

**Spotlight**

**hha**

Hertfordshire  
Hoteliers  
Association

**Fanhams  
Hall**



Anyone with a sense of history will feel right at home at Fanhams Hall near Ware, a former Jacobean manor house. Part of the Exclusive Hotels portfolio since October 2006 and newly refurbished, it is another one of the Hertfordshire Hoteliers Association's 'hidden gems' with a thriving core business as a luxury training centre for a variety of major companies. Away from the world of big business, however, Fanhams has also won a reputation as a favourite venue for weddings or for day guests to enjoy a Sunday carvery lunch, a traditional afternoon tea or even a country picnic among the 27 acres of award-winning landscaped grounds. The history of the site can be traced back to 1412 but its significance increased later when it became the birthplace and home of the first Lord Croft, Winston Churchill's appointed Under-Secretary of State for War, and also the birthplace and home of his sister, Anne. She married Liverpool brewer Sir Charles Nall-Cain, the first Baron

Brocket, and they lived at nearby Brocket Hall until Lord Brocket's death in 1934, when she returned to Fanhams Hall and lived there until her death in 1949. Present-day general manager Debbie Guy says the property has reason to be proud of Lady Brocket, since it was her interest in horticulture that influenced the employment of Japanese gardeners to create the hall's formal gardens that are now a major attraction for visitors. It was to give more people the chance to see these gardens and the rest of the property that Exclusive Hotels launched its Sunday lunches, teas and picnics, under the command of executive chef Jamie Brown. As befits a place of Fanhams Hall's pedigree, Ms Guy says the quality of the food offer is high with Sunday lunch featuring fresh seasonal ingredients sourced locally whenever possible. Roast beef with Yorkshire pudding and roast potatoes is on the menu every week with a second choice of roast lamb, pork or turkey and trimmings, plus fish and vegetarian options.



The meals are also designed to be family-friendly. Says Ms Guy: "It can be challenging to find a good venue which welcomes children but we do, with giant games, a popcorn machine and other treats." "The afternoon teas have also proved a big hit," she adds, "as they allow visitors to indulge in a fine English tradition in a quintessentially English setting with sandwiches, fresh scones with jam and clotted cream and a range of pastries all produced in-house plus a choice of tea and coffee served in the Drawing Room, the Library or on the outside terraces."

**Debbie Guy**  
General Manager  
The Drawing Room  
and  
The Chestnut Suite

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**HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTRYSIDE MAGAZINE**

**SPECIAL OFFER TO READERS**

**Take afternoon tea at Fanhams Hall and receive a Glass of Champagne FREE until the end of August**

Advance booking is essential  
Call 01920 460511 for full details  
You must bring this coupon with you on each visit  
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