



The Barb Wire

The newsletter for the discerning old Barbarian

Spring 2000 Number 11

50 years on...

It seems like only 49 years ago that La Barbarie first opened as a hotel, but, as Alan, Penny and Leon Dell pointed out to us, it's (wait for it) 50!



As a silver-haired Einstein was putting the finishing touches to his General Field Theory in an attempt to expand his Theory of Relativity, as he sat in his little room and squinted out into the darkness thinking like mad, little did he realise that across the sea, something marvellous was stirring. Yes – La Barbarie was first opening as a hotel! Coincidentally, the UN Building (in NY OK?) was finally completed, while Benny Goodman and the NBC Symphony Orchestra premiered 'Clarinet Concerto' by Aaron

Copland and Pope Pious XII proclaimed the dogma of the bodily assumption of the Virgin Mary – but then you knew that. La Barbarie, therefore, has been around longer than colour television, (which was only introduced into the United States in 1951). We now have colour televisions in every room (even the little dark room under the stairs were we keep the staff). In 1950 Guernsey had only been free of occupation by five years, with rationing and major rebuilding taking place all over the island, gun point and

bunkers that littered the coast were still dangerous and the beaches were covered in mines and anti tank devices making bathing impossible. Even in just 50 years, the building that we now know and love as 'La Barbarie' has gone through many changes. Recent improvements, as readers of this fine tome will already know, saw the reception move and a new frontage exposed (!)

If you are celebrating your 50th birthday this year, please let us know and we will send you some crisps or something.

DID IT MYSELF!

In the last issue, we explained about the advantages of booking your flights directly with the airline under the heading TIME FOR DIY?

Well somebody only went and took that literally didn't he?



Handy Andy Kane from Changing Rooms is the one on the left. The Handy Andy from La Barbarie is the one who should have bought the drinks.

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TheNEWS

WINDOWS 2000

They keep the draught out and reduce the 'cars on gravel' noise. Yes, the hotel has this winter installed new uPVC windows and doors throughout the hotel except room 15. (Only joking Maureen). All the self catering apartments windows will be replaced in January 2001.

A COSY CORNER?

This coming winter will see a refurbishment of our little cosy

bar and I know that some of you have very definite ideas. (Hello Dave from *the Tulip!*). Any serious ideas to how it should look and feel will be gratefully accepted throughout the season. The gentleman who suggested that Adam our Bar Steward should grow facial hair and wear floral waistcoats was last seen coaching the local Morris Dancers troupe.

ROY DUFF

One of our favourite regulars wrote to us and we must send our sincere apologies to Roy and his family who have been missing their 'Barb Wires' (chance would be a fine thing...). Hope you enjoy the back issues and of course we hope to see you soon. Yes – even Everton fans are welcome. (Uuup the toffees!)

DONT FORGET!

If you can get your flights organised direct with the carrier for suitable dates, we will then guarantee you a **15%** discount from our public tariff for your accommodation costs. Please check that accommodation is available before you book your flights.

Jersey European Airways

Tel: 0990 676676

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| <i>Gatwick</i> | <i>Exeter</i> |
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| <i>Cardiff</i> | |



GUERNSEY TEMPTS VISITORS WITH FESTIVAL OF FOOD

Fine dining and value for money is once again top of the dinner menu when islanders and visitors have the opportunity to gorge on the island's abundant seafood and fresh produce in the Annual Festival of Food from **March 17th to April 13th**.

Eating out is one of the chief

attractions of a holiday in Guernsey throughout the year. However, in Spring the island marks its culinary diversity with a competition in which over 50 restaurants compete in a variety of menu categories. La Barbarie will be entering in two categories, the £10 lunch menu (which we WON last year) and the £20 dinner menu, a category in which we have placed in the top six consistently. Please see the enclosed leaflet.

Meet Mr. Stuart Smith



Stuart is a master of disguise, as you can see here, all these people are actually Stuart! (except the one in the beard and Mr C of course). Left to right, Stuart Bond, Prince Abdul Smith and Captain SS...

In the last of our new feature (?) Meet Stuart Smith, we will be er... meeting Mr. Stuart Smith the dashing No.2 at La Barbarie. (We all know who No.1 is!) The aforementioned Mr. Smith has been exercising his hospitality skills with us since September 1997.

Stuart was born and bred (some say built) in Buntingford (made up name?) in Hertfordshire and following a successful time as coach to the school's netball cheerleaders team, he qualified as an engineer. Now being an

ear on an engine wasn't as exciting as he had always been led to believe so he 'switched professions'. (I think this means he just packed it in...).

Grande Fromage, Top Dog, No.1 Mr. C is naturally very pleased to have an assistant of Stuarts calibre though he is often slightly jealous at Stuart's popularity with the lady guests.

Regulars will know all about his charm and professionalism and as Andy Coleman will tell anyone whose listening "To do a good job you need a good No.2".

WINNERS KNOW WINNERS

Following a successful season, the Sussex Over 50 team accepted the challenge to play against Guernsey. Local friend Eric Legg liaised closely with Sussex's captain and set the date for 5th June... how do we know all this? They've only gone and sent us their newsletter! Why? Well if you carefully turn to the back page (not this one Maureen...), there's a little picture of our very own Andy along with the winning team who, of course, stayed at La Barbarie.

**PRICES STILL HELD
FROM 98/99!**

Summer Mini Break 2000

(1st May - 30th September)

3 nights for £230 per person

(Based on two people sharing a twin or double
room, booked on a bed and breakfast basis)



Offer Includes:

Return flights from Southampton or Gatwick
(**excluding** airport departure tax, includes FREE parking
in Southampton and Gatwick maximum 4 days)

Other departure airports/ports are available subject to supplement

Bed and Breakfast Accommodation (all rooms en suite)

FREE Hire Car for 3 days -
to meet your flight or delivered to hotel (excluding petrol and insurance/please
remember to bring your driving licence!)

FREE Airport transfers in Guernsey

Extra Nights Available:

Bed and Breakfast - £35 per person per night
Car Hire - £12 per day (excluding petrol and insurance)

All bookings must be made direct with
the hotel quoting 'Summer Mini Break'

Booking in conjunction with ABTA Bonded Agent.

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