

Spotlight

hha

Hertfordshire
Hoteliers
Association

The Noke



says old and new friends of the property, a prominent member of the Hertfordshire Hoteliers Association, should prepare themselves for a few surprises in store.

The Noke, part of the Thistle group of hotels, enjoys an enviable reputation as a venue for weddings and other special events, many drawn by the grandeur of the Victorian-style building and its attractive grounds. Mr. Barker is equally proud of his expert team and *The Noke's* facilities, all of which he says are first class. An important part of the line-up is the Otium health club, which offers free parking to members.

"This hotel has been and remains a big part of the St. Albans community," he points out. "*The Noke* has played an important role in many people's lives and we are doing our bit to emphasise that for the people who have been before and remember us and for newcomers to show them what a very high level of personable guest service we can offer."

Plans for 2012 include the introduction of quality afternoon teas to take advantage of a growing resurgence of this traditional British pastime, while event and wedding planners – and anyone else who

wants to see the 110-room hotel – are being invited to an open day at *The Noke* this month.

In a continuation of the HHA's successful campaign to emphasise the pleasures of eating out in hotels, *The Noke* has also just introduced a new menu for its acclaimed restaurant overlooking the Victorian gardens. This has a choice of modern dishes and home-cooked favourites in comfortable, contemporary surroundings. An extensive cellar of classic and New World wines to suit all tastes is also available.

Sample starters include Malay spiced parsnip soup or kippered salmon, while popular dishes among main courses feature a trio of pork with a black pudding bonbon. Desserts range from a warm flourless chocolate cake to white chocolate cheesecake. For another option, the Oak & Avocado Bar and Lounge serves a wide range of drinks and an informal lounge menu. Sunday lunch, in the form of a traditional British carvery, was reintroduced to the restaurant last year, offering a wide selection of starters from a buffet, weekly changing roast meats with all the classic accompaniments, followed by the pastry chef's choice of desserts and a British cheeseboard.

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One of St. Albans' best-known hotels, *The Noke*, has begun 2012 with a 'back-to-the-community' campaign to remind its many local fans of its place at the heart of the city. Recently-appointed general manager Simon Barker, describing himself as a 'man with a mission',

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SPECIAL OFFER TO READERS

The Noke is offering a bottle of house wine free throughout February and March with every two meals purchased in the restaurant. To book a table, call 01727 854252 and remember to take this coupon with you when you visit