

Welcome and overview

Richard Thomas

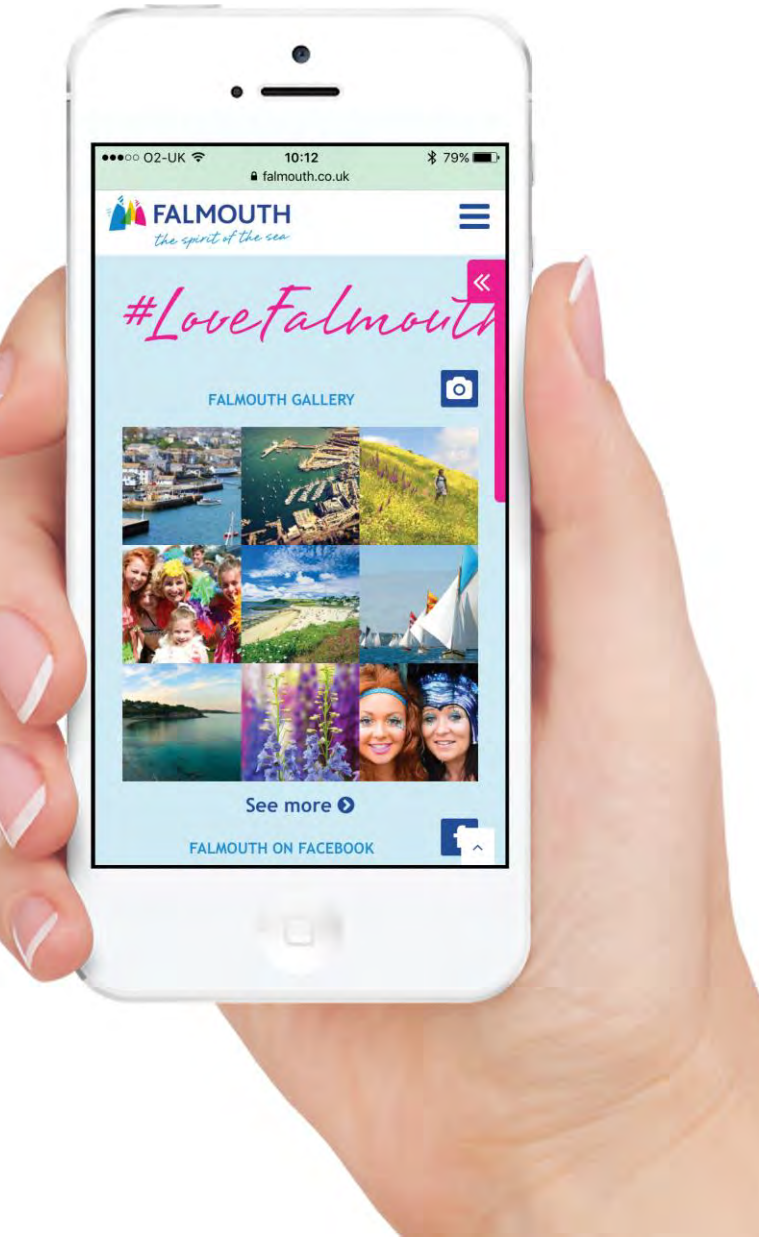
Falmouth BID Chairman



BID Activity - Highlights 2016



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National PR Campaign for Falmouth

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20.03.2016 / 19

Breezy does it



Paul Brown/PA; Tamer Kanyar; Ben Seliger/Trump; Getty; Patrick Redmond/PA



Harbour lights
Main picture, Falmouth harbour (7). From top, dining out in Montpelier, Cheltenham (5), the view from Golden Cap, near Bridport (2), and the Georgian curves of the Circus, in Bath (1)

In the dining room), or kick back at Jessop House, run by the Wild Beer Co. There's an elbows-out scramble for Georgian townhouses in hotspots such as Montpelier, the Park and the Suffolk, where prices tip £2m, all because of their proximity to the even more highly fancied schools. Cheltenham Ladies' College has day pupils among its 850 students, then there's Pate's Grammar, Bakewell School and Cheltenham College. Modern family homes in the suburb of Charlton Kings are also popular. And if you want to escape at the weekend, you've got the Cotswolds on your York stone doorstep.

What the locals say Where did you buy your gilet?

Why we love it Upmarket shopping, elegant housing and well-kept parks.

6 EXETER, TOPSHAM

Everyone here lives near or overlooking the untroubled waters of the sparkling Exe estuary. They might be in one of the 18th-century Dutch-gabled villas (£2m-plus), a converted sail loft, a terraced cottage or even – to the shock of some – a new home on the fringe, all just 12 minutes by train from central Exeter. It makes Topsham the perfect combination of city, coast and country for an older population of deep-rooted Devonites, as well as a growing number of yummy-mummy (and daddy) types. That said, despite the popular local primary school, the demographic is still much more hip replacement than hipster.

Near the M5, and a short drive or train hop from Exmouth's prom and beach, Topsham has classy businesses that appeal to both crowds, among them Fieblebe (a vineyard), the Salutation (an inn with rooms that attracts Chelsea-tractor weekenders) and the Pig & Pallet (which sells locally sourced meat). The "big society" is out in force: residents manage an outdoor pool, a sailing club, a library and a museum, and raised £300,000 to prevent waterfront land being bought by developers.

What the locals say Can I help you?

Why we love it A perfectly preserved suburb: the best in the west.

7 FALMOUTH, CORNWALL

There's a salty buzz about Falmouth that shows no sign of abating, so it's on our Best Places list – again. The sea views, beaches, marinas and open countryside are a constant, but at the same time, thriving new industries – creative and digital, marine and renewable – are attracting younger families in search of a perfect work-life balance. And that life is the finest blend of rural and urban in the West Country.

There's a young, lively feel, thanks to the ever-growing university presence and the harbourside development of shops and restaurants, but the energy has become self-perpetuating, with quirky bookshops, cinemas, art galleries, bars, cafes and restaurants springing up. The basics, too, are in place: Falmouth has good schools and a hospital, while the private schools, mainline station and larger shops of Truro are within easy reach. Prices are still manageable: two-bedroom flats on the waterfront



1 BATH

It's renowned for its Roman baths and 18th-century Georgian architecture, and from next year, Bath will have another claim to fame that's already getting the Regency bosoms of this cherished city heaving: rail electrification will speed commuters to London in just 65 minutes. Estate agents say 40% of buyers are from the capital – they flock not to take the waters in the restored spa, but to enjoy the superb shopping, five independent schools, two universities, characterful pubs and abundance of parks and open space. And they aren't just pushing up prices in the prestigious Royal Crescent and Circus, where the best-preserved houses already command more than £2m: the impact of their grand tour is being felt in townhouses and cottages at more reasonable (just) prices. Alternatively, Bath Riverside is a scheme of 2,281 homes, resolving mixed reviews, on a 44-acre site about 20 minutes' walk from the centre.

The downsides are predictable: many houses are heavily protected by the heritage police, so are more expensive to maintain or extend. Parking is difficult, it's hilly to walk around and tourists are absolutely everywhere. For now, though, that doesn't put us off.

What the locals say It's like West London – but with trickier parking.

Why we love it Bathed in glory.

coastal path, a dramatic beach, artisan shops, twice-weekly markets, the art deco Electric Palace cinema and the Lyric Theatre. The place really comes alive during its festivals: food and beer, literature and, er, hats. It has several primary schools, but only one secondary – not an issue, perhaps, for the growing population of energetic retirees.

There are two housing markets in Bridport. Inland, prices range from less than £250,000 for an Edwardian starter home to £750,000 or more for a farmhouse with land. Flats and houses with sea views at West Bay – formerly Bridport Harbour, but now best known as ITV's Broadchurch – are among the most affordable on the south coast, going between £250,000 and £600,000.

What the locals say Have you been an extra yet?

Why we love it Old-school seaside, with an outside chance of seeing David Tennant and Olivia Colman on set.

Chandos Road, home to Wilks, a Michelin-starred restaurant, and No Man's Grace, a cool British-style tapas restaurant; the nearby Kensington Arms is the go-to gastropub.

What the locals say There's more to life than Clifton.

Why we love it Period grace, green space and a youthful Bristol buzz.

4 CHAGFORD, DEVON

Devon is a county full of irresistible charms: beautiful countryside, glorious coastline, bustling towns and villages, buttery scones. Chagford, within the picturesque folds of Dartmoor, encapsulates its allure. It feels like a town, despite having just 1,500 residents – numbers are swelled by walkers and day trippers, some drawn by the nearby foodie favourite Kideigh Park (where Michael Caines has given way to the Michelin-starred Michael Wignall). It hosts the

way to Edwardian villas and converted farmhouses, then more recent semis and bungalows. More are planned, proof that this is an evolving place to live.

What the locals say We're still winning.

Why we love it It's a community-centred beauty spot.

5 CHELTENHAM, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

This has to be one of the most highly fancied spa towns in Britain. Horse types and gamblers love the National Hunt races here. There are science, jazz and food and drink festivals to complement the Times and Sunday Times-sponsored literary bonanza. Cheltenham is also home to the doughnut-shaped GCHQ, four theatres and the University of Gloucestershire.

Let's just admit that this town is not

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Photo by #LoveTheSea exhibition winner Kensa Wilson

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ZestiFAL

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Funding



£47,000

Funds secured via
partnerships, sponsorship
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Healthy High Streets Partner



GB High St of the Year shortlisting



British BIDS Best UK project nomination



Glynis Tyrrell
Falmouth BID Company Secretary
Annual Accounts
For the year to 31 March 2016



Analysis of expenditure 2015-2016

