

# For the one I love this Valentine's

## New head chef is driving restaurant forward

THE head chef at The Coach House is working hard to establish a quality reputation; both for himself and for the restaurant.

Paul Merrick took on the role at the end of the summer in 2010 and is enjoying the challenge.

Paul said: "We are getting on fine and are making a good impression with the regular trade."

"I change the menu on a regular basis to keep it fresh and change the specials every day."

"We place a lot of emphasis on home-made produce, for example we make all of our own soup and bake our own bread every day on the premises."

Currently, Paul is trying to give the menu a Mediterranean feel.

"These flavours offer people a wide variety of tastes, ranging from the south of France right around to Morocco," he said.

"Examples of what are on offer at the minute include roast tomato and basil soup, Moroccan lamb tagine with vegetables and cous cous, and lemon posset."

"We also offer more traditional dishes too such as broccoli and stilton soup, and fruit crumbles."

Paul became interested in cooking at a young age.

He said: "I used to look at the work my sister brought home from college and imagined that there was a lot more to cooking."

Born in Newent, he went to school in Ross-on-Wye and college in Hereford.

Growing up, he worked at a hotel in Ross, gaining valuable experience.

He has worked in a hotel in Pembrokeshire, starting as a trainee and eventually taking on the role of head chef.

He worked for a period in the Midlands, ran a seafood bistro in Pembrokeshire and catered for a sports club in the same area.

His career has also taken him further afield, spending a season as a chef on a boat in



Monaco. Coming back to work in Monmouth, Paul says that he now feels like he is really coming home.

He is also very pleased with the feedback he is getting from customers.

"The positive comments are really uplifting," he said.

"It gives me the enthusiasm and commitment to really push forward."

"Being a chef is never an easy job and regardless of the financial reward, the positive feedback always helps to boost confidence."

Paul is accompanied in the kitchen by trainee chef Darren Whyte.

The Coach House also offers a delicious, traditional roast dinner, made with top quality meat from HJ Edwards of Abergavenny, priced at just £7.95 for the main course.

To book your table, or to find out more about the exciting menu call 01600 775517.

## Ethical jewellery makes perfect gift

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company are presented with a problem, they try their best to solve it.

For example, the pearls and crystals used for products, used to be purchased from a small British company.

Instead they are now sourced from charity organisations, giving something back to the community, as well as recycling unwanted

materials.

La Jewellery is popular with celebrities and has helped many charities including Derby Hospital cancer unit, Gwent Wildlife, Monmouth Operatic Society, Velindre Hospital and the Joshua Foundation.

So if you're looking to give a special gift this Valentine's Day, visit lajewellery.co.uk

## Valentines dinner

A VALENTINE'S dinner is being held in the Harpers Restaurant in the Holiday Inn, Coldra, on Saturday 12th February, from 7pm.

Spoil your loved one with a three course meal for just £18.50 per person.

Bookings can be made by calling 01633 412777.

A donation from each meal will be given to St Anne's Hospice.

## Delightful dining

NESTLING in the beautiful countryside upon the River Usk, you will find the latest project from the Celtic Manor.

The Newbridge-on-Usk is a beautiful gastro-pub, offering delicious meals in a delightful setting.

The restaurant features old wooden floors and fireplaces, combined with traditional beams and lofty spaces, giving it a welcoming and relaxing atmosphere.

The new management and catering team have a wealth of experience, providing you with first class hospitality.

The perfect place to take your Valentine for a romantic getaway, the Newbridge-on-Usk has six rooms available for overnight stays, all decorated with oak floors and oak and teak furniture.

Just a short drive from the main Celtic Manor resort, guests are welcome to use the facilities on the Newport site, including the spa and health club.

For those who prefer the comfort of their own home, the country inn will be offering a stunning four course Valentine's menu priced at £50 per person.

With dishes such as orange and thyme cured salmon gravad-lax, roasted cannon of Brecon lamb, and honey and popcorn parfait, this distinctive menu will certainly get your mouth watering.

For further information or to book yourself a place call 01633 410262.

**Country Inn, Restaurant and Rooms**

**Valentines Day 2011 Menu available**  
Sat 12th Feb 6pm - 9pm

Glass of "Bis Bis" Prosecco Rose on Arrival

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Selection of our own breads, welsh butter, oil and Balsamic vinegar dip

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Sweet pepper and tomato soup with balsamic cream and toasted pine nuts

Paupiette of lemon sole with crevette & chervil mousse  
Champagne and lemon buerre blanc

Toasted brioche topped with fresh mango goats cheese  
grilled and finished with a chilli and coriander dressing

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Filet of Anglesey sea bass & lobster tail Thermidor sauce & micro herb salad

Cannon of Welsh Lamb Potato rosti  
minted pea puree shoots lamb & rosemary jus

Fillet of Usk Valley beef & wild mushroom Wellington  
with a truffle & madeira jus

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Goats cheese courgette & aubergine tower  
Balsamic vinegar dressing

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Trio of Chocolate desserts  
(brownie, dark chocolate mousse white chocolate & hazelnut parfait)

Hot Sticky toffee pudding

Toffee sauce and caramel ice cream

Vanilla panna cotta

Raspberry shot & ginger biscuit

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Coffee and home made chocolates

£29.95pp

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Enjoy some indulgent time out together at the luxurious Forum Spa or extend your stay to a romantic weekend escape.

With an array of sumptuous menus to choose from in five decadent settings from the Resort Hotel to the Newbridge on Usk, you can choose the perfect backdrop for romantic Valentine's dining between Saturday 12th and Monday 14th February. Menus start from only £50 per person

And if you can't make it that weekend, why not treat your partner to an equally memorable experience with one of our beautifully presented gift vouchers.

**For more fabulous ways to spoil your loved one, visit celtic-manor.com or call 01633 410262**

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**Personal message to your Valentine!**

Create your own personal message to your Valentine with The Monmouthshire Beacon, we will put your message on a cute love heart at a cost of just £10 inc VAT, max 8 words. We will print your messages in The Beacon on the 9th Feb

Just pop in to the office or call **01600 712142** by 10am Tuesday 8th Feb.

**Happy Valentines!**

Sarah will you marry me Jack x

Joe, Be my Valentine Love You Sue x