

“ If every cruise passenger spends £100 each that's a lot of money that can go to traders, pubs and restaurants in Falmouth, but also to the rest of Cornwall

10,449

The number of crew and passengers who went into Falmouth from cruise ships last year



» The Seabourn Ovation cruise ship, docked at Falmouth last summer. It is set to return on October 7 this year
Sally Adams

Busy boatbuilder shipshape to 2021

A CLASSIC yacht builder has a bright future after scooping a top international award and enjoying a full order book for the next three years

Cockwells, based at the Mylor Creek boatyard near Falmouth, is known for building bespoke superyacht tenders, motor launches and sailing yachts in any material and standards required by clients.

The boatbuilder has seen some of the successes it has enjoyed at one of the most prestigious boat shows in the world translate into a full order book sustaining it until at least 2021.

The company exhibited at this year's Cannes Yachting Festival with the world premiere of the Titian Tender which scooped the post-1980s category of the Concours d'Élégance, which pays tribute to the rich history of yachting in the French Riviera.

Concours d'Élégance refers to an event where prestigious vehicles are displayed and judged. It



» A Cockwells boat Andrew Wright

dates back to 17th-century France when aristocrats paraded horse-drawn carriages through Parisian parks. At the Cannes Yachting Festival, the Concours d'Élégance provides visitors with an opportunity to view the world's most elegant vintage and modern day boats.

Cockwells has also had similar successes at the Cannes Yachting Festival and Southampton Boat Show where Cockwells launched a new concept for the Duchy 45 - two of which had already been sold - and accepted further commissions for four Duchy 35s,

which won the 2018 Motor Boat and Yachting Motor Boat of the Year Award earlier this year.

At the Monaco Yacht Show, Cockwells exhibited the Titian Tender as well as the 9.5m Limousine Tender which was crowned winner of the Tender and Support Vessel Design category at the 2017 ShowBoats Design Awards.

Dave Cockwell, founder and managing director, said: "With a total of 15 new boats to build, we are delighted to have a full order book that will see us well into 2021.

"Our new, modern, purpose-built facilities at Mylor Creek will enable us to custom build more boats, recruit more skilled staff and provide local yachtsmen with an enhanced portfolio of services through our new portal at The Lock House in Falmouth's Port Pendennis Marina.

"The future looks bright as our reputation for outstanding craftsmanship and technological ingenuity continues to grow."

will visit on May 12 before coming back on August 27. The Rotterdam and its 1,500 passengers will say hello to Falmouth on August 8 but will be anchored off in the bay rather than moor at A&P Falmouth docks. Finally, the AIDAvita will visit Falmouth on September 6 before coming back once more on September 18.

Mr Boddy said the issue with ships at anchor is that not only are they more likely to sail on to another port if the weather conditions are bad, but not so many passengers tend to disembark.

He said: "Get the dredging done and we would need to double the number of our volunteers, but sadly news on that front has virtually dried up.

"Portland, which has invested heavily to accommodate the large cruise ships, is now looked upon as the main Westcountry destination port. But as it is in Dorset and many miles away from the fantastic destinations Cornwall offers there is undoubtedly still a need for a deepwater port in Falmouth.

"But have we, as they say, missed the boat? Will the dredging ever happen? It's certainly looking more and more doubtful as each year passes with no action visibly taking place. It's a very sad state of affairs."

It has been estimated that with much larger cruise ships being able to visit

“ Having cruise ships come to Falmouth is terrific for the town and the county as a whole. Especially in a cash sense

Phil Boddy

Falmouth there could be a £100 million windfall for the county.

Falmouth Cruise Ship Ambassadors was set up in 2006 by a local group of just six people and now has 37 volunteers welcoming passengers at Falmouth Docks when cruise ships come to visit.

As for The World, it is unlikely to visit Falmouth for quite some time, having been three times in its history.

The world's most luxurious passenger ship is a 200m-long cruise liner that is not filled to the brim with holiday-makers but is inhabited by a select few families who each own their luxury apartment, making it a unique ship.

Mr Boddy said: "We got some really good feedback from The World. They really enjoy coming to Falmouth but I don't think we'll be seeing her here again for another three to four years."

CORNWALL SCITT
TEACHER TRAINING PROGRAMME

New Year? New Career!

Bursaries of up to £26,000 while training*

Outstanding Teacher Training Courses

- Early Years & KS1 • Primary •
- Computing • Design & Technology • English • Geography •
- History • Mathematics • Modern Languages • Music •
- PE • RE • Sciences •

Find out more at our Free Get into Teaching Workshop

Tuesday 22nd January
Truro College
6-8pm

Call 01872 267092 to register

www.cornwallscitt.org

*subject to subject and degree classification

