

CORNWALL LIFE

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TRURO ON PARADE

CITY OF LIGHTS

WRITERS' ROOMS REVEALED
CORNWALL'S
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SIR TERRY FROST
ON SHOW

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A CORNISH GEM

GEORGIAN GLAM
PENZANCE



£3.10



GEORGIAN ELEGANCE BY THE SEA

Built in 1790, Chapel House PZ is a Georgian townhouse that has been transformed into a stunning des res by the sea

LOCATED just a stone's throw from the harbour of Penzance, Owner Susan Stuart fell in love with Chapel House in 2012, and set about breathing new life into the neglected building, successfully blending its Georgian style and architecture with contemporary style to create a light, airy and welcoming interior, sitting just moments from the sea. Now finished, her home also earns its keep as an elegant six-bedroom boutique hotel (chapelhousepz.co.uk).

Built in 1790 to the highest standards of its day, the building has been home to several notable figures. Former inhabitants include Admiral Samuel Hood Linzee of HMS *Temeraire*, the ship made famous by JMW Turner's iconic painting *The Fighting Temeraire*. It was also the Cornish base of the Carne family, an influential banking and mining dynasty instrumental in the development of Penzance during the 19th century through investments in the harbour and railways.

Since then, Chapel House has been many things from a family home, a shelter for World War II evacu-

ees, a lodging house, and from 1993 to 2011, it was home to the Penzance Arts Club.

But now the house has been brought back to life following an extensive two-year redesign and renovation (carried out by Loci Architecture and Catling Construction). The aim was to combine carefully preserved original features that only the Georgian's gave us with the more contemporary touches to suit 21st century home - and hotel. The décor throughout takes its lead from the sea and featuring soft greys, greens and blues which have been chosen to carefully mingle with the natural light which floods the building.

Susan works with the Newlyn School of Art (newlynartschool.co.uk) which curate a constantly changing gallery of artwork in the entrance hall and first floor landing, bringing stunning and vibrant views of Cornwall into the house for her and her guests to enjoy.

Visitors make a grand entrance up the stone stairs leading from Chapel Street in Penzance into the



The white walled living room reflects the light from the large Georgian sash windows which look out onto Penzance's Quay Street



The grand entrance at Chapel House PZ where original features have been restored and reinstated to create a glorious welcome



The piano in the drawing room has been dressed with musical accessories including a Metronome

hallway which is flooded with light that streams through the original Georgian windows. The Drawing Room is the centrepiece of the house and retains many of its original features. Here you discover a calm and warm room, perfect for curling up on the deep filled sofa with a good book, or passing the time weather watching out towards the sea. The room also features a piano at one end which has been carefully dressed with accessories and is kept tuned for use. The room is available to Susan's guests - whether waiting for dinner or for a small wedding.

Asked the obvious question 'which bit is your favourite? It's clear Susan loves the whole house, but if pushed admits the kitchen is her favourite room. 'It's the hub of the house and where I spend most time with guests and doing my favourite thing: giving them meals made from delicious locally sourced produce!' she tells me. 'The top floor chill-out space under the dormer has fabulous views, beautiful light and a wonderfully peaceful place to sit, read, enjoy the views and the sunset.'



Bathing by firelight: this corner bed room incorporates three stunning sash windows offering sea views, a wood burning stove and freestanding Japanese soaking tub



Used by paying guests to Chapel House PZ, the dining/breakfast room features classic Danish antique furniture and couldn't look more different to your average B&B

Susan's favourite room also leads out onto a sun-filled outdoor area, with a sea-facing terrace and a garden planted with species of Cornwall Exotics that grace so many of our gardens. Susan admits it is the perfect location for a sun downer.

The lower ground floor guests is decorated in blues and greys to showcase the original flagstones on the floor. Susan cooks for her guests who can eat with other guests in the dining area or on the terrace. The bedrooms on the first and second floor all to have enviable views across to the sea framed by the original Georgian sash windows. Three offer impressive views over Penzance harbour and Mount's Bay to Lizard Point.

The rooms are refreshingly simple. All feature pale painted floorboards and walls, giving a wonderfully bright and airy feel. They showcase bespoke handcrafted beds with fluffy duvets and

kitten soft alpaca throws, ideal for wrapping around yourself to sit and watch the fishing boats going out each morning from the windows.

The bathrooms feature egg-shaped baths by luxury bath designers Cabuchon (cabuchon.com) in four of the rooms, one offers a Japanese soaking tub carefully placed to allow bathers to look at the sea view, while the remaining room has a magical rooftop bath, ideal for a moonlit soak looking up at the stars - bathroom products are supplied by Pure Nuff Stuff (purenuffstuff.co.uk), an organic company based a few doors up in the gloriously ornate Egyptian House.

Chapel House PZ straddles the line between beautiful original features and modern decor, where abstract art rubs shoulders with centuries' old architectural features, with wonderful results. ♦



The guest bedrooms feature painted floorboards and hand picked antiques to maintain a simple look. The centrepiece in this room is the restored fireplace