We checked into a London hotel undergoing renovations for one night before heading to Dorset and Devon



We had time to explore the area around the newly renovated St. Pancras Station and the British Library

A strange bronze of Isaac Newton in the foreground, the brick box of the library with the Victorian fancy of St. Pancras looming over all





Newton....really





Inside the beautifully renovated St. Pancras Station

John Betjeman, poet, who helped save the station







Our hotel, one of several in this charming crescent



The Jane Austen Centre

This guy is a perfect Bath citizen



Exeter Cathedra

LILE







Green





Location of a lovely dinner just round the block from our B and Β.





A popular watering hole in Exeter for the likes of Sir Walter Raleigh and Sir Francis Drake

Ship Inn

Gem



Here where the cliffs alone prevail Istand exultant, neutral, free, And from the cushion of the gale Behold a huge consoling sea.

Our trip to see the cliffs that prevail, south western England



We arrive at the Jurassic (really the Mesozoic) Coast





Our first port of call, the Cobb seawall in Lyme Regis









LYME'S FISH BAR on the Beach

HENU FISH & CHIPS CHICKEN & CHIPS SAUSAGE & CHIPS PIE & CHIPS PASTY & CHIPS BURGER & CHIPS CHEESY CHIPS CHIPS

> DRINKS TEA COFFEE BOTTLES WATER

No Spam and Chips?







Lyme Regis' guildhall, one of the older buildings in the 13th Century town





A cool house speaking to the passage of time



We weren't going to let a little wind stop us...

Press

...at the edge of the cliffs...



it was a real gale



... threatening to blow Steph right off!

Another coastal town, Beer




...made of the flint which has fallen out of the cliffs



Victorian cottages at the seaside

Local Crab Sandwiches & Fresh Fish Specials



Teas & Coffees Served All Day











Our goal: St. Catherine's Chapel









...high on a windswept hill





In the town of Sherborne, the Abbey, glowing in the setting sun



The site of a church since about 700 AD and home of the tombs of 2 Saxon kings







A beautiful cloister near the abbey





In the countryside, rings and mounds of all sorts





A Neolithic circle of 9 stones



And now, the geology part



Our entry into the Cheddar Gorge



Formed by water from glacial melting in Wales at the end of the Ice Age

These unique sheep roam the gorge at will

A popular summer attraction deserted, and much nicer, in November







The tiny harbor of Beer surrounded by chalk cliffs



Formed from the bodies of plankton when this was a shallow sea..

The dark lines are flint nodules, formed when the water was deeper







We search for fossils at the base of the cliffs

Looks like Jim's found something already





Wish we could take this one home


A large ammonite, 200 million years old





Even older cliffs, west of Lyme Regis



East Devon District Council STEAMER STEPS CLOTHING OPTIONAL FROM 500m WEST OF THIS SIGN (SEE NEXT BLUE SIGN)



A bit cold for the clothing thing



The cliffs are made of pebbles, 250 million years old...







...washed from mountains in France

They cover the beach all along the south coast of England





What do you do with an unlimited supply of pebbles? Build with them!

Chesil Beach, at the east end of the Jurrasic Coast

a 30 foot high barrier island of stones



The "lane" leading to the village of Eype's Mouth







Our haven in the storm, the Eype's Mouth County Hotel

AVA

SKID



Right on the coastal cliffs





breakfast three times a day

-Somerset Maugham

We head back to Belgium under the Channel

(E)(E) M

