



BETWEEN THE SHEETS

THE EMBANKMENT, BEDFORD

➡ **Where and why** As the name suggests, this mock-Tudor Victorian hotel is on the banks of the River Great Ouse. Recently restored, its period splendour is complemented by retro furniture with modern touches.

The 20 rooms are big and comfortable with ornate mirrors and chandeliers. You can even book a spa treatment in your room - I had a heavenly facial (www.therapyclub.com). The staff are young and friendly and genuinely seem to enjoy their jobs.

➡ **On the menu** There is a pub area, a private lounge and a vibey terrace. Chef Christophe Perney uses seasonal free-range local produce. We had ratatouille and goats cheese pancakes and pork belly with apple and fennel. Both were a triumph. Lamb steaks with leek and bacon mash and salmon fishcake on buttered spinach drew similar praise.

➡ **While you're there** Bedford is a market town - the tourist office has details. Hire a bike or walk the tree-lined paths along the pretty river or visit the gorgeous village of Woburn, or Woburn Abbey & Safari Park.

➡ **Wake-up call** Standard double B&B from £85. See www.embankmentbedford.co.uk or call 01234 261332 for special offers.

KARIN WRIGHT