

2011 - ENGLAND

11 April 2011

Cornwall is England's boot and toe unprotected from the cold winds of the Atlantic

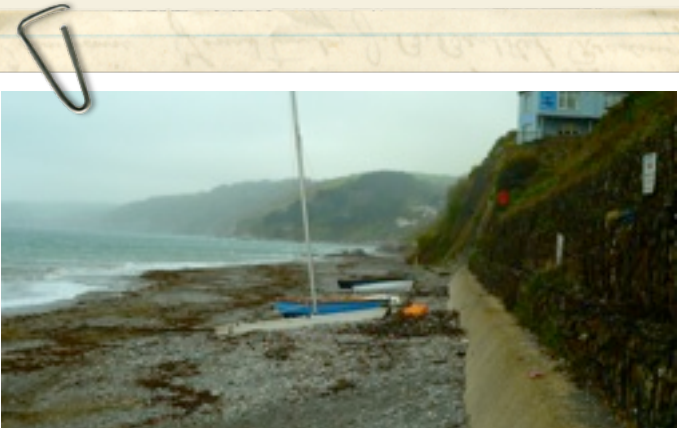
CORNWALL

A quote from a Cornwall brochure says it all - "always try to think of inclement weather as a bonus, a chance to do something which you have always thought you might like to try but have never got round to doing. A positive attitude and planning towards negating bad weather will not make the weather change but it will help stop you resenting it, you could find that it is a bonus in that you find out about something which you can really enjoy. Alternatively you might not enjoy this new experience in which case you can be pleased that you didn't waste a sunny day finding that out!" Yea right!! There was definitely no sun today and the winds were bloody freezing but we still did lots.

We drove through Plymouth and boarded a ferry which was part of the road. Strange. No charge. I then had to test my driving skills. We ignored the sign - no HGVs and with Heather navigating and breathing in many times I drove slowly along the "white" road to the small hamlet of Dowderry (on the sea). Two centre meter clearances either side of the van was all that I needed to inch past a huge maintenance truck in the town and an oncoming local bus. Lots of sweat but Heather forgot to take photos. We decided to park and "enjoy" a walk on the bitterly cold rocky beach and main street. Brrrrrr. It was a relief to get back on the A road.

LOOE

Determined to get in a bike ride we had lunch and rode around Looe - another coastal town. It was amazingly busy but we were able to get to places quickly and see the town from many angles.



The very cold Dowderry beach



Strange building behind gutted church in Plymouth

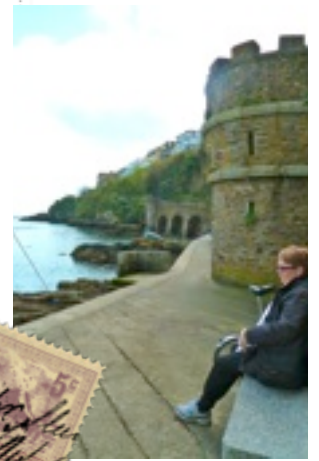


Height of the sea wall in Dowderry



Ferry is part of the road in Plymouth - even the GPS knew that.





The view of the harbor was very pretty



We explored both sides of the harbor and spent time simply enjoying the ambience of the boardwalks busy with tourists. There were lots of fishing boats and pleasure craft and we imagined what this place would be like during peak season - so glad we visited in April (despite the weather). One street in from the harbor we came across the older part of the city with its narrow streets and old buildings - many lime washed and rendered - change from grey natural stone we found elsewhere.



The guide books say not to miss The Eden Project - a major garden and eco centre attraction. We decided to visit it but were somewhat disappointed. It was really only a theme park but without the rides. Not that we wanted rides. There were lots of interesting activities for kids to do with the environment and innovation. The 5 huge plastic domes housed tropical and mediterranean environments with mature plants and cultural examples. The tropical part was so hot we had to leave. Besides, we have seen tropical paradises in our own back yard. The plants were very interesting but we were not as enthralled as the tourists who "oohed and arrhed" at everything. The place was set up some years ago to see if a group of people could live here and be self sustainable for 12 months. We thought we would learn more about this but there was little mention of it. The place was very impressive in size nevertheless, and very busy.

