



# Judi Spiers on Monday

Read Judi's column every week in the Western Morning News

## The joy of having weekend guests to stay

IT'S the summer it's the West-country and suddenly friends and relatives you haven't seen since waaay before lockdown decide it might be 'nice' to come visit for a night...or two? Great.

But what's the worst thing an expectant guest can say? Apart from the fact that they'd like to come that is!

I'm joking... a weekend I can just about handle but I did once have a friend I hadn't seen for several years ask if she could come and stay with her two children, both under five, for two weeks whilst building work was going on at her house!

The first time she came, with one child, was bad enough. Unfortunately the poor mite was teething and cried non-stop all weekend so none of us got any sleep.

She wasn't even deterred when I told her my spare bedroom was being decorated and volunteered to camp in the garden! She never did come so presumably a better friend came up with a better offer... but we're still friends.

Then there are those who want to come during the week when you are



both working. "We'll be no trouble," they say.

"We'll keep out of your way.

"We want to explore so we'll be out and about every day."

Except it rains and they're not and as well as expecting dinner they

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want lunch too!!! And if they do go out they want to take a packed lunch, which they are 'happy' to prepare themselves filling the house with the smell of boiled eggs at 10 at night.

Then, come the evening they see the wine rack as a challenge and are deeply disappointed when you turn in at 9.30, as you do on a school night!

Then there's the guest who wants to bring the dog and even when you tell them you have a cat they still aren't put off saying all sorts of things like, "Oh he's old/ blind /his back legs have gone he can hardly run."

Except when he comes his cataracts miraculously disappear, his hearing is suddenly clear as a bell and he remembers his glory days and turns into a racing whippet. Worse still he's not happy in his basket on the flagstone floor downstairs.

"He'll only sleep with me in the bed" they tell you with a pitiful look.

The last time this happened to me my Eddicat got his own back and sent the dog home with fleas!

Don't get me wrong I love dogs

and have two lots of friends with mutts. Ted will only sleep in the bedroom ... but on the floor in his basket. That's fine.

But Jack likes to sleep in the bed. Also fine as his staff quite happily bring their own bedding. So all doable.

No, what puts me in a spin is what they can and can't eat. Not the dogs their staff. This one won't eat any veg only peas, another no garlic, no tomatoes, no red meat etc; etc.

Again all doable... well the no garlic is a bit tricky for me but nevertheless doable.

But just when you think you are home and dry comes the "Oh and my wife/husband is vegan, dairy and gluten free!"

WHAAAT??? Of course if it's for medical reasons you understand. It's the fashion eaters that get me.

So you scour the Internet for recipes and do the best you can with tofu, couscous and coconut milk only to find when you put the nuts and olives out, "Sorry,... nut allergy; did he/she not tell you?"

Probably easier to say: "Sorry we're not here that weekend!"

## Western Morning News

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## Summit host proves itself worthy of City of Culture 2025 status

BACK when the announcement was first made that Carbis Bay in Cornwall would host the G7 Summit, it was a "wet and windy morning", recalls Visit Cornwall chief executive Malcolm Bell.

Unpredictable weather at any time of year is something those who live in the Westcountry are all too familiar with.

However, as the county basked in glorious sunshine over the weekend, the Cornish landscape and beaches could not have looked better.

While world leaders gathered for talks, the attention of the world's media was focussed not just on the discussions, but also the setting. The numerous camera crews and pho-

tographers could not resist training their lenses on the perfect backdrop of sparkling seas and coastal scenery.

And the informal moments during proceedings, such as a beach barbecue attended by the leaders, and local visits to a school and church, all helped broaden the focus beyond the confines of the Carbis Bay conference rooms.

Even protesters, with their creative costumes and entertaining performances, added an air of carnival while getting their serious messages across.

The politicians will be judged by the decisions taken behind closed doors, but for Cornwall the summit



provided an opportunity to open its doors to the world.

Over the three days, the county was able to showcase some of the best the Westcountry has to offer - as a holiday location, for the local food served up, its music, its attractions

such as the Eden Project and innovation in fields ranging from renewable energy to marine industries.

While there was disruption for local residents, the benefits should hopefully be felt for years to come.

Mr Bell told the WMN that overseas perceptions of holidaying in Britain could be narrow, ranging from dated notions of pebbly beaches and Kiss-Me-Quick hats to ideas shaped by popular TV programmes such as Poldark or the Rosamunde Pilcher adaptations. The summit had broadened appeal and potentially opened up new markets.

How the benefits of such global awareness-raising translate into gains, only time will tell. But for a

county so heavily reliant on the tourism and hospitality industries, the summit has certainly provided a free advert with potential economic gains to follow. And it is not just about putting Cornwall on the world map, but also cementing it in the consciousness of politicians on home soil, as the push continues for a levelling up of prosperity.

On the back of the G7 Summit comes news, announced today, that Cornwall is bidding to become City of Culture 2025, as reported on Page 7.

After showing how well it was able to host a world summit, Cornwall is perfectly placed to champion culture on the national stage. We wish the bid every success.