

Plymouth Log August 2014

Sunday 3 August 2014. Left Jaffrey shortly after noon and drove to the Boston Express terminal in Nashua. Just made the 1:30 bus. \$8.50 one way. Checked in at Aer Lingus and then had a relaxing and very good meal at Legal Seafoods (crab cake, shrimp, scallops, onion strings, two glasses of Muscadet). Through security very fast with no delays. Now in Terminal E writing this up.

Uneventful flight. Fortunately had an empty seat beside me.

Monday 4 August 2014. Arrived ca. 30" ahead of schedule because of good tailwind. Joe O'Farrell was there to meet me. Drove on to Enniskerry and was welcomed by Barbara and a good Irish fry-up. Then a nap until about 3pm. Had a drink and conversation then around 8pm drove into Bray: Joe, Barbara and Sarah. Big "Fun Fair" along the promenade. Quite good, sophisticated rides. Had a very good meal at the The Platform on the promenade, a lively place. Watched some quite good fireworks.

Tuesday 5 August 2014. Up around 8:30. Breakfast. Later Joe and I drove into Bray. He went to the bank; I bought a driving atlas, a shampoo brush and deodorant. Picked up Joe's dry cleaning. Back to their house and now typing this up. Later in the afternoon we drove to ?? and after some delays got on the ferry for ?? Wales,. Had a cabin for a couple of hours of lie-down.

Wednesday 6 August 2014. Drove off at about 12:30 am. Dark and rainy but no traffic. Past Swansea, Cardiff and Newport. Over the Severn Bridge and south on the M5. Weather improved as we drove south. By the time we were around Exeter it was clear. Detoured to Torquay and stopped at the Torbay Hotel where we tried and failed to get breakfast at about 7am. Headed west and stopped at the Royal Severn Stars Hotel in Totnes, a very attractive small town. Waited until 8 and has an excellent breakfast. We'll be staying at this hotel on Saturday night. Headed on and soon were in Plymouth. We went to the Duke of Cornwall hotel and waited around until 11am when our room was ready. Nice, 2 room suite. Had a lie-down for a several hours, then got cleaned up and headed downstairs where things were getting active. Got our registration packets and started mingling. There was a VIP Reception in the hotel when Zaz unveiled a plaque. There was a talk that night but some of us headed for the Barbican and had dinner outside as we had the last time in Plymouth: Barbara and Michael Smith, Jim and Geraldine McAdam, and others. Walked back via the Hoe.

Thursday 7 August 2014. A very nice breakfast including smoked haddock (which I had for all three days). First session was Michael Smith then Bob Burton. Both good. Had a liquid lunch as I recall, then the afternoon sessions which were good as well. Showered and changed into my tux for the banquet in the hotel, my quiz on each table. Had some drinks later in the bar. In bed sometime after midnight. Joe, Geraldine and Jim pop in as I'm stretched out. Geraldine jumps on the bed. Am I dreaming?

Friday 8 August 2014. Weather still very good. Excellent breakfast again. Wrap-up by Bob Headland and the speakers. Paul Davies announces the winners of the quiz. Off on foot to Millbay Dock to unveil a plaque, see a replica of the James Caird and, at noon, to bid farewell to two boats: a tall ship headed to Charleston, SC, and a Polish sailboat headed to Antarctica. Scottish pipe band. Retrieved the car and drove to the Victualling Yards where we joined the Taaffes and Jonathan & Daphne Shackleton for a nice lunch at ??.

Back to the hotel. Came upon Zaz. She invited us up to her room at the very top of the hotel. Great view from the cupola. Had some drinks there. Later had a late dinner at the hotel and spirited discussion between Zaz and Joe.

Saturday 9 August 2014. Up and another nice breakfast. Packed up the car and Zaz and off to the Scott Memorial on Mt Wise which Zaz had not seen. Lovely day. East to South Milton where we spent a few hours with Paul and Andrea Davies at their house along with the Taafes and the Davies' neighbors, Jen and Tim. Drove on to Totnes dropping Zaz off at the rail station and then we went to the Royal Seven Stars Hotel and checked in. Very nice. Had a drink then a walk around the town which is quite nice without being too touristy. Later had a good dinner at the hotel. Noisy inside and outside the hotel until about 2pm.

Sunday 10 August 2014. Up and an excellent cooked breakfast. Off with a stop first at Darlington Hall, a curious place. On to the M5? And north past Exeter, Carlisle, eventually to Cheltenham. Parked the car and to the Wilson statue and then to The Wilson, the Art Gallery and Museum. Tourist office there as well. Got directions to the Holiday Inn and fetched the car and drove there. Then walked to The Wilson to see the Wilson exhibit. Back to the hotel and a drink. Across the street to The Brewery where we had dinner at ?? . Heavy rain for a bit.

Monday 11 August 2014. Up around 6:30. Breakfast downstairs. Headed off at 8am. Nice sunny day. Up the M5 to the M6, around Birmingham, then off at Exit 16 for Chester. Stopped at a McDonalds for a snack. Arrived at the ferry fairly close to departure at 2:10. Sitting in the lounge typing this up. Crossing was uneventful. Very crowded with lots of children running about. Drove to Enniskerry and Barbara was there with a drink all ready for me. A very nice roast beef dinner with turnip, potatoes, peas, ??

Tuesday 12 August 2014. Starts off a lovely day. Slept to 9:30 or so! Now typing up these notes.

Wednesday 13 August 2014. Up