com/milsoms](http://www.milsomhotels.com/milsoms)

## Marathon Success for Kat

Kat Daines, our Front Office Manager at milsoms Kesgrave Hall, ran the London Marathon on Sunday 17th April to raise money for Dreams Come True - a national charity for terminally or seriously ill children. We knew that Kat would do well as she put in an incredible amount of training - in all she raised over £1,250 and ran the marathon in 4 hours 54 minutes.

**Well done Kat!**



- Kat Daines



## Facebook Competitions

Social media is here to stay, and we signed up to both Facebook and Twitter in 2010.

We are steadily gaining 'fans' and 'followers', and run regular Facebook exclusive competitions such as lunch or dinner at one of the brasseries or a treatment in the spa... so go on, follow us and get in with a chance of winning!

## It's Never Too Soon...

...to start thinking about Christmas and New Year 2011. Already half our rooms at Maison Talbooth have been taken and party night enquiries have been coming in since early January! Christmas on the website goes live on 1st June with all the menus, party night dates and prices. In this case, it's not true that 'the best things come to he who waits'!

Visit [www.milsomhotels.com/christmas](http://www.milsomhotels.com/christmas) from the 1st June.



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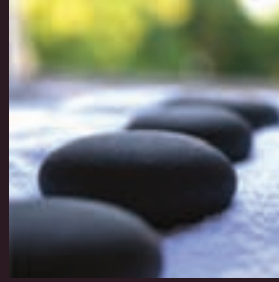
### Le Talbooth

Le Talbooth, Gun Hill,  
Dedham, Colchester CO7 6HP  
Tel: 01206 323150  
talbooth@milsomhotels.com



### Maison Talbooth

Maison Talbooth, Stratford Road,  
Dedham, Colchester CO7 6HN  
Tel: 01206 322367  
maison@milsomhotels.com



### The Treatment Rooms

Maison Talbooth, Stratford Road,  
Dedham, Colchester CO7 6HN  
Tel: 01206 322367  
treatmentrooms@milsomhotels.com



### House Parties

Maison Talbooth, Stratford Road,  
Dedham, Colchester CO7 6HN  
Tel: 01206 322367  
maison@milsomhotels.com



### milsoms

milsoms, Stratford Road,  
Dedham, Colchester CO7 6HW  
Tel: 01206 322795  
milsoms@milsomhotels.com



### milsoms Kesgrave Hall

Kesgrave Hall, Hall Road,  
Kesgrave, Ipswich, Suffolk IP5 2PU  
Tel: 01473 333741  
reception@kesgravehall.com



### The Pier

The Pier, The Quay,  
Harwich CO12 3HH  
Tel: 01255 241212  
pier@milsomhotels.com



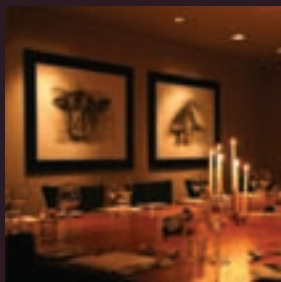
### Talbooth Catering

Talbooth Catering, Gun Hill,  
Dedham, Colchester CO7 6HP  
Tel: 01206 323150  
talboothcatering@milsomhotels.com



### Weddings

For more information visit  
[www.milsomweddings.com](http://www.milsomweddings.com)



### Private Dining

For more information visit  
[www.milsomhotels.com/privatedining](http://www.milsomhotels.com/privatedining)



### Meetings

For more information visit  
[www.milsomhotels.com/meetings](http://www.milsomhotels.com/meetings)



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