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David Thorley Publisher, Local List



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## September





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Wednesday 22

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## **Dining at the Clifton Arms**

You don't have to travel far for Michelin standard food - this restaurant is on your doorstep....

#### This landmark hotel overlooking Lytham Green is the perfect place for a mini break or a gourmet meal.

Last month we reviewed the Clifton Arms Hotel - perfect for a short break. This month we look at the restaurant which is open to non-residents - booking is advised.

If you are looking to celebrate this is a definite must, giving great value for money, atmosphere, service and a full and varied mouth-watering menu.

Staff are courteous, professional, friendly and fully knowledgable. Anyone with allergies and food intolerance can discuss this with the staff and most menu choices are available for all dietary requirements.

A stunning new feature is the bar with a full selection of wines, beers, cocktails and soft drinks. We enjoyed our pre meal drinks sitting by the bar, whilst looking over the menu.

With choices made we when through to the restaurant.



The whole restaurant area has been updated to a high standard during the Covid break and the result is a light and airy space with terrific views across Lytham Green. The atmosphere is perfect for enjoying fine food with family & friends. There's even a new terrace for those warmer days for al fresco dining.

#### Bookings 01253 739898 www.CliftonArmsLytham.com



#### What did we eat?

#### Asparagus with crispy bacon (GF)

The asparagus was listed on the menu with a fried egg and hollandaise sauce. I'm someone who has allergies and food intolerances, so the chef substituted the egg and hollandaise with crispy bacon. This was the perfect starter. The bacon was crispy and fully complimented the asparagus cooked in butter.

#### Fillet Steak (GF)

A thick cut steak, served with chunky chips, grilled flat mushroom, grilled tomato and crispy battered onion rings. Melt in the mouth and cooked to perfection. I couldn't wait to eat the next mouthful. Again this option came with onion rings but the chef omitted these for a GF option.



The lamb which was a generous portion was tender, thick cut, succulent, moist and full of flavour. The best lamb I have had in a long time. The crispy crackling definitely got my juices going.

Sticky Toffee Pudding (GF)

In the interest of providing you, our dear reader, with comprehensive review, I managed to squeeze the Sticky Toffee Pudding dessert in. This is offered with ice cream but was left out to provide a GF option. A light sponge, full of creamy toffee flavour.



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**Ed Byrne Lowther Pavilion Wed3 Michael Portillo Lowther Pavilion Tue9** Spiders Web Preston Playhouse Wed17-Sat20 Amanda Owen Yorkshire Shepherdess Blackpool Grand Fri 19 **Sleeping Beauty Blackpool Grand Sat 20** Paul Sylvester Preston Playhouse Thur25-Sat27 December

Snow White Panto Blackpool Grand Fri 3 to Sun 2 Jan **Houghton Weavers Preston Playhouse Fri3 Christmas Magic Preston Playhouse Sat4** Aladdin Marine Hall Thur9-Sun12



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## By all these lovely tokens September days are here. With summer's best of weather and autumn's best of cheer' Helen Hunt Jackson



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#### At Autumn Equinox day lasts as long as night. It stgnals the beginning of autumn: the moment when the sun appears

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Autumn Equinox

Wednesday September 22

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Autumn Equinox Wednesday <mark>September</mark> 22

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## The Mediterranean Midland

This month Local List enjoyed the experience of Morecambe's luxurious Midland Hotel

With rooms starting at  $\pounds$ 170 this is not a budget hotel, but if you love luxury... this is the place for you.

Lying 45mins drive from the Fylde, Morecambe is easy to get to, just drive through Lancaster. The Midland sits on the seafront - and has starred in 'Agatha Christie's Poirot' when David Suchet stayed to 'refresh the little grey cells'. Opened in 1933, directly opposite the train station, it served steamer traffic to Belfast.

On arrival the huge spiral staircase will take your breath away. Its 3 storey 40 bed art deco style oozes luxury and attention to detail. Everything is a little bit different. It's bold and confident. Previous guests include Coco Chanel, Sir Lawrence Olivier and Noel Coward.





During WWII the Midland was requisitioned as a hospital then transferred to British Transport Commission. It fell into disrepair in the 90s until Castlefield's Urban Splash restored and reopened in 2008. It's now run by English Lakes Hotels who also run Low Wood Bay on Windermere and Lancaster House (next to the Uni).

Sea view rooms have spacious balconies looking out to Morecambe Bay and beyond to the Irish Sea. They also overlook the bright lights of Grange and Ulverston and beyond lies a glorious panorama of the peaks of the Lake District.

Breakfast, afternoon tea and evening meals are served in the Terrace Restaurant with its huge windows.

The Rotunda Bar serves food, drinks and cocktails throughout the day. You can sit around the bar, in private booths or outside on the sweeping terrace.

All food was excellent, service out of this world and taken in the magnificent Terrace Restaurant. We particularly enjoyed the unhurried pace and the peaceful atmosphere at all time of the day. This made our stay very relaxing. It really felt like a revitalising break. Only one problem... having slowed down to a more enjoyable pace of life, we were devastated to have to leave!

We loved the beautiful breakfast menu. Everything was wonderful but the Manx Kipper was outstanding.



However it was the evening meals that proved truly out of this world and will last long in our memories.

I can't go into too much detail because I'm making myself hungry just writing this! But here are just 3 highlights....





A mention must go to Eric Gill's huge 'Odysseus Welcomed' mural which sits behind reception. Carved from 6 tones of Portland Stone, it's 16ftx10ft and shows Nausicaa and 3 handmaidens welcoming Odysseus. It's inscribed '*There is good hope that thou mayest see they friends*' - symbolising the hotel's hospitality to guests.



Don't be put off by Morecambe's old image. The Prom has recently benefited from a Blackpool-style makeover and is now both spacious and spectacular. There's plenty of cafes & shops just a short stroll from the hotel. We found time to walk south along a delightful seashore path to Heysham, enjoying the fabulous views of the Lakes, across to the Isle of Man and even spotted Fleetwood in the distance.

The Midland Hotel is the perfect place to enjoy a super luxury break with blue water sparkling just beyond the fabulous Terrace Restaurant. So it's goodbye to airport chaos, delayed flights, lost luggage, security queues and parking problems...

This year it's Morecambe not the Med!

Be warned - if you visit you'll fall in love! Bookings 0333 220 3109 www.EnglishLakes.co.uk Clifzens Advice Fylde Our office is closed to the public due to COVID-19

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September is the ninth month of the year in the Gregorian Calendar and one of four Gregorian months with 30 days.

September begins in western astrology with the sun in the sign of Virgo and ends in the sign of Libra.

In Latin, septi means "seven" and septem means "seventh". September was the 7th month of the Roman calendar til 153 BC. September begins on the same day of the week as December every year. It's flower is the aster or morning glory. September's birthstone is the sapphire.

In 1752, the British Empire adopted the Gregorian calendar. To make the adjustment, across the British Empire that year, September 2 was immediately followed by September 14. September in the Northern Hemisphere is the seasonal equivalent to March in the Southern Hemisphere and vice versa.

World War II started on September 1, 1939 with Adolf Hitler's invasion of Poland. It ended on September 2, 1945 with Japan's formal surrender.

Caligula (Roman Emperor 37-41) attempted to rename September Germanicus after his father.

On 30th September 1888 Jack the Ripper kills his third and fourth victims, Elizabeth Stride and Catherine Eddowes.

"September" was a hit single by Earth, Wind and Fire in 1978 reaching number 3 in the charts. Remember that?



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