

the FINEST



MILSOM®
HOTELS & RESTAURANTS

Winter 2014 news from Milsom Hotels & Restaurants

THE HANGAR - 'THE' PARTY VENUE IN SUFFOLK

£15 TREATMENT ROOM VOUCHER INSIDE!

MEET THE NEW HEAD CHEF AT LE TALBOOTH

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2014

All being well, this newsletter will drop through your letterboxes between Christmas and New Year, so first of all I hope that you are having an absolutely brilliant break and we all wish you a happy, healthy and prosperous 2014.



INTRODUCING ANDREW HIRST, HEAD CHEF AT LE TALBOOTH

Andrew Hirst joined us as Head Chef at Le Talbooth in August, Andrew is an Essex boy who trained at Colchester Institute and has certainly had a varied career.

Andrew spent eighteen months at the renowned 3 Michelin star Daniel restaurant in Manhattan, New York. Owned and run by Daniel Boulud, the restaurant has been rated as one of the top 20 in the world. Before that he spent several years at the Auberge du Lac in Hertfordshire, where he worked his way up to the position of senior sous chef. We are excited to have Andrew on board bringing us into the next phase at Le Talbooth, and if you haven't been to the restaurant lately do come and try Andrew's cooking for yourselves.



- Andrew Hirst

- Chilled pallet d'or



- Partridge and Victoria plum

As always, there's lots going on at Milsom Hotels. We're particularly excited by the new MH&R Card; the feedback has been really positive since its launch in April and as promised, we're continuing to add extra benefits. All the Card holders will now get the discount off all food every day, (yes, including Saturday and Sundays!). Coupled with a give away winter 2 for 1 offer on selected days at Le Talbooth and the Harbourside at The Pier (see inside for details) there really is no excuse not to join.

However, the really big news has to be the redevelopment of the Hangar at milsoms Kesgrave Hall into one of East Anglia's most exciting event venues. Over the last few years we've hosted a variety of one off events on an ad hoc basis, but you always needed a big imagination and an even bigger budget to get the space looking great. Not now, the Hangar has been transformed into a seriously glamorous room and ideal for all types of year round events from weddings and parties to product launches and conferences for anything from 80 to 300 guests. We're now even licensed for wedding ceremonies.

To make sure the new business immediately achieves the service standards that we are well known for, I'm also delighted to announce that Geoff Hare, who has been our Catering Manager here in Dedham for several years, is moving to Kesgrave to mastermind events there. Next time you're at Kesgrave Hall, do ask to look at The Hangar, the team will only be too pleased to show you around.

It just remains for me to say that I look forward to seeing you soon in Dedham, Harwich or Kesgrave, don't leave it too long!

Best wishes,

Paul Milsom
Managing Director

KATHLEEN ON THE RIVER STOUR

'A great way to make an entrance as the new 'Mr & Mrs' on a beautiful summer's day. One of the many bonuses of a riverside wedding at Le Talbooth'.



Many of you will have admired Kathleen, the electric river launch berthed on our landing stage over the summer. Owned and run by the River Stour Trust, we were lucky to have almost exclusive use of Kathleen, due to work being carried out at the Dedham lock. She can run between the Dedham and Stratford St Mary locks, a stretch of river which, whilst it was immortalised by John Constable, is even more tranquil today than in Constable's time. In the early 1800's there would have been barges plying their trade to Sudbury and paying a toll at 'the tollbooth'. Today there is an occasional passing canoeist (who we do not charge!) but no other river boats. So a trip on the Kathleen, with its silent electric engine, is a real treat. Kathleen is the ideal way to arrive or leave your wedding reception in style. We can also arrange 30 minute trips before or after Sunday lunch in the summer.

Kathleen has now been laid up for the winter; the service will begin again in the late spring.

CHANGES AT MAISON TALBOOTH

We have significantly strengthened the team at Maison Talbooth to reflect the importance of the food side of the business.

Evan Marshall, previously head chef at the hotel, returned after a short break to become Head Chef and General Manager, while Sarah Purkis who was Restaurant Manager at Le Talbooth becomes his assistant overseeing the House Parties, weddings and parties. Do call into the Maison if you're passing, both Evan and Sarah would be delighted to see you. A perfect excuse for lunch in the Garden Room or afternoon tea?



- Evan Marshall and Sarah Purkis

HOUSE PARTIES - A GROWING TREND AT MAISON TALBOOTH

House Parties, where a whole group, be it family or friends take over the whole hotel, has become hugely popular at the Maison. The outdoor pool and pool house is clearly a major attraction in the summer, however with the pool heated all year round 'out of season' parties with 'out of season' prices are proving to be very attractive. Call Events Office on 01206 323150.



Don't just take our word for it, see what one of our guests had to say, it sums up perfectly what to expect from a Maison house party!

"Best Birthday Party Ever!"

"I had my 50th birthday at Maison Talbooth - and it was one of the best decisions I've ever made. We had this small but beautifully put together hotel on exclusive hire for 2 nights. The weather was kind, the pool was beautifully warm and we had a great time. On Saturday an external events company provided activities for all of my guests and Maison was the perfect back-drop to our games! The culmination of the celebration was dinner on Saturday night and once again the Maison team were perfect in every way. The food was superb, the staff simply wonderful and a great time was had by all – especially me! I had planned what I thought was a great birthday weekend, but the team at Maison made it perfect. Thank you all so much for such fabulous memories!"



A quick reminder of what's included:

- Afternoon tea on arrival
- Champagne reception
- Three course dinner with wines
- Use of a bar during the evening
- Overnight accommodation
- Full breakfast
- You can of course, book the spa for treatments during your stay.

Prices start from £220 per person which, we're sure you'll agree, is a great rate to have full use of the hotel overnight.

THE HANGAR AT KESGRAVE HALL

THE party venue in Suffolk

As mentioned by Paul at the beginning of the newsletter, work has been going on at pace during the last couple of months to deliver Suffolk's latest party venue. Probably the biggest change is that Kesgrave Hall now has a wedding licence for up to 60 in The Mess and up to 300 in the Hangar – so yes, you can now get married at Kesgrave Hall! This must be one of the most FAQ's to the reception team. Extensive work has taken place landscaping 'the secret garden' an area behind the hotel which will be used exclusively for parties and weddings, as well as turfing the area to the front of the Hangar, complete with a turning circle to

give a sure sense of arrival. Inside, the building has been transformed with state of the art lighting, carpet, silk lining on the walls, black starlit lighting on the ceiling. As well as this there is also a dedicated reception area and bar.

Over 1,200 lucky Christmas partygoers were the first to experience the 'new look' Hangar and the reaction was a definite thumbs up. After all, it's what Suffolk has been waiting for!

For more information please call Kesgrave Hall on 01473 333741



THE MH&R CARD
fantastic offers all year round

THE OFFERS, FEES AND HOW TO JOIN...

Introduced for the benefit of our regular guests - the MH&R Card [launched April 2013] - is about to get even better, and so now really is the time to join!

**2 FOR 1
OFFER**

During January, February and March we're offering a one-off promotion for Card holders. Receive 2 for 1 at lunch and/or dinner at Le Talbooth on Mondays and Tuesdays and the Harbourside on Wednesdays and Thursdays. This applies for the cardholder and up to 7 guests when buying a three course a la carte or set lunch menu, they will get the second dishes of equivalent value for FREE!

There are many benefits and very few restrictions, for example, outside of special seasonal events such as Christmas Day, our dining offers apply to any and every day of the week, even at peak times!

**15%
OFF**

15% OFF ALL FOOD in the Harbourside and Le Talbooth. [Does not apply during 2 for 1 Months as you'll receive 50% OFF during that offer!]

**5%
OFF**

5% OFF ALL FOOD in the Ha'Penny Brasserie [Harwich], milsoms [Dedham] and milsoms Kesgrave Hall [Ipswich].

PLUS we'll be running exclusive monthly and seasonal promotions for all MH&Rs Cardholders.

Single membership is £60, joint membership £100 and business membership [allowing up to 5 members] is £200.

To apply, fill in an application form [found at all of our locations], or please contact suebunting@milsomhotels.com

SPEND A DAY BY THE SEA

The Pier at Harwich is a break from the norm in everyway! Being only a few steps from the water and the docked fishing vessels seems to make the freshest seafood taste even better! There are many ways to use The Pier, drop in to the Ha'Penny Bistro for breakfast, coffee, lunch, afternoon tea or dinner, make a booking in the The Harbourside Restaurant on the first floor or perhaps do both and combine with a stay at The Pier Hotel.



The Mayflower Line

There are so many ways to get to Harwich. By sea is the first that springs to mind, but Paul recently caught the train from Manningtree to Harwich Town. This got us thinking - with a ticket from Colchester costing £7, £5 from Manningtree and £6 from Ipswich, it makes sense to 'let the train take the strain'. Once in Harwich, it's an easy 5 minute stroll to The Pier. Besides which, it makes a great day or evening out – why take the train to London when Harwich is just on your doorstep?

The Mayflower line from Manningtree to Harwich is so called to commemorate the fact that the Mayflower started her famous voyage to America from Harwich (Plymouth was merely her last port of call). The train line, as well as having an evocative name, also offers splendid views of the Stour estuary en route to Harwich.

- Sunset by the Harbour

SUNDAY ROAST IN THE HARBOURSIDE



The Harbourside is rightly recognised for the quality of Tom Bushell's seafood cooking. However, for many of us Sundays mean a delicious roast, we're happy to say that roast beef with Yorkshire pudding, roast potatoes and all the trimmings is on the menu every Sunday lunchtime. Make a visit to Harwich your new year's resolution, there's plenty to see and do as well as the compulsory bracing walk along the Prom to Dovercourt of course!

TAKE IN A FILM TOO...

The Electric Palace is just around the corner, and shows all the top films, either in the evening or a matinee performance. With the Ha'penny open all day and The Harbourside open from 6.00pm, you can enjoy an early supper before going to the cinema. It's well worth a visit, to find out more have a look at their website www.electricpalace.com and sign up to the film alerts.



LOOKING AHEAD...

Charity Bike Ride on Tuesday 29th April 2014

Following on from last year's successful 'Tour de Tendring' we are going to repeat the performance. Starting at milsoms and ending at Maison Talbooth for a BBQ, all we ask is that you raise at least £60 per person.

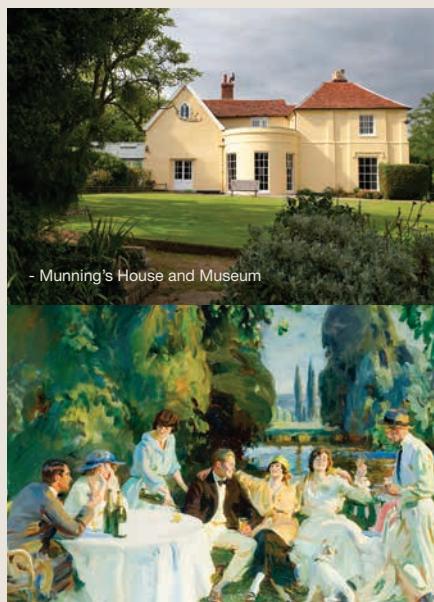
The ride is approximately 26 miles, takes 3 hours including an obligatory pit stop at the Cherry Tree in Tendring. This year the money raised will go to the Essex Foundation. This charity is an independent charitable trust improving the quality of life of people in Essex by investing and distributing funds on behalf of a wide range of donors. If you want to enter the bike ride, please email bridget@milsomhotels.com

MUNNING'S MUSEUM IN DEDHAM

Readers with long memories will recall Gerald's campaign to achieve greater access to the historic Munning's Museum at Castle House in Dedham. He was so passionate about the house and gardens which remain mostly unchanged from when the artist lived there. A wide variety of his paintings hang on every wall from the iconic gypsy studies to his many equine paintings.

With the release of 'Summer in February' earlier in the year starring Downton Abbey's Dan Stevens, Munning's is very much in the news at the moment and has finally been forgiven for a public outburst at the Royal Academy which took place some 65 years ago.

The museum has a new board of trustees and appointed a full time director, so there are great plans for Castle House which will include longer opening hours and specific exhibitions. The house re-opens in March but do make sure you leave time to visit next time you are in Dedham.



- Munning's House and Museum

LAST MAN STANDING

Paul Milsom received a highly prestigious 'Last Man Standing' award at this years Pride of Britain Hotels conference dinner.

The first ever trophy was presented to recognise the individual who was last to leave the bar on the eve of the hotel conference. We won't discuss the actual time of departure but David Morgan-Hewitt

noted that Paul was a worthy recipient for the first award given his consistent performance over a number years! This years conference was significant in marking a major breakthrough, whereby Relais & Chateaux Hotels were granted permission to attain dual consortium membership allowing them to join Pride of Britain Hotels. Maison Talbooth is the founder member of Pride of Britain Hotels.

Find out more at www.prideofbritainhotels.com



DEDHAM OLD BOYS

The history of Dedham Old Boys Football Club can be traced back to the Dedham Grammar School team which played an early match against Harwich and Parkeston Football Club (The Shrimpers) in 1877. In the present day, the Old Boys First Team (ironic really as the average age of the team is in the early twenties) play in the Essex & Suffolk Border League Premier Division.

The club continues to compete in arguably one of the toughest leagues in the region and stems from attracting and developing young, local lads to the club. We were only too happy to sponsor the team, which is pictured here proudly displaying their new strip for the 2013/14 season.



- Award presented by David Morgan-Hewitt of The Goring

AFTERNOON TEAS

In 1952, our business at Le Talbooth was founded on afternoon tea, and sixty years later we have introduced a full afternoon tea at Maison Talbooth, Kesgrave Hall and now The Pier. The 'full works' includes a delicious selection of sandwiches, cakes and of course buttermilk scones with clotted cream and strawberry jam. If you feel like it, add a glass or two of Champagne for a truly special occasion!



► The Pier started serving 'Afternoon Tea by the Sea' earlier in the year and it's a superb place to while away a couple of hours after a walk along the prom. The Pier serves their afternoon tea either in the Ha'penny Bistro or in the Angel Sitting Room.



There's no need to book at Kesgrave Hall but do call the Maison on 01206 322367 and The Pier 01255 241212

AN EVENING WITH BLOWERS AT THE PIER

Thursday 20th March 2014

Henry Blofeld came to Dedham in October and regaled a packed restaurant at Le Talbooth with cricketing stories and memories of his childhood. Henry is always entertaining so we knew that we were in for a memorable evening with much hilarity. So much so, Henry asked if Paul would host a dinner at The Pier in March. We agreed of course! We promise you that this dinner is not to be missed, and we know that places will sell fast 'you dear old thing'. Tickets £50 per person. To book, call Louise on 01255 241212.



- Henry & Valerie with Paul & Geraldine

SPRING INTO MILSMS

January can be a quiet month after the frantic activity of Christmas and it's good to have something planned and in the diary.
As always, we've put together a series of special overnight breaks for you to enjoy in the first three months of 2014.



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JANUARY



DINNER'S ON US

Yes, it's really true, you pay for bed and breakfast and we'll give you dinner!

Included is:

- Three course dinner
with free choice from the full menu
- Overnight accommodation with full breakfast
in the best available room

milsoms, Dedham £85

milsoms Kesgrave Hall £85

The Pier at Harwich £75 (dinner in the Ha'penny)
£15 supplement for dinner in Harbourside

Maison Talbooth £135 (dinner at Le Talbooth)

This break is available throughout January excluding Saturdays, subject to availability and based on two sharing

FEBRUARY



MONTH OF ROMANCE

This break is always hugely popular,
so book early for your preferred date.

Included is:

- Three course dinner
with free choice from the full menu
- Overnight accommodation with full breakfast
in the best available room

- Red Rose, chocolates

- Bottle of Champagne

milsoms, Dedham £115

milsoms Kesgrave Hall £115

The Pier at Harwich £115 (dinner in Harbourside)

Maison Talbooth £165 (dinner at Le Talbooth)

This break is available throughout February excluding Saturdays and 14th February, subject to availability and based on two sharing

MARCH



SPRING IN YOUR STEP

Afternoon tea and Prosecco will put a spring into everyone's step!

Included is:

- Three course dinner
with free choice from the full menu
- Overnight accommodation with full breakfast
in the best available room

- Afternoon tea

- Bottle of Prosecco in your room on arrival

milsoms, Dedham £115

(your afternoon tea will be at Maison Talbooth)

milsoms Kesgrave Hall £115

The Pier at Harwich £115 (dinner in Harbourside)

Maison Talbooth £165 (dinner at Le Talbooth)

This break is available throughout March excluding Saturdays, subject to availability and based on two sharing

All prices shown are per person



RACING FORM 2014

Le Talbooth has been steadily adding to their Racing Days over the past few years. They are very popular, allowing race goers to have all the fun of the day without having to travel miles! We always include a delicious lunch as well as Pridmores, onsite bookmakers for the bets and plenty of TV screens to let you keep in touch with the action (and the fashions at Ascot of course)

Grand National

in the River Room at Le Talbooth
Saturday 5th April
£60 per person

Derby Day

in the River Room at Le Talbooth
Saturday 7th June
£60 per person

For bookings please call: 01206 323150

Royal Ascot

in the River Room at Le Talbooth
Wednesday 18th June
£80 per person

Thursday 19th June (Ladies Day)

£92 per person

in the marquee at Le Talbooth

WEDDING FAIRS

Milsom Weddings have teamed up with the Suffolk Wedding Fairy, who is actually Nicola McEvoy to offer wedding fairs both at Le Talbooth and Kesgrave Hall. Over the past year, we've run two in the marquee - one with over 6 inches of snow on the ground, which was interesting but didn't deter the brides or our suppliers.



We have already booked the dates for 2014

The Hangar at Kesgrave Hall

Sunday 16th February (just after Valentine's Day!)

The Marquee at Le Talbooth

Sunday 6th April and Sunday 21st September.

You are more than welcome to just turn up on the day but it's always best to pre-register with the Suffolk Wedding Fairy www.suffolkweddingfairy.co.uk. That way, Nicola can keep you up to date with any news.

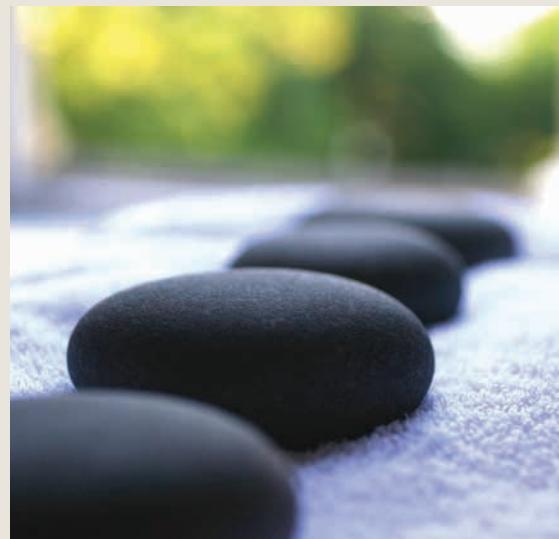
Also planned is an Open Afternoon at The Pier, on Saturday 22nd March. The Pier is such a unique venue with an amazing backdrop for the wedding photos. We can even arrange a Champagne reception on the helicopter deck of the Trinity Lightship that's moored on the Ha'penny Pier.

THE 5TH SUPER AND CLASSIC CAR RALLY

Wednesday 14th and Thursday 15th May 2014

It's our turn in 2014! Started several years ago by Paul Milsom and the late Paul Whittome (Hoste Arms, Norfolk), the rally was set up as an excuse to indulge their love of fast cars accompanied by good food, good wine and good friends. The night before the rally, all the cars, their drivers and co-drivers meet at Le Talbooth for a Champagne reception followed by three course dinner in the marquee.

Cars can be left at Le Talbooth as we arrange security! The next morning, before setting off to rally through the Suffolk countryside, prizes will be given for the 'Best Super Car' and the 'Best Classic Car'. First stop is Kentwell Hall in Long Melford for coffee before lunch at the final destination, Hengrave Hall, just north of Bury St Edmunds.
Please email bridget@milsomhotels.com for more information.



the treatment rooms
£15 VOUCHER

We want you to relax and spoil yourself in the New Year with one of our fabulous treatments - facial, massage, pedicure... the choice is yours!

To help you on your way, use this £15 voucher and enjoy!

Terms & Conditions Voucher can only be used Monday - Thursday. Only one voucher per guest per visit. Voucher to be used as part payment of a treatment. Not to be used in conjunction with any other offer. Voucher expiry date 27th March 2014.



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talbooth@milsomhotels.com



MAISON TALBOOTH

plus
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MILSMS

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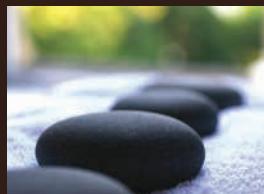
milsoms KESGRAVE HALL

plus
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Tel: 01473 333741
reception@kesgravehall.com



TALBOOTH CATERING

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THE TREATMENT ROOMS

Maison Talbooth, Stratford Road,
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treatmentrooms@milsomhotels.com



WEDDINGS

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