

The Talbot Inn

A History



The Talbot Inn Hotel is one of England's finest coaching inns, The Talbot Inn has for centuries played its part in history and is said to have provided the stage for Lord Nelson and Lady Hamilton's love affair to blossom in 1798. The Talbot Inn Hotel itself dates back to 1453. Where it has been a coaching inn for people commuting from London to Portsmouth.

The main building now houses 9 bedrooms, the bar and the restaurant. The original barns still exist and are now used as function rooms, complete with the original open beams, hayloft and ladders.

In December 1798 Lord Nelson went on an escapade in France to save the Neapolitan royal family from a French invasion. During this time he fell in love with Emma Hamilton - the young wife of the elderly British ambassador to Naples. Emma became Nelson's mistress, returning to England to live openly with him, and eventually they had a daughter together, Horatia. But public knowledge of his affair with Lady Hamilton eventually induced the Admiralty to send him back to sea, if only to get him away from her.

The Talbot Inn Hotel has a room dedicated to Emma Hamilton where it is known that Lord Nelson and Lady Hamilton spent there nights sat by the fire together. Emma's Room is located opposite the reception in the Main Coaching Inn, and a placard has been placed on Lord Nelson's favourite seat, please feel free to come and have a look!

Legend has it, there is a tunnel which leads from The Talbot to the old Priory, the ruins of which can be seen from Newark Lane. No one knows for sure why it was built, but could have been from The Dissolution of The Monasteries from 1546 when King Henry V111 disbanded Roman Catholic monasteries, priories and convents.

On the bannister rail in the main house, on the top floor, a Daisy Wheel was recently discovered, carved in to the wood. These are now extremely rare, but they are said to have been carved to ward off witches and ghosts in Medieval times.

Ghosts? We would imagine, with a building so old, they would be present. Some say a lady in black walks through the courtyard and a drunken sailor walks in the main house. Who knows? Let us know if you spot anything!

We hope you enjoy your stay at The Talbot, please do not hesitate to contact Reception on 0 in your room if you have any questions or queries regarding you stay.