

## **Log - Athy, UK October & November 2014**

Tues 21 October 2014. Left Jaffrey around noon and headed for the bus terminal at Nashua. Arrived in plenty of time. To Logan. Check in. Went to Legal Seafoods in Terminal B and had a relaxing dinner of Crab cake, shrimp, scallops and onion strings and two glasses of Muscadet. Flight was on time and not too crowded. Arrived a bit ahead of time.

Wed 22 October 2014. Joe was there to meet me as usual. Unexpectedly ran into Jonathan Shackleton as we were going through the terminal. Arrived in Enniskerry and had the usual big breakfast fryup. Afterwards had a good long lie-in. Now writing this up. Drove with Joe into Bray to get some nasal spray for my allergies and do some other errands. That evening had a good Irish meal of mashed potatoes, turnip, cabbage and open-face hamburger type of thing cheese-top rissole. Hot mashed-up apple affair with cream.

Thurs 23 October 2014. A long day of driving around. First thing was a TV interview done by Joe and Michael Smith on Michael's new Shackleton book at RTE. Interesting to watch the process. Back home. Into Bray to the Garda station unsuccessfully trying to get passport paperwork signed for Joe's daughter, Sarah. Then to the Shankhill Garda station where he was successful. Then to Stepside post office to do the next step in the passport process. Back home. Later to Dun Laoghaire where we were going to have a n early dinner before a reception and talk by Michael Smith. Hooked up with Michael and Con Collins, his publisher, for a beer at Dunphy's, a very nice pub. From there to the Gourmet Burger for a bite, then to the Shackleton exhibit for a glass of wine. Met Brendan O'Brien there, Tom Crean's grandson. Next door to the Royal George Yacht Club for Michael's talk. A lovely building. Had a beer afterwards and then home.

Fri 24 October 2014. Up around 8:30. Breakfast, and now typing this up. Joe and I left for Bray (for chocolates) and then the airport where we picked up Ulf B?? coming from Norway. Then headed for Athy arriving early afternoon. Went straight to the DeBurgh Manor where we are staying. A large once elegant house about 2 miles north of Athy. Somewhat of a Fawlty Towers II now. Zaz, Bob Headland, etc., had already arrived. We relaxed for a bit, then went into Athy and had a pint at O'Briens. From there we drove out to Seamus' house where we had another fine Irish stew. Then to the Heritage Centre for the reception. Quite crowded. Many old faces. Afterwards to O'Briens and then back by cab afterwards.

Sat 25 October 2014. Nice morning, mild. Into Athy by mini-bus and a full day of very good sessions. Had a liquid lunch at O'Briens. Back to the hotel, then by mini-bus to Frank Taaffe's house for the usual very nice reception. Then by bus back to De Burgh Manor where we had our banquet. Crowded and slow service but not bad considering. My quiz was done and scored. Moderately successful. Some went into town to O'Briens but I went up stairs and to bed.

Sun 26 October 2014. Packed up. After breakfast into Athy on the mini-bus taking my luggage along. Stored it at the Heritage Center. Good sessions all. Tuna melt panini and a pint at O'Briens. After things concluded Jonathan and I drove to Carlow and met up with Arthur and Carol at Mimosa , quite a good tapas bar. [www.mimosawinebar.com](http://www.mimosawinebar.com) Then went to the VISUAL and the George Bernard Shaw Theatre for the premiere of Endurance. Performance was sold out. Much better than the run through I had in Athy in August.

Mon 27 October 2014. Bank Holiday Monday. Up around 8:15. Now in the kitchen typing up these notes. A nice fry-up done by Arthur. Drove into Abbeyleix to the hotel owned by Caol & Arthur's friend, Jenny Kent. Took a walk along the old rail line and to a new boardwalk through the bog. A nice coffee at the hotel afterwards. A salad bak at Fruitlawn, then off to Lakeview House arriving around 6 or so. Have a drink. Daphne arrives back from sailing and we later have a nice dinner of cod, mashed potato and spinach.

Tues 28 October 2014. Rainy and gray. Had breakfast and now typing this up. Off later in the morning to see the hunt at the same place as last year. The Woofers—John Michael and Suzanne—come with us. Rainy most of the time. Very nice little Cumberland sausages and coffee. Back to Lakeview and not much for the rest of the day. Daphne off to Mayo on a job. Jonathan cooks up nice steaks from their cows. To bed.

Wed 29 October 2014. Not much today. Had a look at Joe's house, now vacated. That evening Jonathan, Daphne and I went into Kells to the Station Hotel for a dinner. Not much activity but the dinner was fine.

Thurs 30 October 2014. Up and packed. Breakfast then about 9am Jonathan and I set out to Virginia where I got the bus to the airport. Good flight. Took tube to Union Jack Club and checked in. Got organized then went to Waterloo to buy deodorant and a new pair of scissors. (Security at Dublin took mine!) Had dinner at Cipriani—spaghetti carbonera. Back to the UJC and to bed.

Fri 31 October 2014. Up and showered then for a big breakfast downstairs. There's been come re-decoration of the dining room since last year. Now typing up these notes in my room. Very mild out. Headed out by tube: first stop, the bank in Curzon Street, then bus to Harrods where I bought a new mobile phone, then around noon to John Bonham's flat. Visited a while, then I bought from him a copy of Webster's Voyage at £800. He took me to lunch at the Mitre? not far away. Had a burger. Walked then to Inverness Terrace to take a photo of the house once lived in by Bernacchi. Tube back to the UJC. Did my laundry and had a drink. Went to dinner at the UJC: pork schnitzel. Not bad. Sat next to a man from N. Yorkshire who had walked on many of the paths that I did. Later typed up these notes.

Sat 1 Nov 2014. Up and packed. Over to McDonalds for an egg & sausage McMuffin. Headed off around 10: tube to Baker Street then to Liverpool Street Station. Train to Bishops Stortford. Mary Cavanagh picked me up at the station. Back to her house and

started talking about my new cell phone, then about Siafu in Spain. Came upon a villa that might work for us. Had some drinks and at 7:30 went down the hill to the Indian restaurant which was crowded and good. Back to her house and a brandy and to bed.

Sun 2 Nov 2014. Up at 8. Now writing up these notes in Mary's kitchen. She drove me to the station and I just made the train to Cambridge. Took a cab to Warwick House Hotel and got organized in my room. Took it easy most of the day. Walked into the center or the town and stopped by the Apple and Vodafone stores. Had a drink in my room then to The Varsity for dinner (steak frites).

Mon 3 Nov 2014. A nice breakfast and around 9:30 over to SPRI. Said hello to Naomi. My times at the Archives are this afternoon, Tues, Wed and Thurs. Not Friday so I will go to London in the morning. Now typing these notes at SPRI. Lunch (soup) at the Alma. Train into London, tube to South Ken, walked to RGS. Very good program on Greenland, dinner afterwards with Martin Henderson, Wendy Driver, Cathy Cooper. Back to Cambridge afterwards.

Tues 4 Nov 2014. At the SPRI archives all day. Lunch (curry) at the Alma with Bob Headland, Bjørn Basberg, Bob Burton.

Wed 5 Nov 2014. At the SPRI archives all day. Lunch at Browns with Isobel Williams. Dinner with Pete and Donna Cavanagh at their condo.

Thur 6 Nov 2014. At the SPRI archives all day. Lunch at the Pantons Arms. With Kevin Kenny and Bob Headland for dinner at Loch Fyne, then walked to the Eagle for a pint.

Fri 7 Nov 2014. Spent the morning at the library at SPRI. Signed the contract for the Adelie Mail project. By train to Kings Cross, then to take photos at ?? and ?? with lunch at The Golden Hind—fish and chips. By cab to Caroline Oates' house (took photos of the wrong house!) then on to the Chelsea Town Hall for the Antiquarian Book Fair. Met up there with John Bonham and took bus to Sloane Square then tube to Victoria. Found out my Oyster Card covers West Dulwich. Took train there with John & Sue Bonham and Elizabeth & ?. A crowded James Caird dinner with lots of the usual there: Brad Borkan, Patrick, Ann Shirley, Jan Piggott, Calista Lucy, Judy Skelton, Bob Headland, Bjorn A good talk by Kelly Taylor-Lewis. Some technical problems with PowerPoint at the start. Sat at a table filled with Stenhouse descendants. Took train to Victoria, tube to Kings Cross, then train (delayed) to Cambridge. Took cab back to Warkworth, arriving after midnight.

Sat 8 Nov 2014. Up and after breakfast did some packing. Then to the Post Office and bought stamps. Wrote them out at a nearby coffee shop and then posted them. To SPRI around 1 or so. Went to the afternoon session of the South Georgia Association meeting. Some very good talks. Following that was the AGM of the Friends of SPRI. Back to the hotel and finished off my gin. Back to SPRI to meet Bob Headland and Kevin Kenny. They had already gone to the Indian restaurant where I went and had dinner with them plus Zaz, Mary Kenny, Ian & ??, a former Governor of the Falkland Islands and his wife,

Judy Skelton, etc. Then with Kevin and Mary for a beer at ?? around the corner from Warkworth House.

Sun 9 Nov 2014. Up before 6am. Shower and some cereal then down to Parkside where I took the 6:20a, bus to Heathrow. Some nice places along the way. Stopped at Luton: pretty dismal looking: town and airport. Left my coat on the bus and realized it about an hour later. Went back to the Central Bus station and through the good efforts of Siobhán found it! Two minutes of silence at 11am: Remembrance Sunday. You could hear a pin drop in Heathrow! Uneventful flight to Boston via Dublin but spilled by gin drink all over my lap. Just made the 6:55 bus to Nashua, then drove to Jaffrey with a stop at Wendys. Almost immediately went to bed.

A good trip.