

MH&R *newsletter*

2015 / 2016 news from Milsom Hotels & Restaurants



MILSOM®
HOTELS & RESTAURANTS

THE PIER - RELAUNCH 2016

BRAND NEW! THE MILSOM CARD

£15 SPA VOUCHER INSIDE

A NEW HORIZON

Happy New Year to you all and let's hope 2016 will be a vintage year. Personally I've always preferred even numbered years, so I start this year in a very optimistic mood especially as we have a huge programme of investment over the next few months. This will make sure we are looking at our best come the summer. Investing money in our business is exciting and rewarding and our success over recent years has meant we are able to be even more ambitious with our plans. It also means we are able to achieve the required changes sooner rather than later.

Last year we were focussing on Milsoms and we have been delighted how well the new look there has been received. We even managed to get a reasonable review from the Daily Mail's An Inspector Calls (which is never easy) under the heading The Only Stay is Essex. Journalists, of course, can't resist having a go at good old Essex, but we are quite happy that they think we are a good advert for it!

This year we turn our attention to The Pier in Harwich, having successfully gained planning and listed building consent in October. The scale of the work means that we close our doors on 4th January for 19 weeks, but we will open in May with a fantastic new look and with a new style of operation. In many respects we will have come full circle back to 1978 when The Pier opened with one great restaurant on the first floor. Who says business is not cyclical? The full details of our plans for The Pier are carried in this newsletter, but my wife Geraldine has designed fantastic new interior spaces and Stas is working his magic on the menus, wine and bar offering that will bring together the best of the Ha'penny and Harbourside restaurants. This project is all about putting The Pier on top of its game for the next 10 - 15 years, but despite all these changes, the three things that will remain the same are our commitment to delicious food, great service and warm hospitality. These have been the cornerstone of our business in Harwich for the last 38 years and they will be for years ahead.

Meanwhile on the wedding front, we are thrilled to be launching an exclusive new wedding venue in Brentwood. We have been working with Peter and Paola Sanders, the owners of Hutton Hall, on their plans for their beautiful manor house for a number of years. We received the great news in early December that the various permissions have been granted. Refurbishment work is already underway and we hope to be up and running this summer.

I hope to have the opportunity of meeting you in Dedham, Kesgrave and particularly in Harwich during 2016.

Paul Milsom
Managing Director



A stunning new wedding venue for 2016



A new voyage for The Pier in 2016

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**

Maison Talbooth **£145** (dinner at Le Talbooth)

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

**Please note, Le Talbooth is closed on a Sunday night in winter so guests have the choice of either having Sunday Lunch at Le Talbooth or dinner at Milsoms.*

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 **£120**

Milsoms Kesgrave Hall **£120**

Maison Talbooth **£175** (dinner at Le Talbooth)

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

MARCH



SPRING INTO MILSOMS

Cream 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

Cream tea*

Bottle of Prosecco in your room on arrival

Milsoms, Dedham **£115**

Milsoms Kesgrave Hall **£115**

Maison Talbooth **£170** (dinner at Le Talbooth)

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

**Scones, cream and jam*

All prices shown are per person

LAUNCHING JANUARY

THE
MILSOM
CARD

10% OFF

- / ALL FOOD EVERYWHERE (15% at Le Talbooth)
- / ALL HOTEL BOOKINGS
- / ALL INDIVIDUAL SPA TREATMENTS
- / ALL MEETING ROOM AND PRIVATE ROOM HIRE
- / FOR UP TO 10 GUESTS

PLUS MUCH MUCH MORE

£60 per year for a single membership / £100 joint membership / £200 business membership

We've revamped and rebranded our loyalty card. The Milsom Card is available for individual, joint and business membership and you can sign up via our new website or by filling out the simple form in any of our restaurants or hotels.

But the card doesn't just have a new name – we've also improved the benefits and you can now use The Milsom Card at all our hotels and restaurants, enjoying **10% OFF all food at every restaurant, 10% OFF every hotel booking (complimentary upgrades where available), 10% OFF any individual spa treatment, 10% OFF private dining and meeting room hire, 10 special card holder promotions every year and much more, such as the 2 for 1 offer at Le Talbooth.** Plus we're retaining the **15% OFF food at Le Talbooth** – so whilst 10 really is the magic number, we wanted to keep any benefits previously enjoyed. You can even sign up on the day of your visit and take advantage of your benefits straight away.

www.milsomhotels.com/themilsomcard / call 01206 323150

Terms and conditions apply



THE HANGAR

The Hangar at Milsoms Kesgrave Hall continues to exceed our expectations and has hosted a wide range of very successful parties and weddings. Our personal favourite was the party we organised to mark the 70th anniversary of VE Day. We promised that it would be the party of 2015 and it was! Over £20,000 was raised for ABF The Soldiers' Charity and everyone made a huge effort and dressed for the occasion. There were generals, admirals, land girls and spivs as well as a great display of period military vehicles.

We were lucky to secure The Band of the Parachute Regiment who performed the Sunset Ceremony and Beat the Retreat on the main lawn before dinner.

Take a look online at the VE Party video produced for us by Natasha Stanbridge
www.milsomhotels.com/videos or the photos
www.milsomhotels.com/ve-day-2015-photos

EMPLOYEE OF THE SEASON

In 2015 we launched the Employee of the Season awards. All members of staff are invited to vote for their peers every three months resulting in one winner from each of our hotels and restaurants. The main prize for each of them is an overnight stay with dinner at any one of our properties.

At the end of the year, all the winners go forward into the selection of 'Employee of the Year' award which will be decided by Paul Milsom and Stas Anastasiades.

Our winners thus far

Winter: Simona Lereimie; Kate Woodbridge; Tamsin Newberry; Robyn Gifford; Sarah Cole and Harvey Steward

Spring: Ian Rhodes; Sarah Purkis; Stefan Farnworth; Will Mirrington; Stevyn Nash and Scott Sampson

Summer: Louise Rowley; Zack Morton; Carly Harman; Ben Rush; Luke Alabaster and Gwenny Harding-Hider

Our Autumn winners will be announced at the end of December with the first Employee of the Year lunch in early January. Besides getting great prizes, the winner will be awarded a trophy which will be displayed at their workplace for the year.



TAITTINGER VISIT

Staff training is very important across the group and we were pleased to send a group to Reims to visit the Taittinger House. Taittinger is a family run Champagne house, which we are lucky enough to have as our house Champagne.

BRAND NEW WEBSITES

It's all happening online with the launch of our new hotels & restaurants and dedicated wedding websites.

If you've not already visited then typing www.milsomhotels.com or www.milsomweddings.com will take you to mobile adaptive websites that keep you up to date with all the latest news, offers, pictures and menus, plus fast and simple links to book our hotels online or purchase gift vouchers. We've also included a 'social wall' where you can view all things social through our Pinterest, Facebook and Twitter networks and we encourage you to sign up for our email newsletters or follow us through social networks to stay right up to date with Milsom Hotels & Restaurants.



Winner of the Best Loved
'Online Excellence & Best Hotel
Website' Award 2015.

visit www.milsomhotels.com or our dedicated wedding site www.milsomweddings.com

Now mobile friendly and simple to use!

BRAND NEW BEDHAMMS!

The Dedham bedrooms are moving forward. Milsoms and Maison Talbooth have both had bedrooms updated and upgraded with new interiors – designed by Geraldine Milsom.

Room 7 at Milsoms

Room 7 is the first room at Milsoms to be completed. It's the smallest of 15 rooms and was the perfect place to install the new design, complete with contemporary but retro themed furniture, the first hard floor to be installed in a Milsom Hotel and the very latest luxury fabrics and most importantly air-conditioning – including our trademark thick and furry throws. Room 7 is the benchmark that our other bedrooms at Milsoms will follow, each being given their own twist and unique features.

Call 01206 322795 to find out more and make a booking.

Shelley at Maison Talbooth

Shelley is one of the outstanding rooms at Maison Talbooth with first floor views out of two sides of the country house hotel.

The views out to the pool house and across the Dedham Vale can be enjoyed from the large and luxurious bed. Shelley's new décor is splendid - with high backed oversized chairs, a beautiful neutral carpet that you sink in to, an ornate black chandelier that matches the table where you can find your fresh fruit, bedroom guide, complimentary water and SkyHD remote control.

The bathroom is of equal proportion with a large walk in shower, his and her sinks, views across the vale and a centrepiece roll top stand alone (and oversized!) jet bath.

Call 01206 322367 to find out more and make a booking



The newly refurbished Room 7 at Milsoms, Dedham



Room 7 at Milsoms



Shelley, Maison Talbooth

HARWICH

The home of the Mayflower - our part in the story

Where did the Mayflower sail from is undoubtedly a trick pub quiz question. Plymouth would be the almost unanimous answer, however, the Mayflower did indeed start from her home port of Harwich where she had been constructed and the Captain, Christopher Jones, lived in Kings Head Street. In preparation for the 500th anniversary, a replica of the Mayflower is being built in Harwich and will sail to New England in 2020.

Standout (the creative agency working with the Millsom Group for 10 years) donated their time to create a distinctive new logo, which was offered to The Mayflower Project. We're pleased to say that the committee loved the new logo and are now using it in all communications relating to the project.

You can find out more about this historic project at www.harwichmayflower.com





THE PIER RE-LAUNCHES!

We are about to embark on an exciting new voyage in the history of The Pier. Dining trends have changed enormously and the time is right for us to create something completely new and exciting for the future in Harwich.

THE PIER RELAUNCHING

After months of planning and decision making, we have gained permission to overhaul this great Essex landmark. We will be merging the two restaurants into one quality led brasserie on the first floor, open all day, everyday. This stunning area will capture the light, space and views over to the Stour and Orwell estuaries.

The new restaurant will seat 100 people and some of the tables can be pre-booked. The full menu available from 12 noon right through to 9.30pm (10.00pm on a Friday and Saturday night). All day dining is a key characteristic of the Milsom brand and The Pier will continue to deliver that for pre-booked and walk-in guests alike.

One of the things we are most excited about is extending the balcony, meaning we will have a handful of tables outside, allowing you to enjoy incredible views over the water to Felixstowe and Shotley – we're sure these tables will be very popular during the summer months.



Artist's impression of the new balcony at The Pier



On the ground floor, an exciting new bar will offer a limited menu during the day. A private dining room will be created on the right side, seating 24 people. This room will be perfect for meetings, lunches, dinners and even small weddings, as the Angel sitting room will be retaining its civil ceremony license.

To enable easier access to the new restaurant and the bedrooms on the second floor, a four person lift is being installed through the middle of the building.

There will be a brand new state of the art kitchen on the first floor and a preparation and pastry section downstairs – complete with a dedicated kitchen lift connecting the two floors.

This extensive project means we are having to close the business for at least four months, but when we reopen, The Pier will once again be standing proudly on the quay in Harwich and looking forward to welcoming existing and new guests for years to come.

HISTORY OF THE TWO RESTAURANTS



The Pier at Harwich



Keep up to date with The Pier news by following us on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.

We will also be sending out a few e-newsletters, if you'd like to keep in touch let Sue know on suebunting@milsomhotels.com

We are planning to post regular updates and pictures on our website as well as on our social network platforms, so make sure you follow the progress of this very exciting new era for The Pier.

Whilst we're closed we would love to see you at our other locations.

Find out more at www.milsomhotels.com

Whilst thinking about this development we reflected on the history of The Pier and where we are! Gerald Milsom created the business in 1977 following a trip to New England with Richard Wheeler and Stanley Bragg. As an aside, almost 40 years on it shows remarkable continuity that some of our wines are still coming from the Wheeler family and Stanley Bragg Associates have produced the design for this latest development. When The Pier opened there was one dining area on the first floor and two bars on the ground floor.



Seafood platter



The current Harbourside Restaurant

It soon became apparent in the late 70s that our restaurant customers and a rather rowdy public bar did not really mix! We surrendered the full licence and created the Ha'Penny Pier with a bistro menu on the ground floor and the upstairs restaurant became a more sophisticated 'table cloth' seafood restaurant. Over recent years, and the move towards more informal dining, it has been difficult to have two very different restaurants in the one building. The food offered became increasingly 'blurred' with our downstairs diners requesting lobster and those upstairs asking for fish and chips!

CORPORATE PARTIES

The Hangar at Milsoms Kesgrave Hall

Take the work out of holding a party, by letting us do all the planning. We will take care of all the paperwork from sending out the invitations to managing replies and booking the entertainment. Give us your guest list and then you can just eat, drink and party!

The Hangar is perfect for an exclusive corporate party with a sparkling star cloth, silk lined walls and state of the art lighting which gives the room a nightclub feel with the flick of a switch.

Our specialist party concierge service includes:

- Exclusive venue hire
- Reception fizz
- Three course dinner with coffee
- Half bottle of wine per guest
- Professional disco
- Cash bar throughout the evening
- All the above from £69.95 + VAT per person based on 100 guests
- Any additional guests can be invited at £50 + VAT to a maximum of 250

If you'd like to know more, do get in touch with Catherine at Milsoms Kesgrave Hall either by email catherine@kesgravehall.com or on 01473 333741



Dance the night away in The Hangar



Perfect for corporate parties



A stunning party venue

#BEERTOPIA FESTIVAL AT LE TALBOOTH

Yes, #Beertopia really did happen and very different from the usual events held in the marquee at Le Talbooth!

'All the beer you can drink for £20' was the catchphrase and more than 250 people turned up to do just that, with a choice of 12 craft beers from across the UK. We also included Prosecco for those who preferred the grape to the hop. Local Suffolk band, Space Cake, entertained everyone with an interesting selection of music including Dylan on the banjo and his bandmate on the digeridoo!

Plans are afoot for #Beertopia2 in 2016, if you want to be on the contact list, please email suebunting@milsomhotels.com



ON SALE 6 - 10PM

COLCHESTER CANCER CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE



Every year we host a large number of charity events and try to be as supportive as possible with auction and raffle prizes (sadly we can't say yes to everyone). We are also part of the Essex Foundation who make donations to local community groups. In addition to this we have adopted the Colchester Cancer Centre as our key charity this year to raise funds for their new chemotherapy centre. By way of background, Colchester Hospital benefitted from a £25M investment from the NHS to build a state of the art radiology department. The building was designed to enable a floor to be put above it for an equally brilliant chemotherapy unit. However to make this a reality £4.5M is required from the local community. This will make Colchester one of the most outstanding cancer centres in the whole country.

A HISTORICAL ANOMALY ON STRATFORD ROAD



Recently we purchased the land on the southern border between Milsoms and the Stratford Road to Dedham from our neighbour.

The general assumption must have been that we owned the land. However when the A12 was constructed in the 1960s together with the new bridge and approach road it did not fall across existing boundaries and as such there was a strip of land adjacent to the road, which belonged to our neighbour. All these years later we have just purchased the land and will be tidying and planting it up over the coming months. One thing is for sure, we'll be keeping the snowdrops and everyone will have a better chance of seeing them every spring.

Visit our new website - www.milsomhotels.com

WHAT'S NEW IN THE SPA?

The Treatment Rooms at Maison Talbooth grows from strength to strength. During the past few months several new exciting techniques and products have been introduced.

With the introduction of Aromatherapy Associates and their amazing body and facial products, treatments don't get any better. Using a completely customised treatment plan from start to finish, each treatment begins with a selection of essential oils perfect for how you're feeling on the day of your treatment. You'll be left feeling amazing, relaxed, revived and completely uplifted - obviously they are a must to try. The favourite is definitely the Ultimate Aromatherapy Associates Experience massage.

Jessica have introduced new nail polish Phenom - a polish that lasts up to 10 days, has a gel like finish with a brilliant shine and dries in no time at all. Definitely, a revolution in nail polish and perfect if you are in a hurry. Come and try a file and Phenom for only £17, or indulge in a full Treatment Room manicure for £47.



The Treatment Rooms have also introduced St Tropez spray tanning, which has been a hit with all our clients for parties, holidays or for the uplifting golden glow we all love.

Our most recent launch of a brand called **delilah** - a collection of luxury make up and brushes, a brand born out of friendship, passion for cosmetics and the desire to help women of all ages look and feel beautiful, it truly is an amazing collection of those essential 'must have' make up items - we are hooked! Pop in to the Treatment Rooms for a consultation with our therapists soon.

The Spa sends out an email every month with details of their spa offer of the month, for instance January's offer is the 85 minute Ultimate Aromatherapy Associates massage which is usually £90 and discounted to £70 for the month. If you'd like to receive information from the Spa, please email emilyspa@milsomhotels.com and she'll add you to the list. You can also keep up to date on Twitter and Facebook.

£15 VOUCHER

the treatment rooms



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, please
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 24th March 2016.



RACING FORM 2016

We love our Racing Calendar at Le Talbooth and judging from the number of returning guests, so do you!

The calendar now includes the Grand National, Derby Day and of course the perennial favourite Royal Ascot, which takes place over two days, firstly in the River Room and then the next day (Ladies' Day) in the Marquee. These events combine a delicious lunch with onsite bookmakers Pridmores and plenty of TV screens to see the action without all the aggravation of having to get to the racecourse itself. And you can be assured of a good lunch. Everyone's a winner!



Grand National £70 per person

Saturday 9th April

Three course lunch including coffee

Derby Day £70 per person

Saturday 4th June

Three course lunch including coffee

Royal Ascot £85 per person

Wednesday 15th June in the River Room

Champagne reception

Four course lunch including coffee

Royal Ascot Ladies' Day £100 per person

Thursday 16th June in the Marquee

Champagne reception and band

Four course lunch including coffee

River trips on electric river boat Kathleen

To book please call: 01206 323150

EXPLORE THE RIVER STOUR

What can you do on a wet, windy October morning with a group of work colleagues who need some exercise before heading down to Harwich for lunch?

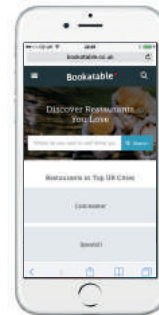
Call for Gordon from Outdoor Leisure Hire of course, He arrives with a selection of canoes, kayaks, lifejackets and wet weather gear, gives you a quick demo on what to do and what not to do, and waves goodbye as you paddle down to Dedham. We have found this a great way for businesses to spend a couple of hours for a spot of 'team building'. If time allows, you can carry on past Dedham to Flatford and then to Cattawade where the river Stour becomes tidal. **Next stop Harwich, but that's another story.**



BOOK A TABLE ONLINE

We're pleased to announce that in February 2016 you will be able to book a table online at Le Talbooth using the mobile friendly online booking portal - 'Book-a-Table'.

We will of course still be taking bookings by telephone and in person, but have added another method for the ultimate convenience. The booking portal is available 24 hours a day all year round and is very simple to use.



WELCOME SUE!



We are pleased to say that Sue Tasker has joined the MH&R team to head up Corporate Sales across the group. She will work with all the properties in Dedham, Harwich and Kesgrave to enhance the corporate activity of the business for accommodation, meetings and dining.

Sue said "I am delighted to be working with Milsom Hotels, it's a company that I've always admired and enjoyed. I'm looking forward to meeting the many companies who already work with the group, as well as introducing new businesses and communicating the unique corporate offering the Milsom brand provides".

Sue is based at Le Talbooth in Dedham, do contact her if you would like to be added to the corporate database and receive monthly newsletters
suetasker@milsomhotels.com

WEDDINGS

Open days and wedding shows 2016

Weddings are such a key part of our business with Le Talbooth and Maison Talbooth and now The Hangar at Milsoms Kesgrave Hall, hence the need for a dedicated wedding website. With such a wide range of different spaces we can look after many types of weddings, from intimate parties in the Weavers Room at Le Talbooth, larger gatherings in the River Room and the Marquee in Dedham to seating up to 300 in The Hangar at Milsoms Kesgrave Hall. We have an event team in Dedham and Kesgrave Hall as well as a trusted list of suppliers who can help and guide you from the initial contact right through to the day itself.

To showcase our properties we're organising a series of wedding shows next year with follow-up open days or evenings. The latter are really helpful as you can see the venue laid up for a wedding. If you'd like to be part of the wedding contact list, please email events@milsomhotels.com or follow the event team on their social platforms such as Facebook, Pinterest and Twitter.

We also envisage the new private dining room at The Pier will be a wonderful space for a small, intimate wedding to be used in conjunction with the sitting room, which will still retain its civil ceremony license – look out for further details when The Pier reopens.

LE TALBOOTH WEDDING SHOWS

Sunday 3rd April &
Sunday 18th September
10.30am to 3.00pm

THE HANGAR AT KESGRAVE HALL WEDDING SHOW

Sunday 21st February
10.30am to 3.00pm





MILSOM[®]
HOTELS & RESTAURANTS

Great places to eat, drink and stay™



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

plus
HOUSE
PARTIES



THE PIER

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

plus
THE
HANGAR



MILSOM CATERING

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



THE TREATMENT ROOMS

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



WEDDINGS

For more information visit:
www.milsomweddings.com



PRIVATE DINING

For more information visit:
www.milsomhotels.com



MEETINGS

For more information visit:
www.milsomhotels.com/meetings