

Fishing town's delights had me hooked

Stunning sea views, historic sights and fabulous fresh fish made a trip to Falmouth memorable for **Andy Richards**

Remember number 103. It's a room number. At the Greenbank Hotel, in Falmouth. Whenever you are in that part of the country treat yourself. Book at least a night in that room.

The reason? Its huge bay window has the most glorious view across Falmouth harbour. A view to take your breath away. It certainly did mine.

Our visit coincided with the Olympic Games and I was hooked into following Team GB at every opportunity. But that night, despite the room offering a huge plasma screen, my Olympic heroes took second place.

Pouring myself into a sumptuous window armchair I was captivated by the comings and goings on the water below.

We are not talking Vieux Port, Cannes here. Thank God. If you go looking for super yachts and the super rich, I fear you'll be disappointed.

But if fishing trawlers and ferries float your boat, you'll be captivated.

For Falmouth Harbour, which provides a gateway to a fascinating network of rivers and creeks, bustling with activity. Incidentally, it's the third largest

natural harbour in the world. For the first time since I don't know when, I really yearned for my watercolour pallet. I felt euphoric.

As night fell lights peppered the waterfront and danced on boats gently bobbing at their moorings. Early the following morning, mist hung low as the sun - a welcome sight! - rose around the Roseland peninsula. Captivating.

Such a contrast from a few days earlier when we'd crossed Bodmin Moor when driving rain was hammering against the car windscreen.

As we dipped further into Cornwall, so did our spirits.

We were five hours into a journey which we hoped would lead to a sunshine mini-break in Falmouth.

The downpour reminded me that nowadays, given the vagaries of our climate, you need to really plan a UK coastal holiday with care.

Your resort and accommodation needs to cope well with bad weather. So that if the beach is a washout, it has plenty of indoor, alternative ways to entertain and amuse you and ensure you are able to de-stress and relax.

It's a good job that Falmouth can handle the rain.



Greenbank Hotel, overlooking Falmouth Harbour, is the perfect place to watch the world go by

For while we were there we saw plenty of it. A restaurant manager confessed to me that the town, along with the rest of the UK, had only had a couple of decent weeks' weather this dismal summer.

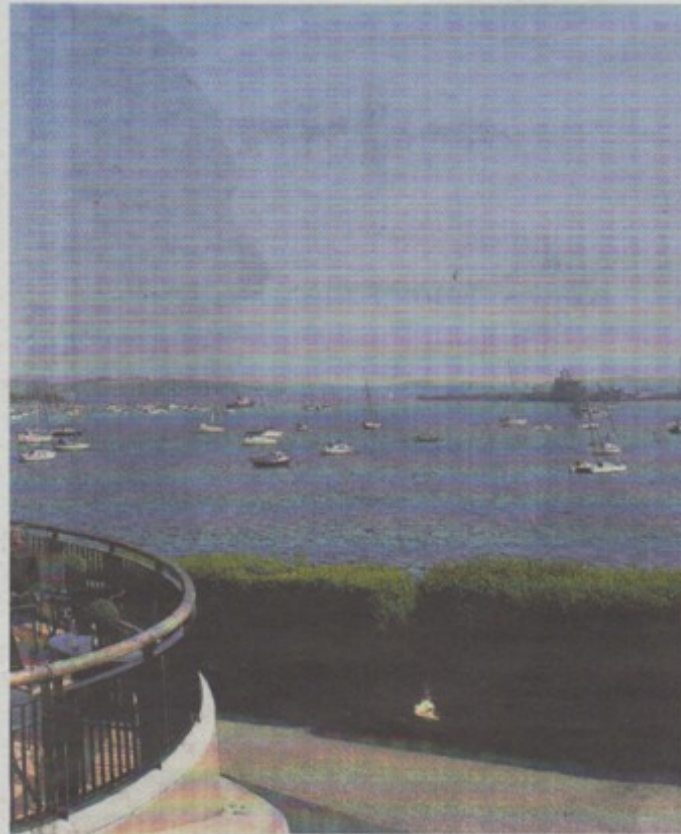
Fortunately, there are loads of options for things to do and both the Greenbank Hotel, and the other we stayed in, St Michael's Hotel and Spa, which overlooks the Blue Flag Gylyngvase Beach at the opposite end of town, were excellent in different ways.

Falmouth is Cornwall's leading south coast destination and home to the country's maritime heritage.

The bustling town features craft shops, galleries, chandlers and fishmongers. As well as Falmouth Arts Centre, the National Maritime Museum, Cornwall, Falmouth Arts Gallery and Princess Pavillion all provide a comprehensive programme of exhibitions, concert and theatrical events throughout the year.

Pendennis Castle is a showpiece of British history and one of Falmouth's gems. Built in the mid-16th century, Pendennis overlooks the mile-wide mouth of the River Fal.

The five main beaches next to Pendennis Castle and moving along the coast towards the Helford



The formidable Pendennis Castle with Falmouth harbour and town beyond

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The Greenbank Hotel: www.greenbank-hotel.co.uk
St Michael's Hotel and Spa: www.stmichaels-hotel.co.uk
Harbour View: www.harbourdining.com
Rick Stein's Fish & Chips: www.rickstein.com
Courtyard Deli: <http://courtyarddeli.wordpress.com>



St Michael's Hotel & Spa in Falmouth and Rick Stein's Fish & Chips