

Athy, UK 2015 Diary

Tuesday 20 October 2015. Got organized pretty well and did some chopping up of leaves with the mower. Off to downtown at about 11:30. Dropped into the Mill and turned things off. To the PO, then to pay a bill at Belletetes, then to the dump, then to the Wellness Center. After working out, headed for the bus west of Nashua. Bus to Logan with about 6 passengers. Checked in and then went to Legal Sea Foods for an expensive dinner (ca. \$70), tasty scallops, shrimp and crab cake plus a bottle of Vouvray. Now waiting for my flight.

Wednesday 21 October 2015. Uneventful flight. Joe was there to fetch me and we headed for Enniskerry. Had the usual fry-up upon arrival and then a snooze until just after 2pm. Went into Bray with Joe to do some errands. Drove south a bit Greystones along the sea front. Back to Enniskerry and a nice meal of pork steak, carrots & parsnips, cabbage, roast potatoes, applesauce, followed by apple, blackberry and raspberry pie.

Thursday 22 October 2015. Into Bray to Read's where Joe dealt with the certificates. Drove to Leopardstown race course and had a look at the setup. Very nice. And to a shopping mall to pick up some things and a drive through the recycling centre. For dinner we went off to ?? in Dalkey. Very nice fish and chips. Looks like a nice upscale town, north of Bray.

Friday 23 October 2015. After breakfast helping Joe with Athy certificates. Into Bray to pick up chocolates, then on to Athy arriving in the afternoon. Went to the Council chambers for a reception, then off to Seamus and Miriam's for diner. Then to the opening reception at the Heritage Centre. Packed as usual. To Obriens afterwards where we stayed until about 2am. Joe his usual self again.

Saturday 24 October 2015. All day at Athy. A pretty good array of presentations. Pint at O'Briens at lunchtime. To the Taaffe's as usual for drinks, then the banquet at the hotel. Food disappointing. Sat next to Kevin and Gail McKenna. They lived in Newton for awhile when Kevin was at Harvard Medical School.

Sunday 25 October 2015. The last day for Jonathan and me at Athy. Lunch at O'Briens then at the end of the day off to Arthur and Carol's. Nice dinner of steak with Ion and Monica in attendance.

Monday 26 October 2015. Had our usual fry-up with Arthur and Carol's, then off with Jonathan. Stopped at Patrick Guinness's house near Naas for Jonathan to pick up a photo album. On to Mullagh arriving at one or so. Did up a lunch and relaxed the rest of the day, catching up with e-mail, etc. Daphne and Jane were off buying sheep and got back at the end of the day. Had a lovely lamb dinner with mash, carrots, etc. Read in the lounge and then to bed. Burma does a mess on the bathroom floor!

Tuesday 27 October 2015. Rainy and dreary morning. After breakfast did some e-mail and typed up this. Stayed around the house much of the day. That evening went out to dinner in Mullagh at the hotel, with a drink beforehand at Mc??

Wednesday 28 October 2015. A much better day. About mid-morning Jonathan and I set out to ?? to find the grave of Clements Markham's mother. Did find it. In a lovely churchyard in a very rural area. Afterwards had lunch at a modern hotel in ?? Headed back to Lakeview. Daphne goes off to pay cards. Jonathan and I survive nicely on a lamb stir-fry with veg. Crisis at Joe's old house where a chimney fire sends the French woofers to Lakeview to sound the alarm. Jonathan goes off and I eventually go to bed. Next morning I get a report. Chimney will probably have to be rebuilt; hasn't been cleaned in years.

Thursday 29 October 2015. Up early and Jonathan drove me up to Virginia where I got the bus to Dublin Airport in plenty of time. Into Paddington on the Heathrow Connect. Got my ticket, then to the First Class Lounge. Had coffee and shortbread. Then on the train to Worcester with several stops along the way. Took a cab from the station to Fownes Hotel, once a glove manufactory. Pretty good stay. Walked into the old section of Worcester a couple of blocks away. Had a beer and a burger at ?? Back to the hotel and to bed.

Friday 30 October 2015. Breakfast at the hotel then went to the Cathedral, then up the road to find a Boots to buy a electrical plug. Back to the hotel to check out by 11am. Relaxed in the lobby for an hour then to the Enterprise office a block away to pick up my Renault rental car. Got on the road south and was soon in Tewkesbury. Went to the Abbey parking lot and walked up the road to the Tewkesbury Museum at just after 1pm. Met Maggie and had a look at the Priestley collection on the top floor, then looked at his copy of the Edition de luxe of The Heart of the Antarctic. Lots of extra-illustrated stuff. Went back to the car and drove to Morrisons to buy food and supplies for my stay at the Gatehouse where I went at about 4pm. Some trouble finding the key but finally did so and loaded my things in, up a winding stair case. Very nice. Took photographs before spreading things out. Had a drink or two and got settled. Later went through the Abbey grounds to The Bell pub across the main street and had a good meal. Back to the Gatehouse and to bed.

Saturday 31 October 2015. After breakfast walked to the High Street and bought a map at WH Smith. Back to the gatehouse and planned my trip to the Hogans. Set out on the back roads via Ledbury, Bromyard and Tenbury Wells. Arrived at just after noon. Jane and Michael look great. Lunch for the shooters was being prepared. We drove down to the main road where we had a nice lunch at The Talbot Inn. Back to Bickley and by tractor-drawn wagon headed out to the shoot. Interesting. Didn't last very long. For the day there was a total of 161 pheasant and partridge. Back to the farm and soon after I was on my way back to Tewkesbury, a bit hairy as it was mostly dark. Went via Holt Fleet, Ombersely and took a wrong turn and went through Worcester, then the M5 to Tewkesbury. Had a drink and later some scrambled eggs on toast with bacon.

Sunday 1 November 2015. Foggy out. Cooked up a hearty breakfast of bacon, eggs and toast. Worked on photos. At 10am typing up the diary and the bells in the Abbey are change ringing.

Monday 2 November 2015. After breakfast and packing up, did up the guest book, then to Smiths to get a map. Didn't have the one I wanted but Alison's across the road did. Off by 10am. To Bredon's Norton to see if I could find Priestley's house. Couldn't. Nice village but no one on the streets to ask. From there to Chipping Camden. Park the car and walked up and down the main street. As lovely as ever although more touristy than my original visit. Had sausages and mash at the Red Lion on the corner of Sheep street. Drove to Broad Camden where I stayed many years ago. Off to Hidcot but found it was closed on Mondays beginning yesterday. On to Upper and Lower Slaughter, then to Bibury. Went into The Swan for a coffee but too crowded so went on my way to Northleach arriving at Julia's at about 4pm. She looks older and heavier but as cheery as ever. New yappy dog named Augusta, Gussie. A small long-haired dachshund. We had a drink or two then a lovely supper of Pheasant. Very good. Eventually to bed after lots of conversation and reminiscing.

Tuesday 3 November 2015. Julia did up a nice cooked breakfast. On my way at about 10am. Pretty much drove straight through to Bedford where I photographed Macintosh's house (and had a Big Mac for lunch). Then to Cambridge stopping at the American Cemetery. Dropped car off at Enterprise, and then they drove me to Warkworth House. Mrs Collins met me with a nice glass for my gin! Stayed in the hotel and got organized, skipped dinner, and to bed before 10pm.

Wednesday 4 November 2015. Gray and rainy. Shower. Breakfast. Cathy is still the waitress. Into the Archives at 9:30. At lunch to the RBS branch then soup at The Alma. At the end of the day, back to Warkworth House, a drink, to Vodafone to get a sim card, and then prawns and chips at The Prince Regent.

Thursday 5 November 2015. At the Archives at 9:30. At lunch went to get a bus ticket to Heathrow. Now sold at the Post Office. Back to the Archives to the end of the day. To Warkworth House. Relaxes and caught up. Picked up by Pete Cavagh at 7pm then to their house via the railroad station where I bought a ticket for London. Donna had done up a very nice paella dish. Some good conversation. Back to Warkworth House by cab.

Friday 6 November 2015. After breakfast off by foot to the railroad station to get the 9:21 into Kings Cross. Took the Piccadilly line to South Ken and walked to 1 Oslow Gardens and had a very interesting meeting with Simon Murray, his wife Jennifer, and his PA, Jane. Talked about and inspected his Aurora. Walked down to the Kings Road and had a burger lunch at Byron, then to Chelsea Town Hall where I went to the antiquarian book fair that opened at 2pm. Saw Stuart Leggatt and John Bonham there. Cab to the RGS where I visited the Fellows Room, then bus to Green Park. Walked to the Naval Club and got information about doing a function. Then to RBS to get some money. Then Green Park to Victoria, then train to West Dulwich, then walked to Dulwich College for the James Caird Society dinner. Attended the AGM, then the reception

following, then a talk by Jan Piggott and others, then a nice dinner. Sat with Ann Shirley and Calista Lucy. Left for the station and because of delays went by Uber car (arrived in 1 minute) to Victoria with the Bonhams and Richard ?? of Sotheby's. Victoria line to Kings Cross, train to Cambridge, then cab to Warkworth house. Quite steamy all day, sweated like a pig.

Saturday 7 November 2015. Yet another dreary and wet day. Spent much of the morning getting re-organized and up-to-date and typing up these notes. Settled up my bill with Mrs Collins. At about 2pm went over to SPRI and then to the program in the Chemistry building. Excellent: 1) Artist in residence program; then 2) wildlife photographer.

Sunday 8 November 2015. Got up at 6:30 and after some cereal and juice headed for Parkside. Took bus to Heathrow. Checked in at Terminal 2. Remembrance Sunday 11am 2 minute silence. Uneventful flight to Boston. Had \$27 pre-ordered dinner. Not bad. Waited about an hour at Logan for Boston Express bus. To Nashua then drove home with a stop at McDonalds.
END OF TRIP

GUEST BOOK

Landmarks

Abbey Gatehouse 2015
Auchinleck 2007
Cloth Fair
Crownhill Fort
Gargunnoch (2) 2007
Goddards 1999
Obriss Farm
Princelet Street
45a Sackville House 2003
Sant' Antonio 2004
Villa Saraceno 2000
Wortham Abbey 2002