

# view



The magazine from Coast & Country Cottages

## A TRULY LOCAL EXPERIENCE

Our tips for the best places to visit

## WIN A HOLIDAY

Amazing prize packages to be won

*We can help!*

Expert advice when buying a holiday home





## Welcome!

Welcome to the first edition of **view**, the brand new magazine from Coast & Country Cottages. We hope you enjoy the articles included, particularly the stunning photography. The team has worked hard to pull together features and reviews to reflect what this fabulous area has to offer for a holiday or short break, throughout the year. From the best beachside retreats for your 2014 holiday (page 50), the redevelopment plans for Hillfield Village (page 13) to truly local suggestions from some of the children of the Coast & Country Cottages' team (page 22), we believe there is something for everyone, plus some great recipes from our friends at Riverford Field Kitchen (page 36) and interesting tales from successful local business colleagues, including celebrity chef Mitch Tonks (page 60). With much more inside, including a competition to win a fantastic range of prizes (page 7), we hope that some of our suggestions tempt you to visit this beautiful area for the first time or to return sometime soon.

We would love to hear about your favourite places to visit locally or ideas for future editions and of course to welcome you to this beautiful area, whether it is your first time here or a return visit. Send us your thoughts and views – see right for contact details.

*Andrew & Karen Jones*  
Directors



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# Better, by a Coast & Country mile

Here at Coast & Country Cottages, the largest locally based holiday letting agency dealing with properties exclusively in the South Hams, we have enjoyed another successful season in 2013 and are already looking forward to another exciting year in 2014! The Summer sunshine in 2013 certainly boosted last minute enquiries but most importantly added to the holiday experience of the thousands of visitors staying in our 430 properties in the South Hams – rebooks for Summer 2014 are currently higher than previous years!

Owned and managed by us, our growing company has offices in Salcombe and Dartmouth and an ever-expanding team managing our increasing portfolio of South Hams holiday homes. In the 12 years since we acquired Coast & Country Cottages, we have seen the business more than quadruple in size, but most importantly, in accommodation standards too.

Following an extensive assessment of our policies, procedures and practices by an independent 'Quality in Tourism' assessor, Coast & Country Cottages was awarded VisitEngland's Quality Accredited Agency status in 2012. This coveted VisitEngland marque is awarded to agencies that exceed industry standards of compliance and customer service, offering consumers assurance that they are booking with a reputable company. The accreditation is a fabulous achievement for our family run agency whose aim is to offer the very highest standards of service and professionalism to all customers and owners.

From cleaning, laundry and gardening services, to 24-hour emergency assistance, we go that extra mile so that our property owners don't have to! – a comment

backed up by holiday home owner Tony Prynne who says, "As a cottage owner based a long way from the South Hams, feeling able to rely on C&CC to sort out the little problems that can occur from time to time is critical. Over the 9 years we have let with C&CC I have always had total confidence and I feel we have an excellent partnership".

It is vital for us to continue to invest in staffing, our premises and IT to demonstrate our commitment to provide the highest standards of service to owners and holidaymakers alike and consolidate our position as the largest locally based holiday letting agent specialising in the South Hams. During 2013 we welcomed a number of new staff to the team, in addition to promoting individual staff and creating important new roles within the team to further strengthen the service provided to property owners and holiday visitors alike. New members of the team include Assistant Operations Manager (Property Services) Gail Swift who joins following a long and successful career in the Navy, and Assistant Operations Manager (Customer Service) Donna Collins who has many years of valuable customer care experience in the retail industry.



Some of the Coast & Country Cottages team who deliver a truly local service



In addition, we are delighted to have recently recruited a third young apprentice, Holly Doherty, following the promotion of our previous apprentices, Jenni and Lotte into new roles within the expanding agency. Jon Doyle, our Operations Director says, "We are very pleased that we are able to support local young people as they choose a career path and through this scheme we offer the chance to gather work experience and take on responsibility, whilst also studying for a recognised qualification." The agency works closely with local schools, taking part in Careers Events and offering Work Experience opportunities for those considering a career in Travel & Tourism and PR & Marketing.

In addition to providing opportunities for local young people, Coast & Country Cottages is a regular sponsor of a number of local events and organisations throughout the

year. The commitment of the team goes beyond just writing a cheque, with active participation in the planning meetings and preparations for key local events including the annual Dartmouth Food Festival in October. Over the past 12 years the agency has worked with and been supported by companies of all shapes and sizes, from small cleaning companies and individual contractors to larger organisations and successful local brands. We are very grateful for this support, for all those local businesses who contribute towards helping us maintain the highest standards in our holiday properties plus those who work with us to ensure the success of our marketing campaign to create maximum exposure for the South Hams as **the** destination for a holiday or short break in 2014.

Karen & Andrew Jones of Coast & Country Cottages



  
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We are offering **view** readers the chance to win a fabulous holiday prize package, including a £750\* voucher to spend on a self-catering property of their choice with Coast & Country Cottages.



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To submit your entry simply visit [www.coastandcountry.co.uk/viewcompetition](http://www.coastandcountry.co.uk/viewcompetition) Alternatively send a postcard to View Competition 2014, Marketing Team, Coast & Country Cottages, Hannaford's Landing, Island Street, Salcombe, TQ8 8FE. The first person to be drawn will win this fabulous prize. Closing date for entries is 31st August 2014.

Call 01548 843773 or visit [www.coastandcountry.co.uk/viewcompetition](http://www.coastandcountry.co.uk/viewcompetition) for full details and terms and conditions.

\*Terms and conditions apply. For full competition details, visit [www.coastandcountry.co.uk/viewcompetition](http://www.coastandcountry.co.uk/viewcompetition)





Ferrycot enjoys a wonderful location overlooking the beautiful sandy beach at East Portlemouth

The Penthouse, Woodside, Salcombe, a luxury 5 star apartment with fabulous panoramic views across the Salcombe estuary

# Things to do in Salcombe

Sail or learn a new water sport, hire a boat or take a trip out to sea on a former RNLI lifeboat. Spot seals or dolphins in the beautiful waters or stay on dry land and explore shops and art galleries, or try crabbing on the quayside. Enjoy the sandy beaches, walk the coastal path or visit the National Trust gardens at Overbecks. Or just



*Sailing • Local Ice Cream • Coastal Walking • Crabbing  
Regatta • Shopping • Stunning Views • Sandcastles*

take in the breathtaking views across the estuary, whilst dining alfresco or sampling the delicious local ice cream! Choose an out-of-season weekend for a relaxing break or join in the fun of Regatta during August, with sailing activities and traditional entertainment for all the family.

As one of the most popular holiday locations in the South West, Salcombe, in the southernmost tip of South Devon, boasts stunning views across the tidal estuary and out to sea, plus accommodation for all tastes and budgets. Many of the holiday properties are highly sought after in peak holiday periods, often by the same visitors returning year

after year. Coast & Country Cottages, the locally based holiday company, with offices overlooking the beautiful Salcombe estuary, are the largest holiday agency exclusively marketing over 430 holiday properties in and around Salcombe and throughout the South Hams.

From 'chocolate box' thatched cottages, stylish waterside properties and family-friendly holiday homes right on the beach, to elegant country farmhouses and luxury apartments with use of a private beach, most properties offer fabulous sea or country views.

Unspoilt sandy coves, some accessible by boat or small passenger ferry, are perfect for family beach trips on sunny summer days or for out-of-season strolls. For others the sailing in Salcombe is a must, with facilities for all types of craft, plus boats to hire for the week or the day and tuition available.



**OUR TOP TIPS**

**Top:** Enjoy a delicious, locally made Salcombe ice cream  
**Middle:** Top Sail, Salcombe, a luxury penthouse apartment with stunning panoramic views  
**Bottom:** Enjoy the fun of Regatta in August

## OUR TOP TIPS FOR A BREAK IN SALCOMBE INCLUDE:

Book a sailing lesson with the Salcombe Island Cruising Club [www.icc-salcombe.co.uk](http://www.icc-salcombe.co.uk) or Salcombe Dinghy Sailing [www.salcombedinghysailing.co.uk](http://www.salcombedinghysailing.co.uk) or, for those who like thrills and speed, a powerboat trip out to sea with Salcombe Powerboat School [www.salcombepowerboats.co.uk](http://www.salcombepowerboats.co.uk).

Try the traditional pastime of crabbing – Victoria Quay in Salcombe is very popular with crabbing enthusiasts of all ages. See page 22-24 for our tips on the best bait to use.

Hop on the East Portlemouth ferry (a tiny passenger boat crossing the estuary between Salcombe town and East Portlemouth beach) and explore sandy beaches and coves, some accessible by foot in low tide. Enjoy an organic cup of tea at the award-winning East Portlemouth Venus Beach Café, with stunning views across the beach towards Salcombe [www.lovingthebeach.co.uk](http://www.lovingthebeach.co.uk).

Pack up a picnic of Salcombe crab sandwiches or locally made Devon pasties and enjoy in Cliff Gardens or on the picturesque Salcombe waterfront, taking in the fabulous views.

Enjoy some retail therapy in Salcombe's Fore Street - from individual local boutiques and art galleries to popular retailers, there is something for everyone (and even a 'man crèche' at one of the local pubs!).

Explore the miles of beautiful South West coastal path surrounding Salcombe, wonderful walking and spectacular scenery [www.southwestcoastpath.com](http://www.southwestcoastpath.com) Reward yourself with a Devon Cream Tea or perhaps a delicious Salcombe Dairy Ice Cream afterwards!

Soak up the sunset enjoying fish & chips from The Plaice, or book Salcombe's The Galley Girls [www.thegalleygirls.co.uk](http://www.thegalleygirls.co.uk) for Salcombe sushi or private dining in your holiday home.

What do you like to do when you visit Salcombe? Share your top tips on our Facebook page: [facebook.com/coastandcountrycottages](https://facebook.com/coastandcountrycottages)



Please note - this map is not to scale, it has been designed to give you an idea of the layout of Salcombe.



Hillfield Village  
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Hillfield Country House  
Inset: The open plan kitchen/dining area at Court Lodge

## Great plans for change AT THE 'VILLAGE'...

**Hillfield Village, the luxury resort of 5-Star cottages and apartments, just 3 miles from the historic naval town of Dartmouth, is under new ownership with exciting plans already unveiled to develop and enhance the accommodation and facilities in the very near future.**

**A**s part of the planned changes, Hillfield Village has been re-branded (previously named Hillfield Cottages & Country House) with a new corporate identity and website [www.hillfieldvillage.com](http://www.hillfieldvillage.com). Further changes which have taken place throughout 2013 include external decoration of the main manor house, internal decoration of some of the properties and upgrading to 'smart' TVs in many of the properties, along with other improvements in the 'Village' facilities, such as refurbishment of the outdoor swimming pool and extending the resort's wi-fi coverage. Director of Operations, Martyn Ball says, "We were delighted to take on this very well respected holiday complex and are committed to improving and developing it further in the years to come. Hillfield Village is a wonderful destination

set in idyllic surroundings and we are sure our plans will attract more and more holidaymakers to this stunning location".  
Martyn added, "We are also very pleased that members of the former family partnership, Caroline and Michael Edwards, remain with us at the heart of the team on site, ensuring guests continue to receive the same friendly, helpful and professional service they have enjoyed for many years".  
Hillfield Village currently consists of twenty-two self-catering cottages and six apartments (from 1 to 5 bedrooms, sleeping up to 12 guests in total). The luxury holiday properties each have well equipped kitchens incorporating modern appliances, tasteful furnishings and luxury bathrooms (most with whirlpool baths) – a number of the larger units also have a private outdoor hot tub



**Top Left:** The contemporary kitchen at Vantage Point  
**Top Right:** The hot tub at Keepers Lodge  
**Middle Left:** Court Lodge and the Hillfield Village tennis court  
**Middle Right:** The master bedroom at Keepers Lodge  
**Bottom:** The outdoor swimming pool at Hillfield Village

**view** | TO FIND OUT MORE OR BOOK ONLINE GO TO [www.coastandcountry.co.uk](http://www.coastandcountry.co.uk)

and one even boasts a private sauna! As Martyn continues, “Whilst the accommodation is all of a very high 4-Star and 5-Star standard, we intend to make further improvements as soon as possible. We have already redecorated some of the cottages together with the outside of the main manor house, and significantly refurbished the swimming pool to ensure our guests continue to enjoy their accommodation and our on-site amenities”.

## “Hillfield is undoubtedly going to become the South West’s premier luxury resort in the next few years”

There are many exciting plans ahead, including the addition of Hillfield Farm House to the Hillfield Village complex, the development of a stunning new leisure club (to include indoor heated swimming pool, health spa, gymnasium and bistro restaurant), as well as a number of additional luxury holiday cottages and refurbishment of existing properties. The new building work is planned to start at the end of the 2014 season. Further details of this and other changes will be shown on the Hillfield Village website [www.hillfieldvillage.com](http://www.hillfieldvillage.com)

Hillfield Village guests can now also benefit from a number of local business partnerships that have been put in place, providing ‘Member’s Guests Rates’ at the nearby Dartmouth Golf & Country Club and discounts at many local restaurants and family attractions; see the Hillfield Village website for more details.

Coast & Country Cottages has been the exclusive marketing agent for Hillfield Village since 2005. They have seen the development change significantly since those early days and liaised closely with the previous partners during a major building project in 2007 which replaced much of the existing accommodation with newly constructed 5-Star properties (namely ‘Court Lodge’, ‘1-6 Court Cottage’s’ and ‘Vantage Point’).

Says director Andrew Jones, “We have had a long-standing and enjoyable relationship with Hillfield Village since 2005 and were very pleased to offer support to Caroline, Michael and the family for almost 8 years. We are now particularly excited to be working with the new management team and by the plans they have to take Hillfield Village forward to the next level”.

Hillfield Village achieved 100% occupancy throughout the 2013 summer holiday period and for the 2014 season Coast & Country Cottages will continue to market all the existing Hillfield Village cottages and apartments, each of which can be found on their web-site [www.coastandcountry.co.uk/hillfield-village](http://www.coastandcountry.co.uk/hillfield-village). All of the online property pages feature a range of internal and external images, a detailed description, live availability, rental costs, plus details of any special offers and promotions.

Continues Andrew, “We anticipate a high level of interest and record enquiries for Hillfield Village in 2014 and look forward to confirming the development plans as they unfold over the next year or so to our regular visitors. Hillfield Village is undoubtedly going to become the South West’s premier luxury resort in the next few years and we expect it to keep us very busy!”

## WIN a fabulous holiday at Hillfield Village

We are offering **view** readers the chance to win a £500 holiday voucher to spend on a property of their choice at the fabulous Hillfield Village, near Dartmouth. The lucky winner will also receive a complimentary day pass for a family of four for the nearby Dartmouth



Golf & Country Club Lakeside Health and Beauty Suite, as well as a two course meal for a family of four at the Clubhouse Bar and Restaurant. Facilities include a fabulous indoor swimming pool, Jacuzzi, sauna and gymnasium – the perfect place to enjoy a relaxing day with family or friends!

To submit your entry simply visit [www.coastandcountry.co.uk/hillfield-village-competition-page](http://www.coastandcountry.co.uk/hillfield-village-competition-page) Alternatively send a postcard to Hillfield Village 2014, Marketing Team, Coast & Country Cottages, Hannaford’s Landing, Island Street, Salcombe, TQ8 8FE. The first person to be drawn will win this fabulous prize. Closing date for entries is 31st August 2014.

**For more information on Hillfield Village visit [www.coastandcountry.co.uk](http://www.coastandcountry.co.uk) or call 01803 712 322 today.**

\*Terms and conditions apply. Prize is a £500 holiday voucher for Hillfield Village, subject to availability, non-transferable, no cash alternative. For full competition details, terms and conditions, visit [www.coastandcountry.co.uk/hillfield-village-competition-page](http://www.coastandcountry.co.uk/hillfield-village-competition-page)



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# Escape

## TO THE COAST & COUNTRYSIDE

by Karen Jones, Director

W

ith fond childhood memories of holidays spent with extended family on the beautiful South Devon coast, exploring the rock pools on unspoilt Bantham Beach, enjoying delicious cream teas at the Thurlestone Hotel and crab sandwiches at the picturesque Sloop Inn, I was delighted when my

parents bought a holiday home in the area whilst I was away studying at university during the mid-eighties.

The waterside retreat near Totnes was the perfect base for exploring this Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty firstly as a new couple, with my then boyfriend Andrew Jones, before celebrating our first wedding anniversary there in 1992 and then subsequently spending each holiday with our own family, Sam (now 20), Alice (19) and Elinor (15). However as each year went by and more holidays were spent going out on our boat on The River Dart, building sandcastles in hidden coves and walking miles on glorious coastal paths, leaving this fabulous area to travel 'up country' became harder and harder to do.

By the year 2000, away from Devon holidays, the daily commute from our home near Chester to Manchester for Andrew, then a Senior General Manager for the David Lloyd Leisure Group, was becoming more of a drag with each month, whilst I was keen to return to work, having taken a Career Break from my role as a Brand Manager with the Boots Company.

A business of our own was our real dream, working together to combine Andrew's customer service and management skills with my marketing experience. When we got the opportunity to do just that and in South Devon we jumped at the chance and have never looked back since!

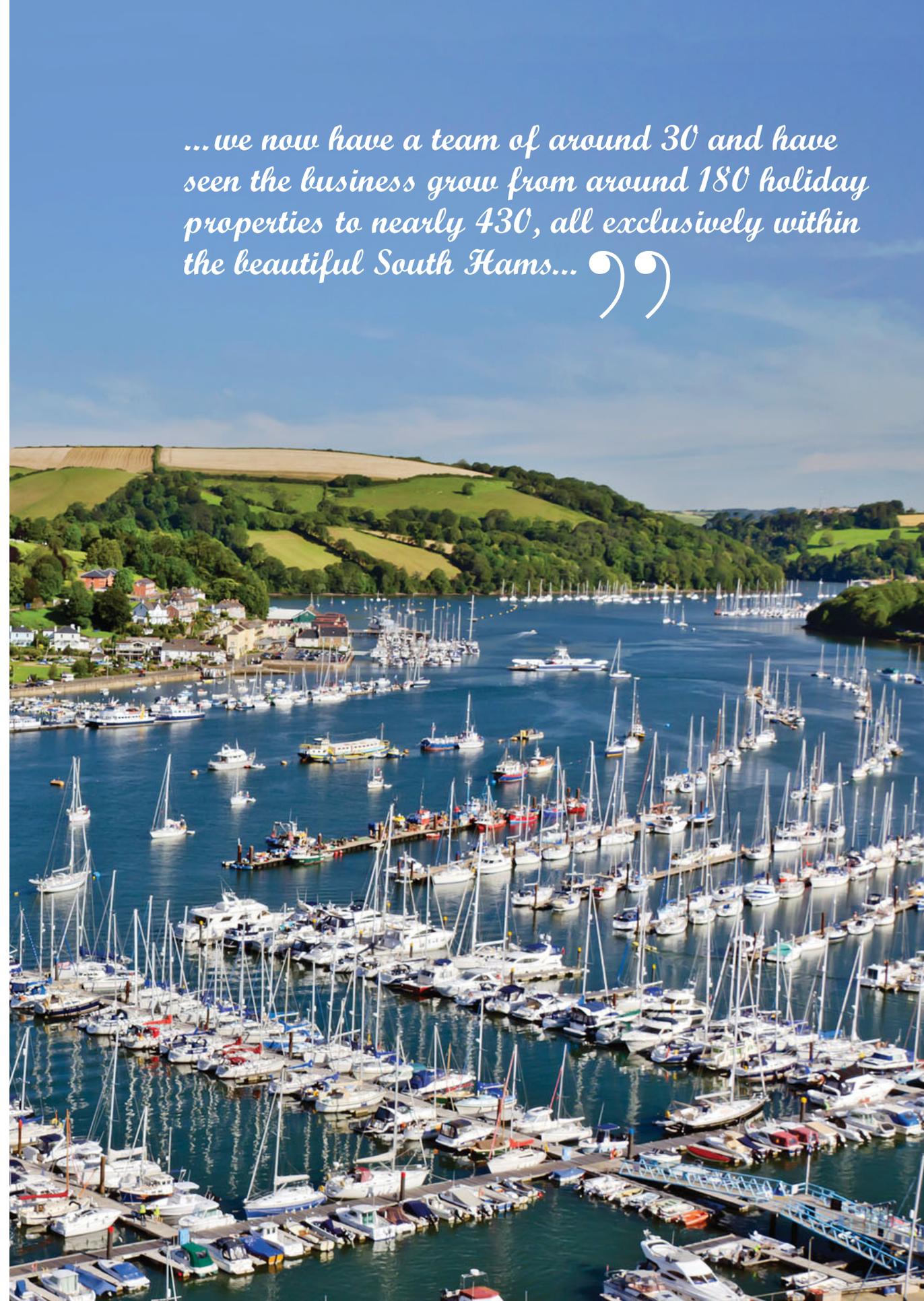
In November 2001 we bought a small holiday letting agency based in the picturesque sailing town of Salcombe (just a few miles from my childhood holiday destination). With just 3 members of staff and a small office, we had spent the Summer of 2001 settling our family into the area and their new school and working alongside the previous owners to get to know the business inside out. At the same time we were offered the chance to buy a



**Above:** Bantham Beach, the fabulous sandy beach from my childhood holiday memories is hugely popular with families looking for the perfect beach for rock pooling, picnics and beach cricket.

**Opposite:** The River Dart – with boats of all sizes available to hire plus boat trips from historic Dartmouth, enjoy relaxing days exploring the picturesque villages along the beautiful River Dart.

*...we now have a team of around 30 and have seen the business grow from around 180 holiday properties to nearly 430, all exclusively within the beautiful South Hams... )*



*We now can't imagine living anywhere else* ”



Frogmore Estuary – not a bad view to accompany our journey to work each day!  
**Inset:** Karen & Andrew Jones with children Sam, Alice & Elinor September 2013

second small holiday business based in the nearby market town of Kingsbridge. Three years later we were then approached by the owners of a third agency in Dartmouth and made the decision to amalgamate all three businesses under the Coast & Country Cottages brand, taking the opportunity at that time to create a new logo and brand image for the company.

Twelve years on, we now have a team of around 30 and have seen the business grow from around 180 holiday properties to nearly 430, all exclusively within the beautiful South Hams, the area of South Devon that had first attracted us. With large offices overlooking the stunning Salcombe estuary plus a smaller satellite office in historic Dartmouth, we have replaced the long daily motorway commute with a short drive along the estuary. Now living in a beautiful renovated farmhouse in a pretty village at the end of a creek, we can even go by boat to work...tides permitting! And now we can take the boat up the River Dart, build sandcastles on the beach with nieces and nephews and walk the coastal path whenever we want, not just on holiday...

With our fantastic locally based team we work very hard to promote this wonderful area to those thinking of holidaying in the South West. With its stunning scenery, fabulous food, beautiful beaches and glorious rolling countryside we are delighted that more and more visitors each year are discovering South Devon through us. We work very closely with our holiday home owners to ensure that the properties within our portfolio meet the rising expectations of holidaymakers and are delighted that so many have been awarded 5 star status by VisitEngland, with a number receiving the coveted 5 star gold status. With a holiday being one of the most important events in the year for many people, the team work very hard to ensure that a customer's holiday requirements are matched with the most suitable property and location and the increasing number of visitors returning to us year after year and recommending the agency to their friends is very encouraging.

We now can't imagine living anywhere else and hope we can tempt you to visit us sometime soon.

\*Except East Portlemouth (Easter-October only)

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# A truly local experience

Living in an official Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, with miles of coastline 'on our doorstep', unspoilt beaches just a few miles down the road and picturesque towns and villages with award-winning pubs and restaurants close by, at Coast & Country Cottages we know just how lucky we are to live and work in such a beautiful area. It is also a wonderful place to spend your childhood!

As we are often asked by those booking their holiday for suggestions of places to visit, the best beaches to explore and ideas for keeping the kids busy whilst in the area, here we've asked some of the children of the Coast & Country Cottages team to give you their very own recommendations of the best places to visit locally, whatever age you are...

**"My favourite beach activity has to be toasting marshmallows over an open wood fire on South Milton Sands as the sun goes down."**

Imogen Wood (14)

Karen Wood has worked at Coast & Country Cottages for over 9 years and has three daughters, Imogen (14), Sophie (12) and Isabella (8). Keen sailors, the girls are members of Salcombe Yacht Club Cadets – indeed with



Sailing in Salcombe

her father, Andrew, Imogen has won the Town Regatta two years in a row in their Salcombe Yawl.

After all that activity, they enjoy nothing more than an evening on the beach at South Milton, with their Jack Russell terrier, Tumble, exploring rock pools, looking for cowrie shells and toasting marshmallows.

The sisters also love crabbing – says Sophie, "Bowcombe Bridge is by far the best place for crabbing (don't tell everyone!) and fresh bacon is the bait that works best." Their current record is catching 110 crabs in an hour!"

Naomi Byrne (6), daughter of newly appointed Dartmouth Manager, Nick Byrne, also loves crabbing and also uses bacon as her preferred bait, but suggests Dartmouth Embankment as the best place to crab. Meanwhile, Property Services Manager, Nick Seedhouse's



Elinor Jones & cousin Millie crabbing in Salcombe

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Soar Mill Cove  
**Inset:** Jake Taylor (6) enjoys pond dipping at Pennywell Farm



**“When we are all worn out we retire to the café with the fantastic view over the South Hams countryside and enjoy a cup of tea and a slice of local homemade cake.”** Stuart Taylor, Operations Manager and Dad to Jake (6) and Ruby (3)

sons, Harvey and Louis, aged 14 and 13, rate Victoria Quay in Salcombe as the best spot and prefer to use mackerel strips as bait.

Watersports enthusiasts, Harvey and Louis enjoy surfing and kayaking at Bigbury-on-Sea with their Dad and body boarding, swimming and fishing off the sand bar at Sunny Cove and have also tried water skiing and wakeboarding. They also like visiting the more remote beach of North Hallsands which “is great and often missed” and is also a favourite of New Properties Co-ordinator, Jenni Tolchard’s youngest brother Charlie who is nearly 5. The family live close to Hallsands so Charlie spends lots of time playing on this beautiful unspoilt beach on the Start Bay coastline.

**“Woodlands is an amazing day out. I think I enjoy it as much as them! Great for families with excellent facilities.”**

Leigh Robinson, New Properties Manager and Dad to Tilly (5) and Maisie (3)

When younger Harvey and Louis Seedhouse loved going to Woodlands, which they describe as “great for all weathers”. Naomi Byrne loves going to Woodlands and says Nick, “it makes her laugh when I get soaking wet on the waterslides!” New Properties Manager, Leigh Robinson’s two daughters, Tilly and Maisie also love going to Woodlands. Their favourite ride is the rocket train and they love to feed the goats in the mini farm.



Another destination suggested by the team is Avon Mill Garden Centre and Café, near Loddiswell, popular with visitors and locals of all ages. Marketing Executive, Victoria Rogers, who is expecting her first child in November 2013,

Pennywell Farm is also very popular amongst the team as a great place to take children of all ages, whatever the weather and even out of season – indeed their Christmas nativities are so popular that tickets for key dates are booked up well in advance. Elinor Jones (15) and daughter of Karen & Andrew Jones (Directors) has fond memories of visiting Pennywell as a younger child, enjoying holding rabbits, riding the ponies and sitting on the tractor plus regularly taking part in the nativity shows, including riding on the donkey three times dressed as Mary! Jake and Ruby Taylor love going to Pennywell Farm as there is so much to do, with cuddling the bunnies top of Ruby’s to-do list and

Jake particularly enjoying pond dipping! Feeding the lambs is also a must and Stuart’s children spend hours burning off lots of energy running around the play houses and riding on the toy tractors.

remembers this as one of her favourite places to visit as a child, enjoying a delicious lunch on the terrace before taking an afternoon stroll along the banks of the Avon estuary whilst Sales Administrator Becky Hill regularly takes her family for a walk along the nearby picturesque, disused railway, treating them to their favourite luxury milkshakes complete with flakes and mini marshmallows at Avon Mill afterwards! As dogs are welcome in one area of the café and in the garden centre this is a popular place to visit with the family dog too.

Walking is a popular family pastime in South Devon, with or without a dog in tow, with miles of coastal paths to explore. Ten year old Ellie Doherty, sister of Lotte Doherty, Digital Marketing Assistant, “loves walking to Start Point Lighthouse and then going round to Mattiscombe beach” – the lighthouse is open to the public during the summer months, whilst Victoria Rogers enjoys taking her young niece on a picnic on the South West Coast Path above Soar Mill Cove, where “the views over the beach are stunning, particularly on a sunny day”.

**“I like to visit Soar Mill Cove, there are really cool caves to explore at low tide and lots of rocks to jump off!”**

Isabella Wood (8)

With so many fabulous beaches to choose from, it is hardly surprising that most of the recommendations from the kids for places to visit are for their favourite stretches of the South Hams coastline. With suggestions from North Sands, Salcombe (good for building dams and sandcastles by the stream followed by an icecream at The Winking Prawn), to popular Bantham (sandy beach and great waves) and Bigbury-on-Sea (spacious beach, perfect for cricket and bodyboarding), favourite beaches amongst the local children we spoke to, but perhaps less well known by many visitors to the area, include Lannacombe and Mattiscombe Sands, both on the Start Bay coastline.

Whether you are looking for a great family day out, the best local beaches or activities to keep the kids entertained on holiday, there is something for children of all ages in the beautiful South Hams.

Let us know where your family’s favourite place to go crabbing in the South Hams is (what bait you prefer and your record catch), which beaches you like to explore and what else you like to do or visit when staying in the South Hams – visit us on [facebook.com/coastandcountrycottages](https://facebook.com/coastandcountrycottages)

# Bring the whole family

**W**hether booking a short break for a special birthday, or a longer holiday to celebrate that all important milestone anniversary, Coast & Country Cottages

has some sensational properties perfect for large family gatherings in South Devon. Whatever the occasion, a holiday with the whole family provides a fantastic opportunity to relax, unwind and enjoy yourself in the company of your relatives. Over the last few years Coast & Country Cottages has seen a noticeable increase in the number of 'three generations' booking, with grandparents, parents and children all holidaying together, either in one larger property or in several properties close together.

So, what is there to consider when deciding on which property to choose for your 'three generations' break? If you are opting for one large property it is important to think about the needs of everyone coming. Choosing accommodation with both spacious living areas, as well as separate rooms for individual pursuits, will make for an enjoyable holiday for the whole family!

Broadsands in Thurlestone (sleeping 12) is a VisitEngland Five Star Gold awarded elegant country house in a stunning location with beautiful panoramic sea views. This really is the ideal holiday property for an extended family party looking for flexible accommodation, with an elegant drawing room complete with mini grand piano, a stylish contemporary kitchen and exquisite orangery, large formal dining room, bar and games room. A gate at the bottom of the garden leads to the unspoilt sandy beach two minutes walk away, whilst Thurlestone's famous coastal golf course and the South West Coast Path are 'on the doorstep'. Picturesque Salcombe, with its shops, restaurants, waterfront and sandy beaches is just a short drive away. **From £2763.00 per week.**

For those looking for a private quiet rural retreat with the family, Broad Downs Farmhouse, near Salcombe (sleeping 12) could be the perfect option. This luxuriously presented property with outdoor heated swimming pool, provides spacious contemporary accommodation throughout the Summer holidays. Enjoy a meal in the stunning family room, or dine al fresco in the private courtyard under the shade of the 100 year old fig tree. For adults, the beautifully presented drawing room is ideal for relaxing in with a good book, whilst the children will love



The hot tub at Vantage Point

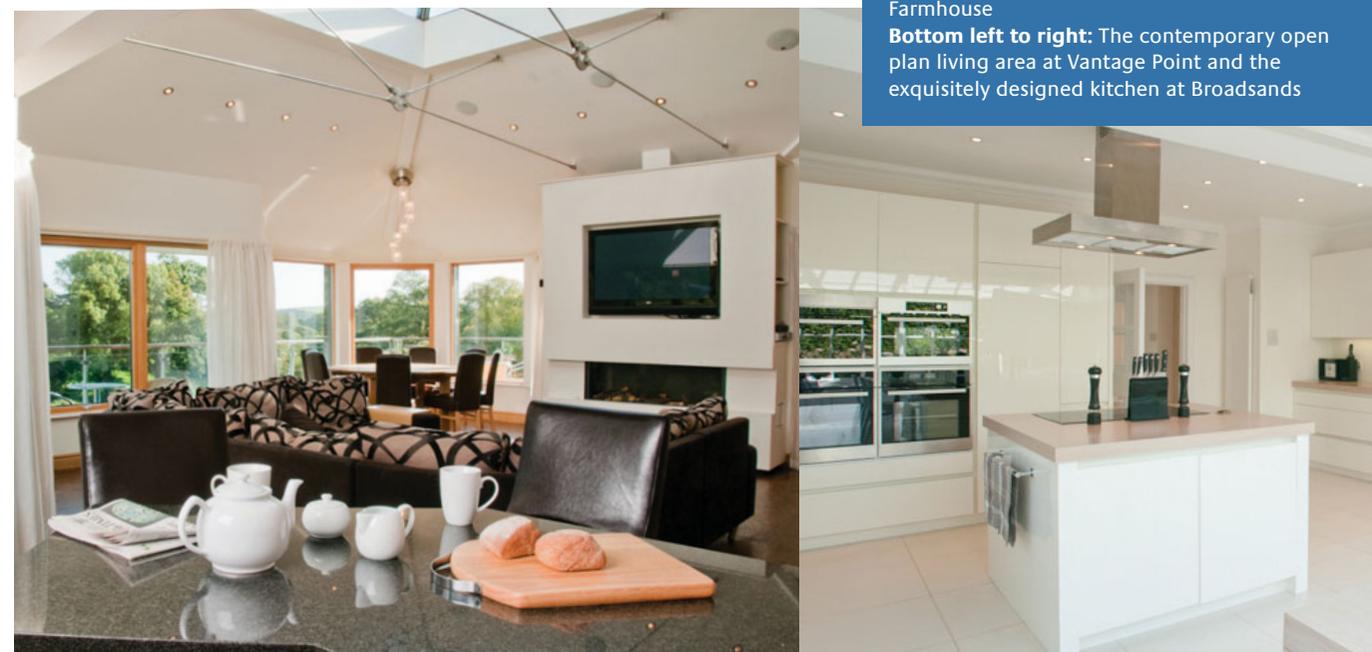
*Whatever the occasion, a holiday with the whole family provides a fantastic opportunity to relax, unwind and enjoy yourself in the company of your relatives.*



**Top left to right:** Vantage Point and the Court Cottages at Hillfield Village

**Middle left to right:** The farmhouse kitchen and the stunning family room at Broad Downs Farmhouse

**Bottom left to right:** The contemporary open plan living area at Vantage Point and the exquisitely designed kitchen at Broadsands



playing in the bright snug/sitting room. With bedroom layouts offering flexible sleeping arrangements for all the family, plus baby friendly facilities provided, including travel cots and high chairs, this luxury farmhouse is great for families with young children. In addition, extra services are available, removing pre-holiday hassles and allowing busy families to 'hit the ground running' when they start their holiday. This includes advanced restaurant bookings and private on site catering for evening meals\* (\*available upon request at an additional cost). **Prices start from £3890.00 per week.**

If the thought of one house accommodating the entire group under one roof is a little overwhelming, why not book several smaller houses or cottages together in one area. This alternative would suit people who prefer more privacy and individual space. Older grandparents, aunts and uncles may not appreciate being woken by their early rising, noisy nieces, nephews or grandchildren whilst on holiday! In this event, ensuring that one of the properties has suitable space in which everyone can gather is recommended. Holiday complexes, with properties of different sizes, are often ideal for larger party breaks, because they allow the group to stay close together but provide flexibility and private space. Hillfield Village near Dartmouth, for example, has 28 luxury properties sleeping from 2 to 12, clustered in combinations that make group bookings attractive and feasible.

Vantage Point is a unique VisitEngland Five Star Gold awarded property (sleeping 8) in a spectacular location, boasting stunning views across the surrounding countryside from the 'wrap around' viewing deck. Providing spacious open planned living accommodation, with a private sauna and large hot tub, this property is perfect for a large group to gather in! Vantage Point is located adjacent to the Court Cottages, six delightful cottages sleeping up to 4 people each - they provide private luxury accommodation, but are located within close proximity of one another making them great for larger family groups who want to be in separate accommodation but close to each other.

With facilities at Hillfield Village including an outdoor swimming pool, all-weather tennis court, children's play area and acres of garden, all party members will love this contemporary development. Guests can also enjoy Members Guest Rates at the nearby Dartmouth Golf and Country Club. **Prices for Vantage Point are from £1228.00 per week. Prices for Court Cottages are from £470.00 per week.** Short breaks also available.

**For assistance in choosing the perfect property for your holiday with a large party, please call our locally based team on 01548 843773 today.**



The outdoor swimming pool at Broad Downs Farmhouse  
Inset: The fabulous orangery at Broadsands



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# Things to do in Dartmouth

**Left:** Experience the traditional pastime of crabbing on the waterfront  
**Middle:** Enjoy some retail therapy in picturesque streets  
**Right:** Enjoy the fun of Regatta in August

Enjoy a boat trip, out to sea or down river, past pretty waterside villages to historic Totnes with its popular Elizabethan market. Take a steam train ride, visit the castle or Agatha Christie's house, Greenways, by boat. Wander around Dartmouth's quaint cobbled streets, visiting art galleries and individual boutiques. Or feast on locally caught fish and seafood in a great choice of restaurants. Explore the nearby South Devon coastline, including award-winning Blackpool Sands beach, hire a kayak or a paddleboard or just relax over an organic cup of tea.

An all year round destination, local events include Dartmouth Food Festival in October attracting celebrity chefs, locals and visitors alike. Dartmouth Royal Regatta in August features waterborne activities plus spectacular air displays often from the renowned Red Arrows.

From stylish waterside apartments, beautifully renovated period houses, 'chocolate box' thatched cottages, and family-friendly holiday homes, to elegant country farmhouses and luxury apartments with use of leisure facilities, many properties offer fabulous water or country views. Coast & Country Cottages, the locally based holiday company, with a centrally situated Dartmouth office, is the largest holiday agency exclusively marketing around 430 holiday properties in and around Dartmouth and throughout the South Hams.



OUR TOP TIPS

## OUR TOP TIPS FOR A BREAK IN DARTMOUTH INCLUDE:

Take a wonderful boat trip on the River Dart, past Bayards Cove, Kingswear, Dartmouth Castle, Britannia Royal Naval College, picturesque Dittisham, Sir Walter Raleigh's Boathouse and Greenways, the home of Agatha Christie. Or book a circular ticket for a great day out by boat, steam train and bus! A great day out for all the family [www.dartmouthrailriver.co.uk](http://www.dartmouthrailriver.co.uk)

Keep the kids entertained, whatever the weather, at Woodlands, near Dartmouth, the largest family theme park in the South West. With rides, a mini zoo park plus a massive indoor play area, there is something for everyone [www.woodlandspark.com](http://www.woodlandspark.com)

Book a Dart Adventure: [www.dartadventures.co.uk](http://www.dartadventures.co.uk) including mountain biking, kayaking, stand up paddle boarding, coasteering or sailing on the beautiful River Dart

Enjoy some retail therapy in Dartmouth's quaint streets offering everything from individual local boutiques and art galleries to popular retailers.

Make time for a coffee or fabulous breakfast or lunch at the popular Café Alf Resco in Lower Street [www.cafealfresco.co.uk](http://www.cafealfresco.co.uk)

Try the traditional pastime of crabbing on the waterfront - bait and lines available locally - or simply sit and watch the world (and the boats) go by.

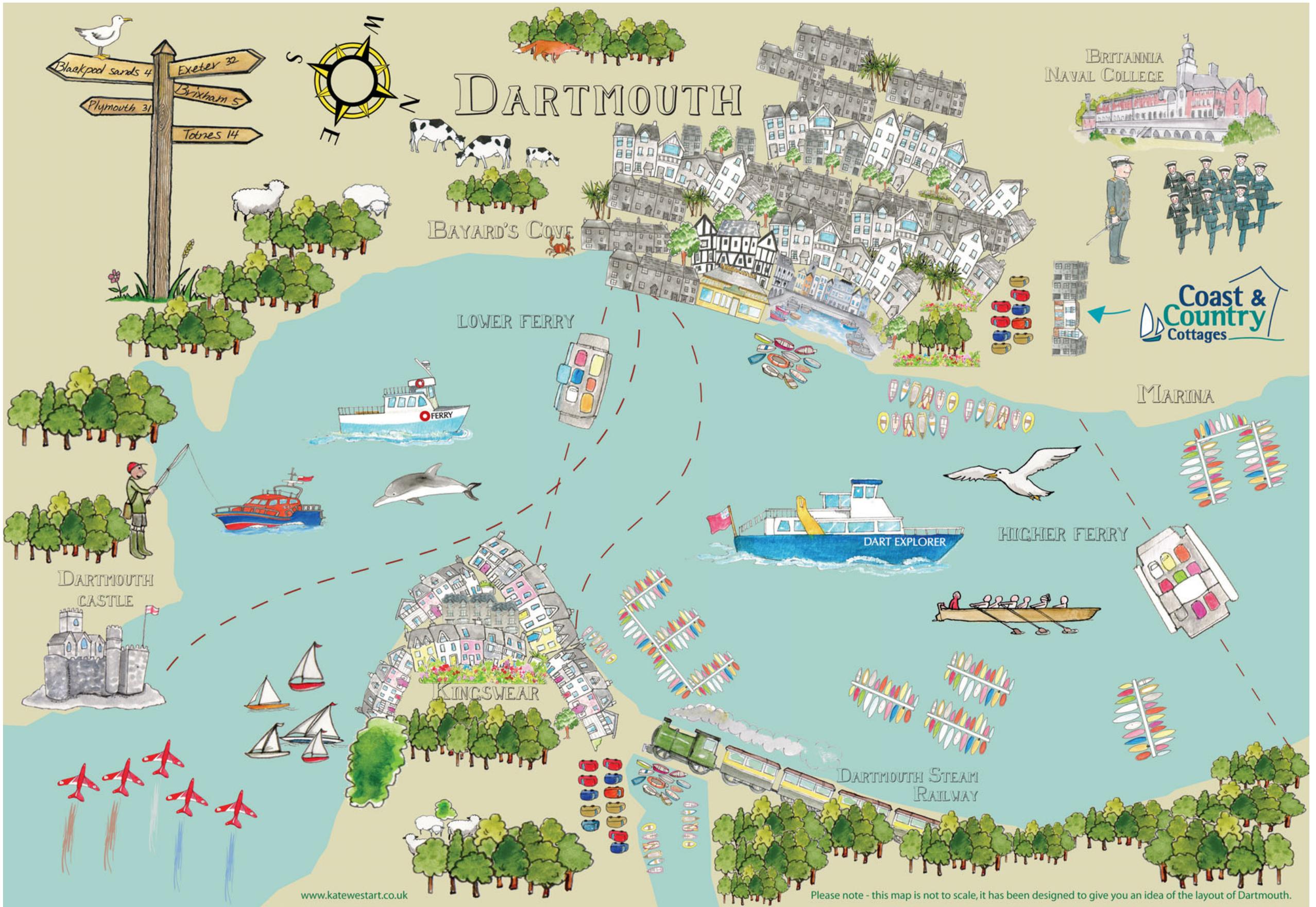
Take a short drive to award-winning Blackpool Sands for a Summer beach day or a brisk walk. Venus Café [www.lovingthebeach.co.uk](http://www.lovingthebeach.co.uk) serve local, organic food and drink all day every day, plus evening dining offering steak, freshly caught fish, crab and lobster.

Finish off a fabulous day in Dartmouth with delicious fish and chips from Rockfish [www.rockfishdevon.co.uk](http://www.rockfishdevon.co.uk) or for the best in local seafood cooked over a charcoal fire, book a table at Mitch Tonks' The Seahorse [www.seahorserestaurant.co.uk](http://www.seahorserestaurant.co.uk). For fine dining, with views across the River Dart, try The River Restaurant [www.dartmarina.com](http://www.dartmarina.com).

What do you like to do when you visit Dartmouth? Share your top tips on our Facebook page: [facebook.com/coastandcountrycottages](https://facebook.com/coastandcountrycottages)

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If you are thinking of letting your holiday home  
**just say the word...**

## Passion

We love what we do. Coast & Country Cottages is a family-owned and managed holiday agency based in the South Hams, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in the Southernmost tip of Devon. Our commitment to service is at the heart of everything we do and one of the main reasons we market and manage more 5 star properties and generate more holiday enquiries than any other agency in the South Hams.

## Trust

Relax. You're in safe hands. The majority of our team live within this beautiful area, and therefore know and love the South Hams as much as those who choose to have a home here or visit for a holiday. They walk along the coastal paths, eat and drink in the pubs and restaurants, browse in the shops, and enjoy the lovely sandy beaches, offering a level of local knowledge that is simply unrivalled.

## Confidence

“Coast & Country Cottages give us confidence that anyone staying in our properties will enjoy the best possible holiday experience. Should any unexpected problem arise during a guest's stay, they deal with it straight away ensuring their high expectations are fully met.” **Christine Flintham** (Owner Dart Marina properties)

## Care

The Service We Offer You. From marketing support to full management, our locally based teams in Salcombe and Dartmouth offer a range of services to suit the needs of holiday home owners, whether living locally or outside the area. Whichever service option you choose our team will always be on hand to provide the back up, care and support required to ensure the holiday runs smoothly and customer expectations are met or, preferably, exceeded.



Diddly Squat, 43 Dart Marina



Broad Downs Barn



Seagulls Cottage, Buckley Street, Salcombe

## Reward

Achieving the maximum return. To ensure your holiday home can achieve good levels of rental income over a long and successful season it is important to prepare and present the accommodation to the highest standards. We offer free advice and support based on our extensive experience to help you furnish, equip and present your property to meet customer expectations.

## Excellence

Join an exclusive group. We set ourselves very high standards – since 2010 all of our new properties have had to meet a minimum 4-star VisitEngland rating for the quality of accommodation. A property rating means customers can select a property for their holiday with confidence every time so we work closely with our owners to achieve the high standards required.

## Appraisal

“Having worked at senior level in UK tourism throughout my career, I have found Coast & Country Cottages to be a thoroughly professional company from top to bottom - there isn't any member of the team I have dealt with who has not failed to impress me!”

**Malcolm Wood**  
(Owner Dartmouth property)



## Expectation

A final word. A holiday is one of the highlights of the year for most people and it is our aim to meet or exceed the expectations of every customer. We take these responsibilities very seriously and work hard with our owners to deliver a service we can each be proud of.

To find out more call our New Properties team on 01548 843773 or email [newproperties@coastandcountry.co.uk](mailto:newproperties@coastandcountry.co.uk) for a copy of our Owners Guide or to arrange a free property assessment, without any obligation or 'hard sell'.

[www.coastandcountry.co.uk](http://www.coastandcountry.co.uk)

# A FEAST *straight from our fields*

RIVERFORD RECIPES by Rob Andrew, Head Chef at the Riverford Field Kitchen

## Sweetcorn, ham hock and watercress chowder

Serves 4

It is common knowledge that sweetcorn makes a handsome chowder, especially when paired with smoked fish. I've gone down the meat route here. Pork has a tendency to marry well with sweet, thick parma ham and melon, or pâte and chutney. The watercress adds a levelling pepperiness and verdant speckling.

- |                      |                               |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 onion              | 1 litre of chicken stock      |
| 2 celery sticks      | or 1/2 litre chicken stock    |
| 1 carrot             | and 1/2 litre ham stock       |
| 1 small potato       | 200ml double cream            |
| 1/2 an unwaxed lemon | 150g shredded cooked ham hock |
| 2 garlic cloves      | or good quality baked ham     |
| small bunch of thyme | bunch of watercress           |
| 4 corn cobs          |                               |

Finely dice the onion, celery and carrots and cook slowly in olive oil and butter. Remove the kernels from the corn with a sharp knife by standing on the flat end and slicing down the length of the cob. Dice the potato, zest the lemon, strip the thyme leaves from the stalks and finely chop the garlic. Add to the pan and fry for a few mins and add the stock and shredded ham, simmer for 15-20 mins until everything is tender. Stir in the cream and gently bring the heat back up. Season to taste with salt, pepper and maybe a squeeze of lemon juice. Serve garnished with a good handful of chopped watercress.

**TIP** Don't throw away your used cobs; they make an interesting addition to chicken or vegetable stock pots.



## Marinated chicken, chilli chard and tomatoes with thyme and preserved lemons

Serves 2

It is an advantage to be a day ahead on this if you can, as the marinade works its magic over time. The acid in the lemon juice really penetrates the meat and carries the herbs and garlic with it. Chard is more robust and deeper in flavour than spinach, and you need to separate the stalks from the leaves to give them a head start when cooking. The preserved lemons are a great partner for sweet roast tomatoes, but in their absence you can use lemon zest if you like. We make lavish amounts of preserved lemons at the start of the summer in preparation for the salad season; well worth it if you care for a flash of North African flavour in your food.

- |                            |                      |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| 2 chicken breasts, skin on | 8 tomatoes           |
| 1 fresh lemon              | 1 preserved lemon    |
| Garlic                     | Teaspoon icing sugar |
| few sprigs of thyme        | Big handful of chard |
| few sprigs of rosemary     | 1 red chilli         |
| Olive oil                  |                      |

To make the marinade, use a peeler to peel the skin from the fresh lemon into big strips, the kind you see in a good martini. Bash the lemon peel, herbs and 3 cloves of garlic roughly in a pestle and mortar, then juice the lemon, add a splash of oil and rub the lot over the chicken breast and leave overnight. Prepare your preserved lemon: remove and discard the flesh inside and chop the skin and pith into strips. The tomatoes just need halving and seasoning with oil, salt and pepper, and a wee shake of icing sugar on top to emphasise the natural sweetness



and give a nice golden colour. Roast in the oven at 200°C for about 20-25 mins. 5 mins before the end, add some crumbled sprigs of thyme and the preserved lemon. For the chard you'll need to strip the leaves from the stalks. Finely chop the stalks and cook slowly in a saucepan in a dash of oil and a small knob of butter until starting to soften; a dash of water will help if it starts to dry out and stick. Finely chop a clove of garlic and half a de-seeded chilli and stir into the stalks, then continue cooking for 5 more minutes before throwing in the shredded leaves. A slow cook for 8-10 minutes will wilt the leaves and finish it off, but be careful not to burn the garlic. A squeeze of lemon juice at the end never goes too far wrong.

The chicken is best started on a chargrill, but most kitchens will fill with smoke in 2 seconds, if you have a good extractor then go for it, if not then use a sturdy pan. Remove from the marinade and clean off any flotsam of peel or garlic, season well with salt and pepper and fry the chicken till golden brown on both sides. Slide into the oven for the last 10 minutes of the tomatoes' cooking time. Assemble the dish by placing the chicken on a bed of chilli chard, with the tomatoes on the side.

## Ricotta and orange cheesecake with autumn raspberries

serves 10

This cheesecake is the first job of the day for our pastry chef Rita, and is open to a whole variety of tweaks and riffs on a theme. It is a great vehicle for whatever berries are in season. We use buffalo milk ricotta from Laverstoke Farm in Hampshire in our kitchen, you should be able to find something similar in a well stocked cheesemongers. Ricotta from the supermarket seems to be a little bit softer, so slightly up the ratio of cream cheese if that's what you are using. There may be a temptation to cook the raspberries down with a bit of sugar, but if they are perfectly in season I'd suggest you let them speak for themselves.

- |                             |                        |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| 600g raspberries            | <b>For the base:</b>   |
| 400g ricotta                | 100g ground almonds    |
| 400g cream cheese           | 200g digestive biscuit |
| Zest of 2 lemons            | 100g butter            |
| Zest of 2 oranges           |                        |
| Juice of 1 lemon & 1 orange |                        |
| 4 eggs                      |                        |
| 300g sugar                  |                        |

Line the bottom and sides of a 24 cm springform cake tin, and preheat the oven to 140°C. To make the base, put the biscuits in a food processor and pulse until fine, then mix in the ground almonds. Melt the butter and stir through the biscuits. Put the mix in the tin and gently smooth flat with the back of a spoon, getting it as level and even as you can. Pop into the oven for 10 mins while you make the filling. Beat together the ricotta, cream cheese and zest, adding the juice bit by bit until smooth. In a separate bowl, lightly

whisk together the eggs and sugar. Add the eggs to the cheese and mix well. Tip the mix onto the base and bake for about 45 mins. The whole thing should rise like a soufflé in the oven, and retain a slight wobble. Be warned, it will deflate and firm up after cooling, but that's part of its rustic charm. Serve at room temperature with the raspberries.



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# A day in the life...

**MARTIN EMMETT FROM RIVERFORD HOME DELIVERY** Interviewed by Victoria Rogers, Coast & Country Cottages

**Q So Martin, please tell us a little bit about Riverford Home Delivery.**

**A** My wife Jane and I bought the existing Riverford Home Delivery franchise for Torbay & South Hams from the farm in 2007, and ever since we have been delivering Riverford Boxes across the area. We have two full time drivers and me making deliveries, with Jane doing all the administration. Our 20 year old daughter, Grace, also does some database work for us.

**Q It sounds like a real family business. How does your typical day start and finish?**

**A** The alarm goes off at 5.40am. After making tea and toast for Jane in bed I Hoover inside and mow the lawn before departing at 6.20am! I arrive at the farm at 6.40am to load circa 100 boxes for me and the same for our other drivers, Rob and Jim. We leave the farm about 40 minutes later. Our rounds are spread far and wide from the tip of Teignmouth to the bottom of Aveton Gifford. We deliver circa 900 boxes per week and most rounds are completed by 5pm when I can come home and make dinner and do a little ironing... puff.

**Q It certainly sounds like a very busy job with all those boxes to deliver (not to mention the lawn mowing and the ironing!!) Have you any funny stories from making your deliveries?**

**A** Many... visions of Jane delivering in her socks immediately springs to mind. She had to walk over black ice to deliver to a customer in Newton Abbot in the Winter of 2010 – we've never missed a delivery in any conditions!

**Q Now that's good customer service. We are interested to know what the most popular fruit or vegetable that people order is?**

**A** It is all about personal choice but our seasonal offerings when some items may only last a week or two i.e. Strawberries, Sweetcorn and Asparagus are particularly popular. All our boxes offer seasonal vegetables 12 months of the year. We never air freight any produce and all items are certified organic by The Soil Association.

**Q That is very reassuring. What is the most unusual fruit or vegetable that you do?**

**A** Romanesco is part of the cauliflower range and looks like a piece of coral or a sea urchin but it's great with cheese and bacon.

**Q That sounds delicious! Which is your favourite area to visit and make deliveries to in the South Hams?**

**A** My round on a Friday because I get to see the beautiful Coast & Country Cottages team...! No, really, the Salcombe to South Sands route that takes in Bantham, Thurlestone et al is a lovely reminder at the end of a tough week of why Jane and I continue to love this area, even after 10 years.

**Q We agree, we love this beautiful area too! It must have been a challenge taking on the franchise of Riverford Home Delivery. What is the best piece of advice you have ever been given?**

**A** "What goes around, comes around". Our son Josef was diagnosed with cancer in 2006 when he was 16. Having fully recovered, we have supported CLIC Sargent and Make a Wish ever since and have raised over £30k for these charities with three London Marathons and numerous half marathons. We have also hosted various other fund raising events like 'Sing-along Mama Mia' and 'Grease' in our own village. We have seen first-hand the amazing work these charities do and have helped ever since... We also support local charity, Torbay Holiday Helpers Network, which offers free holidays to families who have a sick or terminally ill child or who have been bereaved.

**Q What a phenomenal amount of money you have raised for charity – congratulations on such a fantastic achievement. I believe you most recently ran the London marathon in 2013? We would love to hear about it.**

**A** I have completed three London Marathon runs: one on my own completed in 4.01.01 (my best time!); one in 2012 with my son, now fully recovered, along with three other runners and a third in 2013 with close friend and Postman, Bob Shearwood from Stoke Fleming. Marathon day is always very emotional, especially when Scooby Doo overtakes you at 25 miles of the 26.3 mile run. For the last marathon Bob and I dressed in pink tutus, (see photo). We started in a place with serious tri-athletes and 'Iron men', promising ourselves not to start off too fast... well the rest is history... but we got some very nice wolf whistles on the way round!

**To find out more about ordering a Riverford Box for your holiday, contact Martin and Jane on 01803 732786 or visit [www.riverford.co.uk](http://www.riverford.co.uk).**



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*Stunning view from Salcombe over the estuary  
towards East Portlemouth beach and the holiday  
properties Ferrycot and Ferryside (right)*

*(available through Coast & Country Cottages)*

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If you're thinking of buying a holiday home to let in the South Hams...

# We can help!



With over 430 holiday properties exclusively in Salcombe, Dartmouth and the surrounding countryside, Coast & Country Cottages is well placed to offer guidance, advice and support to prospective new owners looking to buy a property in the South Hams.



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Dart Marina Hotel & Spa, Sandquay Rd, Dartmouth, TQ6 9PH.

Sundowners in Salcombe

So, what is it that we consider important when assessing new properties with prospective owners? Firstly – and most crucially – the standard of accommodation must meet the expectations of holiday guests, irrespective of the size of the property, location, views or other amenities. We insist that all new properties achieve a minimum 4-Star standard under the VisitEngland assessment scheme, as we believe this is the level of comfort most customers require for an enjoyable holiday. A holiday home of this standard should have a modern, well-equipped kitchen (very important for a ‘self-catering’ holiday!), good quality bathrooms with at least one powerful shower, comfortable and well-coordinated lounge and bedroom furniture (including really good mattresses), as well as a range of TV and audio equipment to keep guests entertained!

Over recent years we have discussed these criteria with many new holiday homeowners, and to great effect in many cases. For example, when initially discussing the recent acquisition of White Lodge in Dartmouth, Andrew Jones (Director) advised the then potential buyers that the kitchen and bathrooms at this otherwise spacious and well-appointed house were not up to the standard required and that investment in these areas (as well as some general redecoration and other minor maintenance) could have a significant effect on both the volume and value of bookings.

Says Andrew, “I could see that this property had tremendous letting potential if the new owners made the improvements and prepared the house effectively. I am pleased to say that not only did they take this advice on board they went some way further, introducing extra facilities such as a wood-burning stove, integrated audio system and TVs in every bedroom – they also furnished White Lodge to a very good standard throughout. Consequently the house achieved a 5-Star assessment from VisitEngland and has been booked for well over 30 weeks in each of its first two seasons!”



Breakfast in the stylish open plan kitchen at Haven near Salcombe

As well as ensuring a holiday property is presented and equipped to the highest standard possible we will also advise potential new owners as to the most sought-after locations in the area and offer an insight into other important ‘selling’ factors such as sea views, parking or gardens etc. For the new owner of a spacious apartment in one of our most popular destinations the decision to upgrade and let The Garden House at Woodside in Salcombe was a relatively simple one, as the property enjoys the benefits of a stunning view, has a large terrace, off-road parking, and access to a shared garden. Even though it was not available for holiday rentals until June (2013), it achieved full occupancy and nearly £18,000 worth of bookings in the first Summer alone!

Continues Andrew, “This particular apartment ‘ticks the boxes’ in almost all respects for our Salcombe customers. As well as being well equipped and of a high 4-Star standard overall, it has spectacular views, great outside space for entertaining, and garage parking – it’s no wonder it has been in such high demand...!”



Views across the Salcombe estuary from the bedroom at The Garden House, 4 Woodside



The spacious decking area at White Lodge, Dartmouth



The fabulous bathroom at White Lodge, Dartmouth



The modern living area at Sundowners, Salcombe

When preparing a property for letting, we advise owners to put themselves in the shoes of holidaymakers and consider the ‘little things’ that will improve the overall holiday experience. If, for example, a property is suitably set-up with baby-friendly equipment (such as plastic cutlery, bed-guards and toys), in addition to a travel cot and high chair, it will undoubtedly make it more appealing to families. The owners of Sundowners, a newly refurbished and very tastefully presented house in Salcombe, followed up on our suggestions in this regard, and reaped the benefits of a long and successful season in 2013 as a result. Many of their bookings included young children or infants in the party, with a high proportion of their happy parents re-booking the house again for 2014! Of course, not every holiday home has the benefit of a lovely view, or can be adapted for young families; in these cases we would encourage new owners to think about



The traditional living area and inset the country kitchen at The Linhay, near Dartmouth



other potential customers who may be attracted to their property. With many miles of glorious coastline on offer right across the South Hams it is unsurprising that walkers (with or without a dog) visit the area in great numbers over the course of the year, so making a property pet friendly and comfortable for one or more couples can often help encourage bookings and extend a season well beyond the Summer.

One such recent addition to our portfolio is The Linhay, near Dartmouth – this delightful 5-Star barn is perfectly set-up for one or two couples (as it has two double bedrooms, each with a King-size bed), and with almost 50 acres of land to explore ensures all visiting dogs will be very well exercised, even before they get to the nearby beaches or coastal path! In its first full year (2013) The Linhay achieved almost full occupancy right through from early March into November and ensured owner Michael Gibbens' rental forecast was comfortably achieved. Says Michael, "I started my lettings business just three years ago but my two barns (The Linhay and The Byre) already have a booking ratio well in excess of original expectations. Coast & Country Cottages' recommendation to accept a dog in each of the barns has certainly proved to be a good one for us!"

If you would like to find out more about letting your holiday home, Coast & Country Cottages' dedicated Property Team would be delighted to arrange a free

property assessment without any obligation or 'hard sell'. Similarly, if you are considering purchasing a property but would like to know more about its rental potential, contact Andrew Jones or Leigh Robinson for free advice.

**To find out more about any of the properties featured, or to request a FREE Owners Guide please visit [www.coastandcountry.co.uk](http://www.coastandcountry.co.uk) or call (01548) 843773.**

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# A hidden pearl on the banks of the River Dart

Sharpham is one of the many hidden pearls to sit on the banks of the River Dart. If you wind on past the historic town of Totnes, famous for its independent shops, freethinking residents and environmental conscience you will soon look up to the slopes of the Estate, drawing down to the west bank.

**Sharpham Vineyard & Cheese Dairy** is one of Devon's best kept secrets. It sits above the River Dart, just downstream of Totnes, and combines a spectacular location with award winning wine & cheese.

The heart of Sharpham Estate took shape in the late 18th Century when the Architect Sir Robert Taylor was commissioned by Captain Philemon Pownoll, to design and build a neo-Palladian mansion. This grand, classical building overlooks the vines, which stretch down to the River Dart.

The Estate was bought by Ruth & Maurice Ash in 1961 and by 1981 a new project in diversification was underway. The first vines were planted and cheese making took up residence in the old coach yard. A conscious decision was

made not to replicate others' approach but to develop along more radical lines, hence the production of soft cheeses and the choice of a French grape when most UK vineyards were growing German varieties. The hallmarks of Sharpham's approach remain uniqueness, quality, traceability & honesty.

Mark Sharman has been the Managing Director of Sharpham Wine & Cheese since it was formed in 1991. He has piloted the business from the small farming project of its youth, right through to its current commercial success with products continually bestowed regional, national and international awards and recognition.

Duncan Schwab has been making the Sharpham wines for over 21 years and as head wine maker, he is

responsible for the uncompromising quality which earns Sharpham its reputation as one of the top UK wine producers. Likewise, cheese dairy manager Debbie Mumford can put her name to a countless number of successes in the production of luxurious speciality cheeses. The Sharpham cheese is made from Jersey cow's milk, produced from Sharpham's own herd, and goat milk sourced from a number of small local farms.

During the summer months visitors can add lunch to the Sharpham menu. Rosie Weston has been running the successful Vineyard Café for the past six seasons, turning out spectacular local food, cooked to perfection in the trailer that serves as a professional kitchen. It's alfresco dining at its very best and essential to book to avoid disappointment.

Although Sharpham has grown over the past years, staff running the tours and shop work tirelessly to make sure each visitor has a personal and unique experience. People leave Sharpham glowing – no wonder with such a collection of pleasures all nestled there on the western banks of the River Dart.



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Tours are available which include a wine tasting. Alfresco dining in summer.

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# Beachside retreats for your 2014 holiday

**The beautiful sandy and shingly beaches across the South Hams are perfect for family fun, romantic strolls, watersports, walking your dog and much more...**

Traditional beach past times include exploring rock pools, flying kites with the children or enjoying a refreshing dip in the sea! Whether you prefer surfing or sun bathing, sandcastle building or swimming, there is a beach to suit everyone in this Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Pack up a picnic and dine al fresco on the sand or walk your dog along one of the dog friendly beaches – for couples, there are many private romantic coves to be found, some can only be reached by foot! Why not book a property right on the beach from our fabulous selection of stunning beachside self-catering properties in superb seaside locations?

## Torcross

The historic village of Torcross boasts both a fabulous stretch of shingle beach and unique fresh water lake. Walk along the pebbles, play a game of cricket, or try a spot of mackerel fishing – why not take your catch back to **1 At The Beach**, the stylish apartment a few yards from the beach, and enjoy a delicious meal on the terrace overlooking the sea. Prefer to dine out? Head to one of the restaurants a short walk away! This is the perfect base for anyone looking for a seaside retreat, with historic Dartmouth just a 20 minute drive away. **Prices start from £521.00 for up to 4 sharing.**



Picturesque Torcross beach

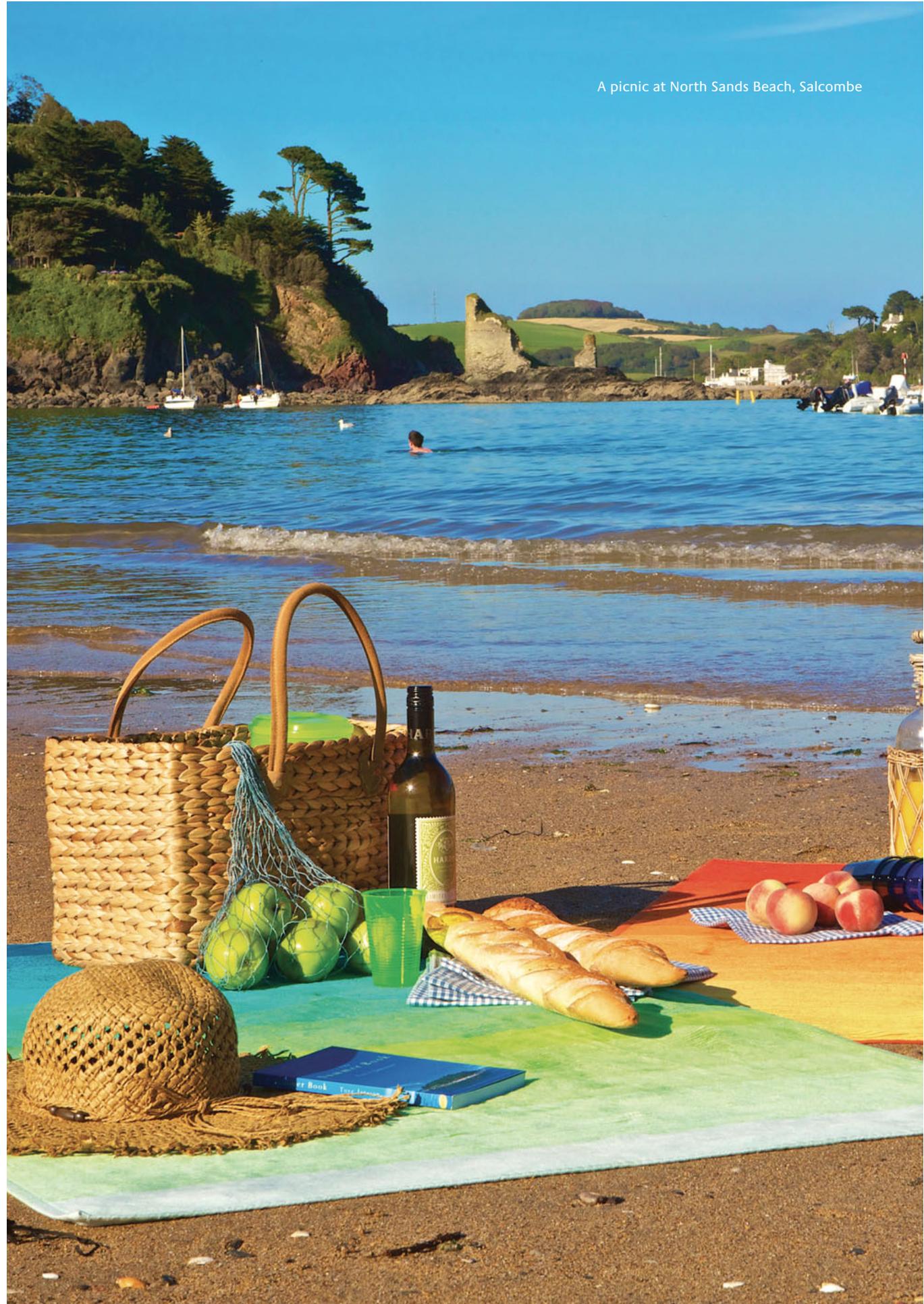
## Hallsands

A small secluded cove on the Start Bay coastline, surrounded by the rolling South Devon countryside and accessed via a quiet rural lane, this beach offers the ultimate peaceful retreat for couples or a family. Stay at **Fulmar**, a luxury VisitEngland Five Star Gold awarded pet friendly property offering flexible beachside accommodation. Visitors enjoy panoramic sea views from the cottage and love walking the nearby South West Coast Path. The South Hams is perfect for exploring on foot; in particular this stretch of coastline has a fascinating history and breathtaking scenery! **Prices start from £759.00 for up to 8 sharing.**



Views of Fulmar and Guillemot from Hallsands beach

A picnic at North Sands Beach, Salcombe



*...there is a beach to suit everyone in this Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty*

## Bantham

Bantham, with its superb surfing waters and unspoilt sandy beach, is a popular destination for watersports enthusiasts – home to the highly regarded Bantham Surf Academy, providing surfing lessons for all abilities ([www.banthamsurfingacademy.co.uk](http://www.banthamsurfingacademy.co.uk)). Book **Grove Cottage**, a spacious holiday home sleeping 6, within a short distance of this popular village. The accommodation is well presented and is equally suited to families or couples looking for a traditional cottage holiday in a delightful coastal location. **Prices start from £705.00 for up to 6 sharing.**

## Thurlestone Sands

Home to the famous 'Thurlestone Rock', Thurlestone Sands is a beautiful and popular beach. Spend family days exploring rock pools, paddling in the waves or trying a delicious locally made ice cream. For accommodation just a short walk away, the luxurious VisitEngland Five Star Gold awarded apartment **8 Ocean's Edge** offers spectacular breathtaking views towards the beach and out to sea. Sit and relax on the balcony, a great vantage point to enjoy the wide-reaching views, or enjoy a dip in the outdoor pool. **Prices start from £534.00 for up to 4 sharing.**



The uninterrupted sea views from 8 Ocean's Edge

## Bigbury-on-Sea

The picturesque seaside village of Bigbury-on-Sea is home to a spectacular sandy beach and Burgh Island with its Art Deco hotel. Walk to the island when the tide is out, or catch the sea tractor at high tide, something the whole family will love! Book a break at the very well-presented luxury property **6 Tarifa**, just 100m from the beautiful sandy beach at Bigbury – finished to an excellent standard, the property offers beautiful sea views from the balcony. **Prices start from £510.00 for up to 6 sharing.**



Walkers enjoying the views across to Burgh Island and Bigbury-on-Sea

A beautiful sunset at Bantham Beach

## East Portlemouth

The unspoilt beach at East Portlemouth offers stunning views across towards Salcombe and right down the Salcombe estuary. This golden stretch of sand is popular with dog walkers and families alike, providing a great spot for traditional activities like kite flying and sandcastle building. Stay at **Ferrycot**, a luxury cottage in a unique waterfront location adjacent to the beach, with easy access to Salcombe via the small passenger ferry from East Portlemouth. The property even has a 'beach room' for storing beach gear, and an outdoor shower to wash sandy children before they go inside, plus a terrace overlooking the beach! **Prices start from £995.00 for up to 9 sharing.**



The popular beach at East Portlemouth

## Blackpool Sands

With its stunning location, spectacular scenery and Blue Flag status, Blackpool Sands is a very popular choice for families and others looking to enjoy a dip in the clear waters. A short drive or bus trip from the historic maritime town of Dartmouth, the award winning **Venus Café** is ideal for picking up lunch or an ice cream. Nearby **Warren Cottage** boasts fabulous sea and country views. With a spacious, private garden and a fabulous open plan sitting/dining room, this is the ideal property to relax in after a busy day at the seaside. Guests can also enjoy the use of the all-weather tennis court at the property, when available. **Prices start from £568.00 for up to 6 sharing.**



The award-winning Blackpool Sands beach

# Exploring Dartmouth's Royal Connections

Dartmouth's connection with the training of Royal Navy Officers began in 1863 when the wooden hulled **HMS Britannia** arrived in the River Dart, mooring off Sandquay. She was joined a year later by **HMS Hindustan**. Then the cadets were 13-year-old school-boys wearing a Naval uniform, sleeping in hammocks and subjected to Naval discipline. Most went on to join the Royal Navy.



Cramped accommodation and general unhealthy living conditions led to the construction of the building we see today overlooking the town and river. Designed by Aston Webb, architect of Buckingham Palace, the building was formally opened by King Edward VII in 1905. To this day it trains future Royal Navy officers.

For a short time during the Second World War, following bomb damage sustained in 1942, the cadets moved to Cheshire and the college building was home to Combined Operations.

The College has trained members of the Royal Family for a number of generations. It was during a royal visit to the College in 1939 that Princess Elizabeth first met a young man under training, Prince Philip of Greece.

In 1953 the College became known as Britannia Royal Naval College. Over the years the length of training undertaken within its walls and grounds has varied. The present Initial Naval Training course is 30 weeks long culminating in an impressive Passing-out Parade watched by families and friends. As most officer cadets join the Royal Navy after studying for a degree the average age on entry is now 24 years, a little different to the 13-year-olds of 1863.

The Britannia Association is a registered charity and unites all the alumni of BRNC. The association now provides guided public tours of this iconic building which are available on a Monday and Wednesday afternoon all year round. Tours cover its considerable history and its role within the Royal Navy today, providing the training of Naval Officers.

BRNC should be a key ingredient of any visit to the West Country. Dartmouth Tourist Information Centre (01803 834224) provides a helpful booking service, offering dates in advance. From a convenient pick-up point in Dartmouth town you will be taken to the College by coach for a walking tour, which lasts around 2 hours.

**To avoid disappointment advance booking is strongly recommended. Further information is available direct from the Britannia Association Tours office (01803 677565) based in BRNC or from [www.britanniaassociation.org.uk](http://www.britanniaassociation.org.uk)**

	CAR PARK	TOILETS	BEACH			ACCESS	FOOD			SHOP	BEACH FACILITIES													
	Approx car parking spaces	Distance car park to beach in metres	Distance beach to toilets in metres	Modern facilities	Sand castle sand	Fine shingle	Pebbles and rocks	Beach Award	Country road often single lane	Wheelchair access onto beach (Via ramp)	Easy access from car park - maybe a few steps in season	Hot & cold meals available on beach	Ice cream kiosk or van in season	Indoor seating	Outdoor seating	Approx metres closest cafe/kiosk	Beach goods shop nearby	Shop distance from beach	Water sports area	Suitable water area for children when supervised	Swimming - no strong currents when calm	Lifeguard in summer	Dogs banned on beach	
Blackpool Sands	800	25	50	Y	P	Y		Blue Flag		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	25	Y	25	Y	Y	Y	Y <sup>1</sup>	P	
Strete Gate	101	150	25			Y	P	Rural			Y				Y	2000								
Slapton Sands	363	25	25	Y		Y	P	Rural			Y	Y				1000								
Torcross	137	75	50	Y		Y	P	Rural		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	25						Y <sup>1</sup>		
Beesands	200	25	150			Y	Y	Rural	Y	Y	Y			Y	Y	25				Y	Y			
North Hallsands	40	25	25				Y		Y	Y	Y													
Lannacombe	15	25	n/a		P		Y		Y	Y	Y									Y				
Mattiscombe (Start Point)	80	1500	n/a	Y					Y		Y					1500								
Gara Rock	100	800	n/a	Y					Y	Y	Y	Y	Y											
Millbay	80	50	25	Y					Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	500	Y	500		Y	Y			
Fisherman's Cove	15	50	50	Y					Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	50	Y	50						
North Sands	89	75	200	Y				Rural		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100	Y	100			Y			
South Sands	30	50	40	Y				Rural	Y	Y	Y			Y	Y	25	Y	800	Y	Y	Y		Y	
Soar Mill Cove	40	2000	n/a	Y					Y	Y	Y			Y		1500								Y
Hope Cove	26	100	400	Y		Y		Rural	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y			500	Y	500		Y	Y			
Mouthwell	80	50	200	Y		Y		Rural	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	50	Y	50			Y	Y		Y
South Milton Sands	220	25	150			Y		Rural	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100	Y	100	Y <sup>1</sup>	Y	Y	Y <sup>1</sup>		
Thurlestone	60	2000	n/a			Y			Y	Y	Y					1500								
Bantham	750	200	800	Y				Rural	Y	Y				Y	Y	900					Y		Y	P
Bigbury on Sea	900	75	100	Y	Y				Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	50	Y	150			Y		Y	P
Challaborough	60	35	100	Y				Blue Flag	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	50	Y	50			Y		Y	Y
Wonwell	nil		n/a	Y					Y												Y			
Mothecombe	500	500	500	Y					Y					Y	Y	500	Y	500			Y	Y		Y
Wembury	100	75	10	P		Y				Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	25	Y	25			Y	Y		
Bovisand	300	400	450	Y					Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	450	Y	450			Y	Y		Y

While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this guide, neither The Venus Company or Coast & Country Cottages can accept responsibility for any errors. For further information including car park prices, please visit [www.lovingthebeach.co.uk](http://www.lovingthebeach.co.uk) LEGEND: 1 = school summer holidays only P = part of season or part of beach only

# A day in the life...

of Coast & Country Cottages Property Services & Travel Lite

view magazine talks to Jon Doyle Operations Director

**Q** Coast & Country Cottages offers a full range of Property Services and also operate an in-house laundry called Travel Lite. What are the benefits of offering these services 'in-house'?

**A** Our main objective is to ensure our customers' expectations are met or exceeded. Being on hand to co-ordinate property maintenance certainly helps us to ensure this – we are available 24/7 and the team really do go that extra mile for our property owners, so they don't have to.



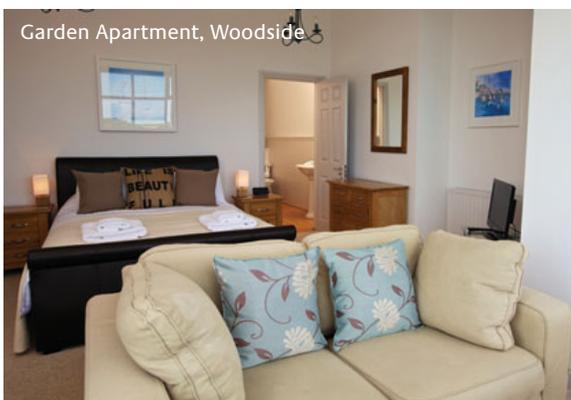
9 Dart Marina

**Q** Coast & Country Cottages' properties are located throughout the South Hams – how do the team get about?

**A** Our fleet of 7 distinctive branded vans and cars cover many miles each week as our teams make property checks, deliver and collect linen and deal with maintenance issues.

**Q** And finally, do you have any stories about you or your team really going that 'extra mile'?

**A** I recently had to help a customer who did not want to stay in a property she had booked through another company as it was below her expectations. Having found her a suitable property from our portfolio, and as the lady had arrived by train, I collected her and her luggage and installed her in her new accommodation 20 miles away. She was delighted! I was just happy to have another satisfied customer!



Garden Apartment, Woodside

Nick Seedhouse, Property services Manager & Gail Swift, Assistant Operations Manager

**Q** What types of maintenance issues do the team typically co-ordinate?

**A** Nick Seedhouse, Property Services Manager, and his team deal with everything from replacing a lightbulb and fixing a leaking tap, to managing large refurbishment projects on behalf of property owners e.g new kitchens and bathrooms or even whole house renovations! The team is very experienced and work closely with local contractors to get the job done.

**Q** Travel Lite obviously launder bedlinen and towels but what other services do they offer?

**A** Paul Ashworth (Laundry Manager) and his team run a delivery and collection service for linen, as well as making up plenty of beds each week! They also offer a duvet and soft furnishings cleaning service for property owners plus a hire service for cots and highchairs. They are kept very busy, particularly during peak season!

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of Salcombe

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# Holiday home *under the hammer*

*“I used to come to the area on holidays as a child and it’s always had a very special place in my heart...”*



With helpful advice from local holiday letting agency, Coast & Country Cottages, Martin has refurbished the cottage, adding a brand new kitchen and bathroom for the 2012 season. Other features include a new decking area with lovely country views, an open fire for cosy winter nights in and original parquet flooring.

Martin adds, “I wanted to make it as welcoming and homely as possible, but bring it up to date. It’s surrounded by open countryside, so I wanted to maximise that and I also wanted to include lots of local art and a seaside theme. I’m delighted with the result!”

Andrew Jones of Coast & Country Cottages says, “We are regularly asked by property owners to give advice on how best to prepare and present a property for the holiday letting market and were delighted to assist Martin with his plans for his cottage in Ash. Increasingly, customers are looking for so much more from their holiday accommodation, the standards offered and also the facilities provided, so bearing this in mind when buying and renovating a property is important. Clotted Cream Cottage is proving very popular with our customers”.

So, although the transformation at Clotted Cream Cottage is not being seen by BBC viewers, it can now be enjoyed by the many holiday visitors staying at the property and also by Martin and his family, who no doubt enjoy the peace and tranquillity it offers and the escape from the media spotlight.

Presenter Martin Roberts is the owner of idyllically named Clotted Cream Cottage, near Dartmouth



# Meet Mitch Tonks

*leading chef and seafood champion*



“I love the fact that life is based around the water, everyone in town whether a walker, sailor, fisherman, ferryman, shop owner - everyone has a connection with the water...”

Photo from FISH by Mitch Tonks published by Pavilion

**A**ward winning food writer, restaurateur and fishmonger, Mitch Tonks can only be described as a seafood champion. Recognised as one of the leading seafood chefs and restaurateurs in the UK, he has opened a number of restaurants in South Devon with fellow chef Mat Prowse, including the award winning restaurants The Seahorse, and the family friendly RockFish, both in historic Dartmouth. Each offer fabulous menus specialising in seafood caught on or off the Start Bay coastline. Indeed, RockFish serve the very best in fish and chips right on the waterfront – the restaurant won the award for 2013 Best UK Independent Fish & Chips restaurant in the Seafish Industry's Fish & Chip Awards.

Mitch is a long standing supporter of events in the Dartmouth area, championed and organised the South Devon Crab Festival, and is each year involved with the annual Dartmouth Food Festival, which is fast becoming one of the most popular events in the town's calendar. When asked about his involvement in the festivals he said, "I think there is a lovely party atmosphere at food festivals which is just contagious, there is a great buzz as everyone takes to the streets. It is also a really good chance to socialise with guests not just in the restaurants but at the events taking place all over town. I always get to hook up with other food and chef mates and enjoy seeing the great variety on offer at these occasions".

Both The Seahorse and RockFish occupy desirable positions on the waterfront overlooking the River Dart in the town. When asked what he loves most about Dartmouth,

Mitch continued, "I love the fact that life is based around the water, everyone in town whether a walker, sailor, fisherman, ferryman, shop owner – everyone has a connection with the water and there are lots of beautiful places to go and it's a place where everybody is always smiling!"

In addition to the Dartmouth restaurants, he also has a restaurant in Bristol, Rockfish Grill, and in June 2013, the latest Rockfish opened in Plymouth at Sutton Harbour, next to the National Marine Aquarium – both are proving exceptionally popular with foodies near and far. Other ventures by Mitch include the new wine range 'Tonnix', a joint project with Mark Hix, which currently includes a red, white and rose all produced by Quinta de la Rosa. Mitch has also published a range of cookery books including 'Fish Easy', as well as an iPhone application 'Eat Fish'.

[www.mitchtonks.co.uk](http://www.mitchtonks.co.uk)

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Dartmouth, TQ6 9BH



2 nationally acclaimed restaurants on the Dartmouth waterfront



# Delightful dog friendly days out in Devon!

**The South Hams, the southernmost tip of South Devon, is the perfect destination for a holiday or short break with your 'four legged friend', with miles of fantastic dog-walking coastline, many beaches that welcome pets and plenty of pubs and attractions happy to accept dogs too!**



**Coast & Country Cottages** have over 105 self-catering holiday homes that welcome dogs across Salcombe, Dartmouth and the surrounding coast and countryside, from contemporary coastal houses with panoramic sea views to rural retreats in picturesque locations. Here is our guide to some fabulous walks, and a few property suggestions...

Explore the Start Bay coastline with a walk along the stunning South West Coast Path – see the ruins of the forgotten fishing village of South Hallsands, destroyed by storms in 1917, enjoy views out to sea and across to Dartmouth, and walk past the Start Point Lighthouse.

**Fulmar** and **Guillemot** are two VisitEngland Five Star Gold awarded pet friendly holiday properties, each sleeping 8, within a few yards of the South West Coast Path and Hallsands beach. Each luxury cottage has far-reaching views out to sea from the front and country views from the back. **Prices start from £759.00 per week.**

Similarly, the picturesque coastline surrounding East Portlemouth and East Prawle is a walker's haven, with breathtaking views galore. The South Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty website provides fabulous

printable walks ([www.southdevonaonb.org.uk](http://www.southdevonaonb.org.uk)), ideal for exploring the South Hams. Stay at **Cyder House** (sleeping 7), a cosy, traditional and charming cottage in the pretty nearby village of South Pool. The cottage – which combines the benefits of modern comfort with many original features – is just 30m or so from the lovely dog friendly village pub and within a short boat ride of both Salcombe and Kingsbridge! **Prices start from £610.00 per week.**

For an enjoyable walk with your dog, head into Dartmouth and walk The Dart Valley Trail, taking in the sights of the River Dart, as it meanders past Greenways (the former home of Agatha Christie) and the Royal Naval College, through the quaint village of Dittisham. Finish the walk with a peaceful river cruise, with the Dartmouth Steam Railway and River Boat company [www.dartmouthrailriver.co.uk](http://www.dartmouthrailriver.co.uk) back to your starting point – dogs are allowed aboard for just £1! **Moonrakers** provides stylish pet friendly accommodation in the town, for up to 6 people. A well-presented detached house



Enjoy miles of coastal paths with your dog

situated in an elevated position above Dartmouth, guests benefit from both parking and good river views, as well as complimentary use of the Dart Marina Health Spa – perfect for relaxation after a long day walking. **Prices start from £446.00 per week.**

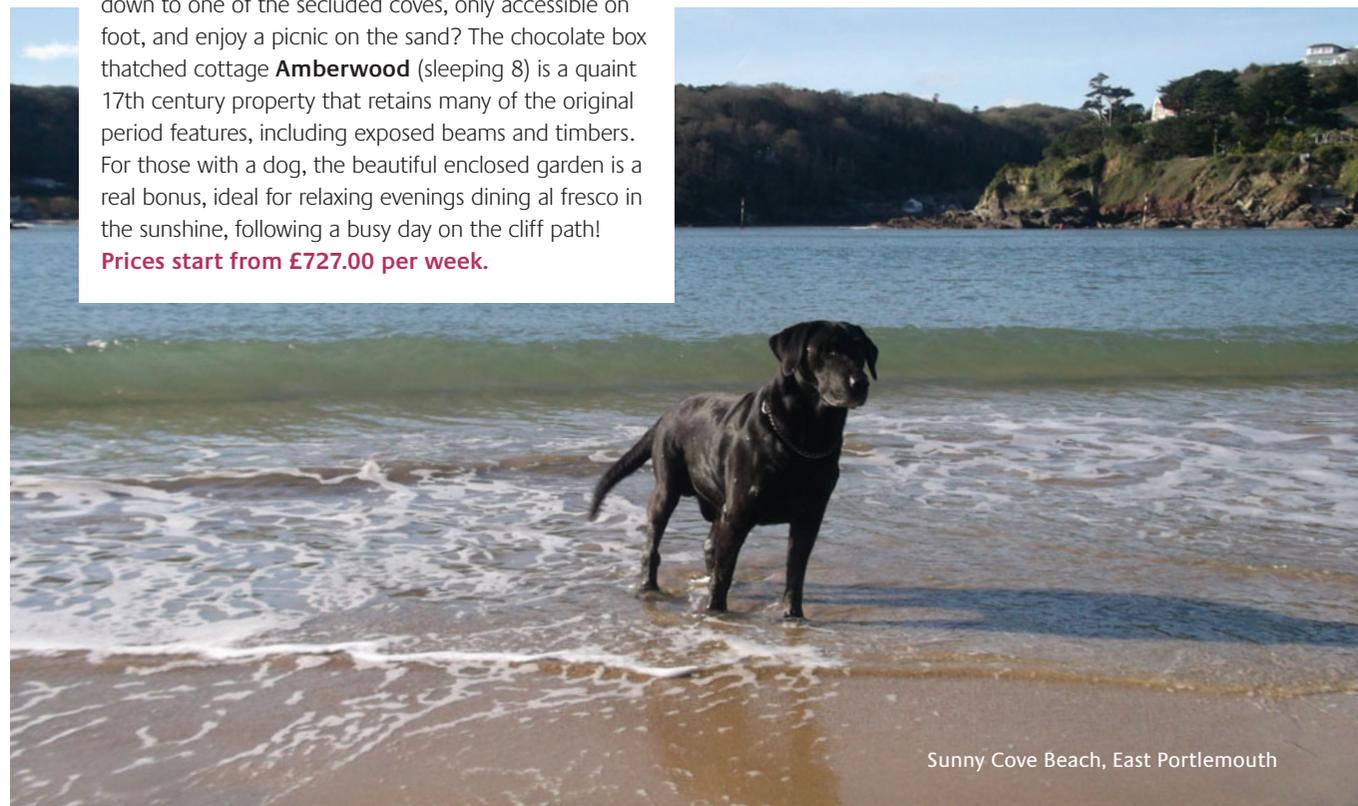


Views over Hope Cove from the coast path, popular with dog walkers

The beaches around Salcombe are some of the best in the area, and many are dog friendly, making them great for a walk with your pet! Head to North Sands beach, where you can stroll along the water's edge, play 'fetch' and enjoy the sunshine. For those looking for a luxury base for a holiday with family and friends, **Sundowners** is a spacious detached house sleeping 8, presented, furnished and equipped to the very highest standards. The property has the added benefits of a private garden, parking and views of the Salcombe estuary. **Prices start from £666.00 per week.**

The dramatic walk along the cliffs between Hope Cove and Bolberry Down is not to be missed. This fascinating stretch of coastline is home to former smugglers' haunts and rocky waters filled with shipwrecks. Why not walk down to one of the secluded coves, only accessible on foot, and enjoy a picnic on the sand? The chocolate box thatched cottage **Amberwood** (sleeping 8) is a quaint 17th century property that retains many of the original period features, including exposed beams and timbers. For those with a dog, the beautiful enclosed garden is a real bonus, ideal for relaxing evenings dining al fresco in the sunshine, following a busy day on the cliff path! **Prices start from £727.00 per week.**

For a gentler amble, explore the fascinating villages of Bigbury and Ringmore – admire the views across the rolling Devon hills and look across to Burgh Island, a small island only accessible by sea tractor at high tide. Why not stop for a delicious ice cream at the Venus Café en route? For lovers of wildlife, South Devon provides endless opportunities to see rare birds and animals in their natural habitat. The River Avon is particularly rich in birdlife – enjoy a stroll along the Avon Estuary, through the secluded valley to the sea at Bantham. **Martin Cottage** (sleeping 6) is ideally situated within easy reach of both Bantham and Bigbury. The property offers spacious accommodation for a family, with a number of baby friendly facilities, making travelling with young children (plus a dog) hassle free! **Prices start from £626.00 per week.**



Sunny Cove Beach, East Portlemouth



Looking to explore the network of green lanes and footpaths in the area? Netherton Farm is a fantastic rural haven for dogs and their owners, situated in the tranquil and beautiful South Devon countryside. This dog friendly development offers three properties, **Boxtree Barn**, **Bay Tree Cottage** and **Willow Studio**, all with access to the fabulous

spacious gardens and a heated outdoor swimming pool. Surrounded by picturesque lanes, perfect for long walks, Netherton Farm also offers guests holidaying with their pets a spacious paddock for walking dogs, allowing pets the freedom to sniff and explore their surroundings in a truly spacious rural environment. **Prices at Boxtree Barn, Willow Studio, and Bay Tree Cottage range from £300.00 – £1041.00 per week.**

**For a fantastic range of dog friendly properties visit [www.coastandcountry.co.uk/dog-friendly-holidays-in-devon](http://www.coastandcountry.co.uk/dog-friendly-holidays-in-devon) or call the locally based Coast & Country Cottages teams in Salcombe and Dartmouth for the latest availability on 01548 843773 / 01803 839499.**

Willow Studio, Netherton Farm



## KEEPING YOUR DOG HAPPY ON HOLIDAY!

**Know your dog friendly eateries – there are various pubs and restaurants in beautiful South Devon that accept pets. The Venus Café at East Portlemouth is dog friendly, and is a lovely spot for a beachside lunch in the sunshine. Avon Mill Garden Centre and Café is also dog friendly, supplying water bowls to rehydrate your dog. Stop by and enjoy a delicious Devonshire cream tea on the lovely patio!**

**Be aware of dog restrictions on beaches – whilst many of the pretty coves and beaches in the area are dog friendly, there are some where dogs are only permitted at certain times of year, or in a few cases, where dogs are not permitted at all. To avoid disappointment, plan your doggie days out to the beach using our beach guide, on page 54.**

**Remember to follow the rules! Whilst most dog owners are responsible and pick up after their pets at home, it is important to remember to continue to do so whilst on holiday too. This will ensure the area remains picturesque and unspoilt for all to enjoy. In this rural area, farm animals are often in the fields - please keep your dog on a lead at all times so as not to disturb them.**

**For help, call Coast & Country Cottages! Whether you are in need of a dog groomer, a vet or a dog sitter, the team at Coast & Country Cottages would be delighted to offer suggestions. Please call 01548 843773 for assistance.**

# Take to the water with the ICC

**ICC Salcombe Ltd is an approved RYA (Royal Yachting Association) training centre and we offer sailing courses and water based fun to suit all ages and abilities.**

We are based on the ex-Mersey ferry 'Egremont' which is moored in the Salcombe estuary. We provide a free launch service from Whitestrand for all our customers. Our formal courses are between 2 to 5 days and we welcome either individuals or groups of friends.

In addition to our courses we provide private tuition (as either taster sessions or to build on and practice skills), dinghy hire, kayak hire and powerboat courses. Private parties, events, hen/stag weekends can all be catered for. Please email or phone us for bespoke options.

The Egremont Trust is a registered charity with the aim of maintaining the ship MV Egremont (built in 1952 and 23 years in service as a ferry boat on the River Mersey) as a facility for the advancement of the education and

development of young people including those from disadvantaged backgrounds.

The Island Trust provides financial assistance to enable deserving groups or individuals to experience the thrill of sailing. To find out more about the Egremont Trust and the Island Trust please visit our website.

**Please contact us by phone on 01548 844300 or by email at: [info@icc-salcombe.co.uk](mailto:info@icc-salcombe.co.uk)**



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call or visit our Island Street Office 01548 844300



# A day in the life of a holiday lettings agency



The Coast & Country Cottages' 'changeover' team



The lounge at White Lodge, Dartmouth

The majority of holiday makers heading down to a cottage in South Devon, at the start of their holiday or short break, have been excitedly anticipating their stay for months.

As they embark on their journey to the region, visitors are looking forward to reaching their destination as soon as possible and relaxing in the sunshine or heading out to explore the South Devon coast and countryside.

For a holiday lettings agency like Coast & Country Cottages, the busy changeover days of Friday and Saturday entail much more than simply taking keys from the reluctantly departing guests, or handing keys out to those arriving for their holiday. Coast & Country Cottages is one of the very few agencies in the area to offer owners a fully managed service, arranging everything from cleaning and gardening to property maintenance and winter checks. In the hours before arrival an extraordinary amount of effort is put in to preparing a property for incoming tenants. With over 430 cottages in the South Hams, sleeping up to 12 people, there are as many as 900 bathrooms to clean and in excess of 2000 beds to change in the course of a weekend!

So, what really goes on to make sure a holiday property is ready for arriving guests? Before anything else, a team briefing takes place at the start of a busy changeover weekend. Crucial information is passed amongst team members regarding any tenant requirements, individual maintenance issues and any minor problems, that may have come to light over the week, to be resolved.

At 10.00am, the designated check-out time for departing guests, keys are returned en masse, and the team ensure they are accounted for, ready for the cleaners and the changeover team. Soon after this, the cleaners begin arriving to collect their linen and keys before heading off to start their cleaning. Depending on the size of the cottage, it may take a team of three or more cleaners to prepare the property, whilst smaller ones can be 'turned around' in a matter of hours by one conscientious housekeeper.

Over the next few hours, the Coast & Country Cottages team spend time preparing for their changeover inspections, and taking telephone calls from a variety of people including contractors and last minute enquirers. Often where there is last minute availability, bookings will come in at very late notice!

Breakfast at Little Cotton Farmhouse, Dartmouth





The Linhay, Dartmouth

At around 1.00pm, the property checks begin. Coast & Country Cottages has a team of up to 20 people who head out to inspect 10 or so properties each, in the space of just a few hours (flat, comfortable shoes are a must!) The properties are checked to ensure they are clean and well presented, that all equipment is working, and that individual requirements are met (for instance a cot and high chair are provided if requested). The Coast & Country Cottages information folders are also replenished with discount vouchers and local leaflets. At this point, any items of lost property are brought back to the office, ready to be returned to the previous tenants. Whilst lost CDs and clothing are commonly found, occasionally more unusual items appear, such as walking sticks and legal documents! Once a distraught young lady left behind her teddy bear and the team had to send it back in the post – they were given strict instructions from the girl to leave air holes, so the bear could breathe whilst in transit!

By 3.00pm, the changeover ‘rounds’ have been completed by the team, and the keys are arranged into marked envelopes for the incoming tenants. The stream of guests then begin to arrive, some excited at the prospect of exploring the area, others looking forward to settling their children in and unpacking after a long drive. The team are on hand to answer questions, offer directions

and provide advice on local attractions and activities. Coast & Country Cottages work closely with a number of local businesses, who can be recommended for everything from delicious food to fantastic family days out.

By the end of the day, the used linen is returned to the agency’s Salcombe-based laundry Travel Lite, who spend the week washing and ironing the linen and towels in readiness for the next changeover. The staff will also

*Once a distraught young lady left behind her teddy bear and the team had to send it back in the post - they were given strict instructions from the girl to leave air holes, so the bear could breathe whilst in transit!*

replenish their own bags with light bulbs, batteries and waste sacks as necessary, before the next changeover round.

The changeover days are exceptionally busy for every member of the holiday lettings team – however it is essential that the days run as smoothly as possible, making checking in and out for guests a pleasant experience. The Coast & Country Cottages’ team work together to ensure that visitors arriving in the South Hams enjoy a fabulous, hassle-free holiday relaxing in this beautiful area.



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# The Ultimate IN LUXURY SELF CATERING

The unspoilt South Hams is a wonderful holiday destination for visitors of all ages. Home to many hidden gems, with a huge range of activities and attractions, the historic maritime town of Dartmouth is just one of the fabulous places in this Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Offering a number of boutiques, individual shops and art galleries, not to mention award-winning restaurants with well-known chefs, breathtaking scenery and activities galore for all the family, the town has something for everyone!

The stunning Dart Marina apartments provide an outstanding level of accommodation in one of the West Country's most sought-after locations on the edge of the River Dart in Dartmouth. Designed by award-winning London architects and boasting stunning views over the river, these individually owned 5-Star properties offer the ultimate in luxury self-catering. Recently developed, they provide the boutique hotel experience with the flexibility and freedom of a large, stylish holiday apartment. Just a few minutes flat walk along the waterfront from the shops and popular eateries, Dart Marina is ideally situated on the edge of the River Dart, providing beautiful views across the water. The apartments are also within a 10 minute drive of Blue Flag award-winning Blackpool Sands, perfect for swimming and sunbathing, or an out-of-season walk.

Guests of many Dart Marina apartments enjoy free use of the luxury Dart Marina Health Spa facilities, including indoor pool, steam room, Jacuzzi and gym. Beauty and pampering treatments from Elemis are also available to book, with 10% off for those staying at the Dart Marina apartments with Coast & Country Cottages – the perfect treat for a special occasion. Why not finish the day with a delicious meal at the River Restaurant, at the Dart Marina Hotel – the restaurant holds an AA Rosette and has a fabulous menu using fresh, local ingredients from the South Hams.

The Dart Marina apartments are perfect for a romantic break with your loved one, allowing for a truly relaxing break. Take leisurely strolls along the riverside, unwind together in the spa, or enjoy an intimate meal for two at



The Dart Marina Health Spa



The luxury Dart Marina apartments

Lunch at 7 Dart Marina





your property. The stunning state of the art kitchens, with Poggenpohl units and integrated Smeg appliances, make self-catering a pleasure at these popular luxury retreats, whilst the elegant, stylish living areas are perfect for tranquil evenings enjoying the views over the River Dart. Reduced rates are available at selected times of year for couples staying at Dart Marina, subject to availability. For special occasions hampers, wine, flowers or catering can all be arranged too. Simply call the Coast & Country Cottages' Dartmouth office on 01803 839499, who would be delighted to help.

In addition to offers for couples, three, four and five night short breaks are also available at selected times of the year at many of the apartments... ideal for an out-of-season weekend getaway! For those who require to 'stay in touch', wireless broadband is provided at most properties, whilst for those with young children or mobility issues, the lift access and baby friendly facilities make accommodation at Dart Marina all the more appealing (please check with the office at time of booking for individual property specifications).



Coast & Country Cottages are delighted to offer holidays or short breaks at thirteen of these luxury waterside properties on the edge of the picturesque River Dart in Dartmouth. Properties include **7 Dart Marina**, a **VisitEngland Five Star awarded** apartment with stunning views over the River Dart from the 'internal balcony', and **26 Dart Marina** – a luxury **VisitEngland five Star awarded** former show home which sleeps 4 and enjoys a private riverside terrace. For those looking for something slightly larger, **35 Dart Marina** provides **VisitEngland Five Star Gold awarded** accommodation for up to 6 people in 3 bedrooms, and offers a wonderful dining area with full length opening windows – the perfect vantage point for watching 'life on the water' over breakfast!

Simply call **Coast & Country Cottages'** Dartmouth office on **01803 839499** who will be delighted to help.

**Top:** Enjoy a glass of champagne with your loved one at 35 Dart Marina

**Middle:** The master bedroom at Diddly Squat

**This image:** The contemporary lounge at Diddly Squat



## DART MARINA

To enjoy this view during your holiday call our Dartmouth team on 01803 839499 or visit [www.coastandcountry.co.uk](http://www.coastandcountry.co.uk)



# What's On in the South Hams

Coast & Country Cottages previews events in the 2014 calendar and highlights some key dates to help you plan your holiday or short break in South Devon.

**Laugh out loud** at the annual **DARTMOUTH COMEDY FESTIVAL** from **4th – 8th March** when you can see a great line up of big name comedians from the UK comedy circuit. 2014 confirmed acts include Lucy Porter, Carl Donnelly (right), Romesh Ranganathan, Slightly Fat Features, The Only Way is Downton, Patrick Monahan plus much more! This event is always very popular and venues are small so book your tickets early to avoid disappointment. More information available from The Flavel Arts Centre Dartmouth [www.theflavel.org.uk](http://www.theflavel.org.uk)



**For something completely different** head to the annual **BLACKAWTON INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF WORMCHARMING** on **4th May!** Since 1983 this rural South Hams village has attracted competitors from near and far, all keen to charm the largest number of worms from their 1 metre square plot! With Morris Dancers, a beer festival, a dog show and much more, there is something for the whole family. See [www.wormcharming.co.uk](http://www.wormcharming.co.uk) for more information.



**Salcombe's Sailors** put **MERLIN ROCKET WEEK** **6th – 11th July** in their diaries months in advance as this popular family week of sailing and socialising is often oversubscribed. For those who prefer to stay on dry land, there are plenty of fabulous vantage points from which to watch over 100 boats racing in this spectacular location. Visit Salcombe Yacht Club's website for further information. [www.salcombeyc.org.uk](http://www.salcombeyc.org.uk)



**SALCOMBE YACHT CLUB REGATTA 3rd – 8th August** and **SALCOMBE TOWN REGATTA 10th – 16th August**, are highlights of the local and sailing calendars and attract large numbers of visitors and locals alike. Book early to guarantee accommodation during this busiest fortnight of the year in the picturesque sailing town of Salcombe, with waterborne activities, family activities, including fancy dress competition (right), firework displays and more. See [www.salcombeyc.org.uk](http://www.salcombeyc.org.uk) and [www.salcombeinformation.co.uk](http://www.salcombeinformation.co.uk)



**For fun for all the family FROGMORE REGATTA 10th August** offers events on the water plus rides, cream teas, a beer tent and more, all in a picturesque location on the creek at Frogmore. Enter your dog in the popular dog show or sit by the creek and watch the Coast & Country Cottages entry in the very competitive raft race! C&CC 2013 raft team (right). [www.frogmore.info/regatta](http://www.frogmore.info/regatta)



**Channel your family's artistic talents** in the annual **HOPE COVE WEEKEND 22nd – 24th August**, during three days of traditional family fun activities in a very special location on the coast. Live music, children's races, sandcastle competition (below), food and drink and lots of fun for all - visit [www.hopcoveweek.com](http://www.hopcoveweek.com) for more information.



**THE DARTMOUTH ROYAL REGATTA** Dartmouth's biggest annual event takes place from **28th – 30th August**, attracting visitors from far and wide. With sailing and rowing events the main attraction for many, others flock to the historic maritime town to enjoy the sensational air displays, often from the renowned Red Arrows. With a Regatta Shopping Village, a very popular road race, crabbing competitions and so much more, it is easy to see why this is a highlight in the calendar for so many people – book your accommodation now to avoid disappointment! [www.dartmouthregatta.co.uk](http://www.dartmouthregatta.co.uk)



**KINGSBRIDGE SHOW** on **6th September** attracts over 6500 locals and visitors annually and is a very important date in the local farming calendar. With stands and displays from a variety of exhibitors, plus livestock and animals of all sizes, baking and produce competitions, live music and exhilarating stunt displays in the show ring, there is something for everyone. Find out more at [www.kingsbridgeshow.co.uk](http://www.kingsbridgeshow.co.uk)



**DARTMOUTH FOOD FESTIVAL 24th – 26th August** showcases the best that the South West has to offer, attracting both leading food and drink producers offering tastings of their delicious award-winning products, plus well known local and celebrity chefs demonstrating their skills in the festival kitchens. With a Children's Day and activities including biscuit decorating hugely popular with families, drinks seminars, food demonstrations, hands-on cooking workshops, book signings and so much more, come and discover just why this annual event has become so popular. [www.dartmouthfoodfestival.com](http://www.dartmouthfoodfestival.com)



Terry Reeve, Original Image

## HIGHLIGHTS FOR YOUR 2014 DIARY

4th – 8th March  
**Dartmouth Comedy Festival**

10th – 16th August  
**Salcombe Town Regatta**

4th May  
**Blackawton International Festival of Wormcharming**

30th July  
**Yealmpton Show**

3rd – 11th May  
**Modbury Fair**

2nd August  
**Loddiswell Show**

16th – 18th May  
**Dartmouth Music Festival**

5th – 9th August  
**Dartmouth Shakespeare Week**

22nd – 24th May  
**Devon County Show**

9th – 10th August  
**South Hams Vintage Machinery Rally**

28th – 29th June  
**Dartmouth Arts & Craft Weekend**

10th August  
**Frogmore Regatta**

28th June  
**Bigbury Fun Run**

22nd – 24th August  
**Hope Cove Weekend**

4th – 14th July  
**Ways with Words Literary Festival**

28th – 30th August  
**Dartmouth Royal Regatta**

6th – 11th July  
**Merlin Rocket Week**

6th September  
**Kingsbridge Show**

19th – 26th July  
**Kingsbridge Fair Week**

24th – 26th October  
**Dartmouth Food Festival**

27th July  
**Totnes & District Agricultural Show**

31st December  
**Dartmouth New Year Fireworks**

3rd – 8th August  
**Salcombe Yacht Club Regatta**

\* Dates correct at time of going to press. Dates subject to change - please check dates with event organisers or Coast & Country Cottages before making a special trip.



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