

Athy, UK 2016 Diary

Monday 24 October 2016. Drove to Nashua with a stop at BIGraphics on the way. Uneventful bus ride to Logan. Checked in and then my usual meal at Legal Seafoods. Aer Lingus now leaving from Terminal C. Place half full so no one next to me.

Tuesday 25 October 2016. Arrive in Dublin. Joe there to meet me as usual. Out to Enniskerry where I have the usual Irish Fry-up, then a few winks of sleep. Joe and I head off for Cork about a three hour drive. Go to Midleton where we stop at the hotel. All booked up. Stay at a B&B just down the road. Have a dinner at the Hotel Midleton and then hear a very well-attended talk by Michael Smith on Edward Bransfield. Turned into a “this is your life, Michael Smith” afterwards. To bed around midnight.

Wednesday 26 October 2016. Drove down the road to ?? to track down Edward Bransfield’s house. Interesting. Found a chap on the street who indeed knew where it was—just up the road. Photographed it and then tried to figure out what the name of the road was. No signs. Our chap no longer around. Found another one who didn’t know the name but took us to a house where a man lived who he said would know. Rang the bell. The man who came to the door was the same one we had first met on the street! He invited us in and we had coffee. He had run the post office in the village and knew much of the local history. He was also a woodworker and showed us his very well equipped workshop. We went on our way.

Did we do anything else that day?

Back in Enniskerry. Had a nice dinner with Barbara and Sarah. Pork chops in a tomato sauce. Or was this later in the week?

Thursday 27 October 2016. Various chores. To the Leopardstown mall to print out my Cape Adare transcription. Into Bray for lunch at the ??, chosen by Lonely Planet as the best pub in the world. It’s not! Stopped for chocolates. Drove around ?? Back to Enniskerry. Excellent fish pie at the O’Farrells. Sarah now home.

Friday 28 October 2016. Up early and out to the Airport to pick up Russell Potter flying in from Boston. Headed off for Athy. To the Clanford ?? hotel and dropped off out bags. Into the Heritage Centre and then to the reception at the Council Chambers. Then to Seamus and Miriam’s for diner. A good crowd there. Then to the Heritage Centre for the opening reception. Then to O’Briens afterwards. Back to the hotel. A conversation with the bride.

Saturday 29 October 2016. After breakfast into the Heritage Centre. Full day of talks. Quite good and the biggest crowd I can remember. Had lunch in O’Briens. Out to the Taaffe’s for drinks then to the Hotel for the Banquet. My quiz went over well. To bed early. Joe back around 3:30am!

Sunday 30 October 2016. Clocks change; an extra hour of sleep. Into the Heritage Centre. Good talks. A pint at O’Briens. Good talks at the Autumn School. To O’Briens.

Dinner at the chinese restaurant, then to the Arts Centre to see poetry program. Walked back to O'Briens and after a while got a cab back to the hotel.

Monday 31 October 2016. Breakfast then checked out of the hotel. Head toward Dublin with Russell Potter in tow. Dropped him off at the Ibis Hotel, then back to Athy. Into O'Briens.

Headed off for Enniskerry.

I think this was when we had the pork chops.

Tuesday 1 November 2016. Barbara drove me around the neighborhood. Joe and I set off for Galway. Motorway most of the way to Galway. Through the Connemara National Park. Stopped to see the annual fair in Mumms Cross. Stopped in at K Abbey. Went to Tully Cross but hotel was full. Had a drink at Paddy Coyne's, then the chef arranged for a B&B in Tully about a mile away, and led us there where we left Joe's car, then he drove us back to the pub, and after a very nice dinner, drove us back to the B&B!

Wednesday 2 November 2016. Up around 8:30 and type up these notes. Excellent breakfast. Take photos of what I thought was Laurie's cottage (it wasn't). Into Letterfrack. Stopped in at Conservation place and said we'd be back around noon. Headed into Clifden where we tracked down Sharon Duane, daughter of Catherine Coyne who looks after Laurie's cottage. Stopped at an ATM. Back to Letterfrack. Visited Conservation centre, saw and went into the cabin. Went with Simon for lunch across the road later. Seafood chowder. Back to Tullycross where we found the cottage and ran into Catherine and her other daughter. Nice cottage. On the road again going to Westport along narrow roads. On to Strokestown about when getting dark. Stayed at the Percy French Hotel, 2 singles at 50 euro each.

Thursday 3 November 2016. Up at 7. Shower. Down for breakfast. Typing up these notes. Joe and I headed off for Dublin Airport arriving in plenty of time. Had a coffee with him at McDonalds, then he dropped me off. Checked in and uneventful flight to Heathrow. Took Heathrow Connect to Paddington. Topped up my iPhone at Vodafone, then cab to the Naval Club. Had dinner in the Club: quite good Fish n Chips.

Friday 4 November 2016. A good breakfast of poached eggs and smoked haddock. Walked to the RBS branch in Curzon Street and then to Green Park Station. Tube to Kings Cross and walked to the British Library to see the new Map show at the British Library. Tube to Marble Arch and walked to the Victory Services Club in Seymour Street—large and quite nice. Asked about membership: PHS not eligible. Back to Marble Arch and a cheeseburger at McDonalds. Cab to the Club. Not long after headed to Green Park and by tube to Victoria. Had a beer and waited to meet up with Kevin Kenny. Brad Borkan showed up. We met up with Kevin and took the train to West Dulwich. Had drinks around the James Caird. Up to the Great Hall. Excellent talk by Tim Jarvis. Sat next to Ann Shirley and Tony Rogers?, JCS treasurer. Very nice meal. Took the train back to Victoria with Kevin and the Bonhams. Tube to Green Park, then cab to the Club.

Saturday 5 November 2016. After breakfast wrote up these notes in the library. Walked to Green Park stopping at Maggs to chat with Fuchsia. Took bus to Kings Road. Burger at ?? To the Antiquarian Book Fair. Saw John Bonham. Bought a Mawson from Stuart Leggatt. Bus back to Piccadilly. Walked through Shepherd Market to the Club. Later took bus to Paddington and went to the Bonhams. Watched fireworks (Guy Fawkes day). Walked to India restaurant ?? Took cab back to the Club.

Sunday 6 November 2016. Breakfast. Packed and settled up at the Club. Cab to Victoria Coach Station. Bus to Cambridge. Dinner at ??

Monday 7 November 2016. Breakfast. Into SPRI where I worked both morning and afternoon. Finished proofing the ms. At lunch time went to Cambridge Arts Theatre and got ticket for the show tonight. WonTon soup at ?? Checked at the Chemistry Dept about Charles Kinder. Will check back on Tuesday. Back to Warkworth House. Walked into the city center and enjoyed the show at the Cambridge Arts Theatre.

Tuesday 8 November 2016. Breakfast. Typing up these notes. Election day: Clinton vs Trump.

Wednesday 9 November 2016.

END OF TRIP