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# David Cameron relaxes on holiday in Cornwall

Conservative Party leader David Cameron joined British holidaymakers at a Cornwall beach on the first day of his summer break.

By Subhajt Banerjee and agencies

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He walked bare-foot along the beach at Harlyn Bay, near Padstow, Cornwall, hand-in-hand with his wife Samantha, as temperatures hit 28 degrees.

Dressed in black shorts and blue t-shirt, Mr Cameron, 41, hardly drew a glance from the hundreds of holidaymakers enjoying the sun and sea as the British summer began in earnest.

Mr Cameron has rented Fish Cellars Cottage in Harlyn Bay, for a one week break.

Labour's troubles and the reunion with his stolen bicycle have put the Tory leader in a relaxed mood.

The idyllic beach-side cottage hired by the Camerons overlooks the bay and golden sands but also has a spooky past - and is said to be haunted by a white witch.

Historians say the seven-bed house became haunted 400 years ago when it was owned by the Hellyer family who ran a pilchard processing business.

Local white witch 'Mother Ivey' and her healer is then said to have laid a hex on the 16th century building - damning all that live there.

Resident Derek Bray, 58, said: "He's a brave man because everybody knows the white witch curses anyone who stays there."

Debbie Morris Kairby, who runs a nearby gift shop, said: "It's a spooky place but it's nice he's coming to Cornwall



Tory leader David Cameron and his wife Samantha relax on Harlyn Bay beach near Padstow, Cornwall on the first day of their summer holiday Photo: PA

for his summer holiday.

Mr Cameron arrived in Harlyn Bay, which is near Constantine Bay where Margaret Thatcher used to holiday regularly on Sunday and is scheduled to spend a week at the cottage with his wife, Samantha, and their children Ivan, Nancy and Arthur.

On Saturday Mr Cameron's bike, stolen outside a supermarket near his home, was tracked down and returned to him by a Sunday newspaper.

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#### **• Gordon Brown**

**Location:** Southwold, Suffolk

**Details:** Staying at Shadingfield Hall, a Georgian mansion owned by celebrity photographer Dave Hogan and dubbed "paparazzi towers". Mr Brown should recognise a few familiar faces if, as reported, the inside of the property is lined with photographs of famous faces from David Beckham to Kylie Minogue. Mr Hogan is said to have paid £1.2 million for the early 1800s house last year and now rents it out as a self-catering retreat at £4,500 per week in peak season. Should Mr Brown find himself lying awake at night worrying about the polls he will at least do so in the comfort of the double four-poster bed the house's master bedroom boasts.

#### **• David Cameron**

**Location:** Harlyn Bay, Cornwall

**Details:** With stunning scenery the Cameron family might have found the perfect hideaway but the cottage they have chosen has a dark secret. A white witch known as Mother Ivey is said to have cursed the house around 1600 when its owners, local fishing magnates, ploughed a consignment of pilchards into the soil as fertiliser rather than giving them to starving villagers. The Camerons have no doubt brought a bucket and spade but they would be advised to use them only on the beach as the curse is said to take effect whenever the field is dug up.

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