

2011 - ENGLAND

14 April 2011

There are so many interesting attractions in Cornwall we are having difficulty working out a priority list for the short time we have left.



Truro Cathedral was very grand



Guard on duty



TRURO CATHEDRAL

Don't skimp on guide books when planning to travel. We armed ourselves with a number of books on "roads less traveled" and maps listing interesting attractions but quickly regretted not buying the best first up. We were juggling so many pieces of paper we gave up and purchased the most extensive guide book money can buy (all \$15 which was inexpensive). No confusing, hard-to-understand diagrams which bear no resemblance to actual maps, or esoteric or obtuse examples of hidden attractions. The Lonely Planet books tell it like it is, use simple language, have easy to read diagrams and recommendations about what to see and where to stay are "spot on". Take Truro Cathedral for example.

We would have by-passed this place but reading "the bible" as we were approaching the town we decided to stop and take a look. We found a parking spot in a side alley (with difficulty) and jumped on our bikes. Truro Cathedral is "*plonked like a neo-Gothic supertanker in the heart of Truro*". Absolutely spectacular!! And we would have missed it.

The cobble stoned roadways were a surprise, as were the old narrow inner city lane-ways. Heather was particularly impressed with the classy shops and spent time in each in order to give them a grading out of 10. Siggie stayed outside to mind the bikes.



Pretty as a picture



Doc Martins house in the background



DOC MARTIN

No, we did not actually see this TV character in the flesh but we did see the house and the town where this series is filmed. The road in to Port Isaac was narrow and very winding and the village is considered to be one of Cornwall's most attractive ports - and no wonder. It just looked a treat - located on a steep sided inlet with ancient white limed stone cottages hugging the sides of the slopes. We had to park at the top of the hill and ride down to the hamlet. It was very crowded with tourists everywhere but enjoyable nevertheless. The neighboring Port Gaverne harbor was less busy so we visited it too. It was time to have lunch so we sat upstairs in a little cafe and laughed at the antics of the people below wanting to peek in to every nook and cranny while cars were trying to squeeze past and find a park where there was no place to park. Port Isaac was a highlight of our trip to date. But not surprisingly we would not want to live in this picturesque but overcrowded place like many celebrities who have purchased houses here. The walk back up to the top of the hill (pushing our bikes) was good exercise.





We visited Lanhydrock - a grand Victorian home and National Trust estate with 900 acres of beautiful gardens. The house was the home of the Robartes family until 1969 and still has many of the original artifacts and furniture. We explored the many rooms - including the lord and lady's "separate" bedrooms - and the servants quarters and specialist kitchen areas. We then strolled around a small part of the extensive gardens. The place was beautifully maintained with colorful spring flower displays, extensive lawns and unusually shaped shrubs.

