

What's Days out

A plain sailing experience

Be skipper for a day and gorge on a Cornish banquet

By Lucia Paulis
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Captured

IN 1715, 11-year-old Thomas Pellow said goodbye to his mother in Penryn and set sail out of Falmouth Harbour on the Francis on a voyage delivering Cornish pilchards to Italy. What happened to him is an extraordinary true tale of kidnap, shipwreck, imprisonment, captive service, battlefield bravery and, finally, daring escape. To mark the 300th anniversary of Thomas's departure, his dramatic adventures are brought vividly to life in a beautifully illustrated new children's book titled *Captured! The Incredible True Story of Thomas Pellow*. To celebrate its publication, a call has gone out to all the Pellos or relations to attend a special launch party – open to all lovers of history, adventure and storytelling – in honour of this unsung Cornish hero. The book launch and party takes place from 7pm today at The Poly in Falmouth. For more information call 01326 312873.



● **THERE will be a big summer barn dance and feast at Churchtown Farm, Veryan, to raise funds for the local school parents and friends association. It runs from 6.30pm to 11.30pm, with food, ale, live music and dancing. Tickets in advance £5 or £6 on the night. Call 01872 501925.**

“WHO would like to take the helm?” asked skipper Andy as I climbed aboard Olympus on my coastal voyage with Cornish Day Sailing. Silence from the four other passengers, I eagerly nominated myself to go forward and proceed with captain duties as we set sail out of Falmouth Harbour. I've had a fair few sailing experiences – from clinging onto corridors through choppy waves as I caught a ferry from Dover to Calais, to sailing the serene waters of the Whitsundays – but rarely have I taken the chance to sail the seas a little closer to home. Cornish Day Sailing offer a beautiful experience, inviting you to explore Falmouth Harbour, meander around the bay and cruise down the River Helford before making a welcome return to land. This is all in between devouring a Cornish deli lunch, cream tea, Caribbean coffee (or two) and taking a dip in the water for an afternoon swim – no one said anything about not drinking and diving...

The wonderful thing is you have the opportunity to do as little or as much as you like. Before I knew it, I had found myself shouting “lee-ho” (the command to let your crew know you're turning) and winding the winch to make sure there was enough tension in the rope.

Not quite the sailing specialist just yet, I'm not about to declare you “call me Ishmael,” however I was impressed with how much Andy allowed our group of nautical newbies to get involved and take the helm.

They say being by the sea makes you hungry and having worked up an appetite, following a morning of piloting the yacht, sitting out in the sun and sipping a generous glass of wine, the



● Lucia, second from right, with her crew.

food – just like the service from the crew – certainly did not disappoint.

The team did an excellent job serving us a delicious Cornish banquet all cooked on-board the boat, including a seafood selection of Cornish crab, smoked mackerel and salmon, alongside creamy cheeses, crunchy coleslaw and a sundried tomato and feta tart. The homemade menu often changes

depending on the season and availability of local produce but whatever you tuck into, this is definitely a part of the trip to look forward to.

As our seven-hour day at sea was rounding up, we sailed back along what Andy described as “the glistening, the beautiful, the stunning Helford River” but not before catching a quick glimpse of houses owned by Queen's Roger Taylor

and Sir Tim Rice. As we parked the vessel, it was time for a cream tea. Although not quite as luxurious as lunch, this tasty treat was a great way to complete our day at sea.

For me, the banter on-board and the telling of tales between crew and passengers is what made the experience even more enjoyable. Or dare I say it, plain sailing.

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