

THE MIDLAND — A BRIEF HISTORY

Built in 1932–33 by the London, Midland & Scottish Railway, the Midland was the first Art Deco hotel in Britain. The new Midland Hotel opened on Wednesday 12th July 1933. Although the local newspaper *"The Visitor"* stated there would not be a public ceremony, by 1pm a crowd of over 500 people had turned up in front of the hotel.

Designed by Oliver Hill with interior decoration by Eric Gill the hotel has a rich heritage. The Midland has allegedly been a favourite haunt of celebrities such as Coco Chanel, Sir Lawrence Olivier and Noel Coward which only adds to its illustrious history and air of seaside glamour.

The Odysseus mural behind reception depicts the story of Odysseus being welcomed from the sea by Nausicaa. The entire piece weighs 6 tonnes, is made up of 16 sections and was stolen around the time of The Eric Gill Exhibition in the 1980's, but luckily later recovered! Gill also designed an incised relief map of the Lake District and the Lancashire coast for a wall of the South Room, which is today the Eric Gill Suite.

Oliver Hill also commissioned Gill to carve two seahorses for the outside of the building. Inside the building he carved a circular medallion in the ceiling overlooking the staircase. It shows a sea god being attended by mermaids and is edged with the words, *"And hear old Triton blow his wreathed horn"*.

The famous textile designer Marion Dorn was commissioned to design and provide various interiors for The Midland such as carpets, rugs, fabric and most notably the mosaic seahorse that lies inset into the floor of the Foyer. Hill was responsible for persuading the committee to adopt Dorn's seahorse as the emblem of the hotel, and we know that she was paid a fee of just £20 for the trade rights, to include use of the design throughout the hotel. The mosaic seahorse is still intact in the hotel today as an original feature, however unfortunately various other pieces by Dorn, such as the rugs in the lobby, were not saved during the renovation and the rugs we see today are replicas of the originals

The total number of seahorses in the hotel is 49. The first five are easy to place, but how many can you spot?



AFTERNOON TEA
AT THE MIDLAND



Served with spectacular views across Morecambe Bay, The Midland Afternoon Tea is a quintessentially British experience.

TRADITIONAL AFTERNOON TEA — £30 PER PERSON

A selection of finger sandwiches including: oak smoked salmon & caper mayonnaise, home-baked honey-roast ham, free-range egg mayonnaise & cress and chef's choice on the day. Fruit and plain scones with clotted cream. A selection of delicate homemade cakes and a variety of eight premium teas from our tea merchant, which include:

English Breakfast Tea, Camomile, Peppermint, Ginger & Lemon, Green Tea, Blackcurrant & Elderflower, Decaf and Earl Grey.

PROSECCO AFTERNOON TEA — £35 PER PERSON

The perfect accompaniment to start your afternoon tea, a glass of Prosecco whilst enjoying the breathtaking views of the bay.

CHILDREN'S AFTERNOON TEA — £15.00 PER CHILD

Choose from ham, cheese or jam finger sandwiches. Fruit kebab, mini jar of sweets, chocolate cupcake and a soft drink.

Please note: We do our utmost to cater for all dietary requirements. We can offer a full gluten-free and vegetarian afternoon tea when booked in advance. Dairy-free and vegan guests will be offered a suitable alternative.