

London Trip 30 October – 7 November 2000

Monday 30 October: I left Boston Monday morning on an American Airlines flight. There was a security problem and we had to all go back into the main terminal, wait around, then through the x-ray machines again; didn't take off for at least 2 hours after scheduled time. Lots of delays getting in from Heathrow because of all the rain. Got to Julia's in Lavender Hill sometime near midnight. Visited.

Tuesday 31 October: Slept in a bit then went into central London. Saw Stuart Leggatt at Sotherans. Bought slippers at Trickers in Jermyn Street (have Prince of Wales feathers on them). Scottish Tourist Board to get brochures for next spring. To Lamb & Flag for lunch. Around corner to Stanfords to get OS map of Gargunnoch. Walked to Oxford Street and got bus back to Gowrie Road. Took a bath. Dressed in tux. Arranged for hire cab, picked up Jonathan & Daphne Shackleton where they were staying on far side of Clapham Common, headed for Dulwich and opening evening of the Shackleton exhibit. Among the people: Margot Morrell, David Yelverton, Ann Shirley, Shane Murphy, Jan Piggott, Zaz, Stuart Leggatt, Neil Silverman, Pippa Hare, Bob Headland, Sheila Bransfield, Charles Swithinbank. View exhibit. Took same cab back to Clapham and onto Gowrie Road.

Wednesday 1 November: Went off to Courtauld Institute. Small but interesting. Took tube to Dockland Railway, under river to Greenwich. To the Trafalgar Tavern. Had a fish & chips lunch. To the National Maritime Museum. Got in free as a senior citizen. Spent considerable time at the Antarctic exhibit. Very good. Headed back via Docklands Railway, eventually to Gowrie Road. That night Jools and I went to nearby Nancy Lam's interesting funky place, Malaysian food.

Thursday 2 November: Took train from Charing Cross to Mottingham where I walked to Eltham Palace, a terrific English Heritage property that was the home of the Courtaulds. Went there to see Emperor penguin on dining room doors. Lots of art deco. Beautiful setting. Had a sandwich there then walked back overland to the rail station and back to Charing Cross. Back to Gowrie Road. Had thai meal at home. Watch TV.

Friday 3 November: Met Jonathan Shackleton at the RGS at midday. Bought a map at the RGS, waited for Jonathan. We went by foot to Abbey House Hotel, where Shackleton once lived. Went inside and talked to the guy in charge. Continued on to Notting Hill Gate and had lunch at Geales. Took a cab back to the RGS. From there to Victoria, took train to Dulwich, spent an hour looking again at the exhibit. Then attended dinner meeting of the James Caird Society, pretty much a repeat of the event on Monday with many of the same people in attendance. Antony & Jill Bowring came, Sandy Macklin and his wife, Neil Silverman, Ann Shirley, etc. Went to train station. Wendy Driver and her friend Cathy and I decided to get a cab which we did. They dropped me off at Gowrie Road.

Saturday 4 November: Off to Camden Passage. Bought 3 more silver skewers at same shop as last time. Over to Alfie's Antique Market off Edgware Road: not worth going to again. Had lunch at Burger King. Went to Victoria to get ticket for Dover. Back to Gowrie Road. To Clapham Junction to take train to Twickenham to have dinner with Wendy Driver. Arrived early so walked around the center of town. Rang Wendy and she came and picked me up. Nice little house about the same size as Zaz's. Nice dinner and conversation. Back by train to Clapham and walked to Gowrie Road.

Sunday 5 November: Went to Russell Square for the bookfair. Then to British Museum to look around. Back to the second bookfair. Found nothing. Wandered to Leicester Square and to Sheekey's and had a marvelous lunch of Plaice, chips, tomato salad, wine. Great bartender. Back to Gowrie Road. To bed early.

Monday 6 November: Set off by bus for Victoria then train to Dover to go to Dover Museum. Rain. Saw Koettlitz items at Museum: Polar bear, his skis, papers & photos in Library. Up to London Road his old surgery. Beer at pub across from station; took train back to London. Over to the RGS to meet Lewis MacNaught to talk about fundraising for his Shackleton expedition. Had a drink with him and with Zaz. Sat next to Zaz at Ran Fiennes talk. Went on for 1-1/2 hours. No sign of Michael Smith so had dinner at RGS with Zaz and Bryan Oates, a grand nephew. Enjoyable evening. Bryan gave me a ride to South Ken. Trains down so took cab. Back to Gowrie Road.

Tuesday 7 November: Out to Heathrow with no difficulty. Jools gave me a ride to Sloane Square. Good flight back. Election day (though I voted absentee). Retrieved car and headed for Jaffrey.

Dulwich College Exhibit

Crow's Nest inscription: I made slight corrections in LLAG database.

Trip to Dover

Koettlitz's surgery address in Dover is 306 London Road. Now the YHA Administration.