

London May 2016

Wednesday 11 May 2016. Off to Nashua after noon. Stopped at Target to see about new jeans. No luck. Parked and waited for bus. To Logan without any difficulty. Had the usual nice and expensive meal at Legal Seafoods. To Terminal E. Checked in at Norwegian. Ended up with center seat; no way around it. Plane left on time. Very full. A new Dreamliner; very nice. Have a Norwegian man on my right and an American man on my left. The latter did not buy a seat but got an aisle one anyway. They both had order meals which were delivered to their seats. I got nothing. Appears that even if you want a beer you can only get it by pre-ordering. No water available as far as I can tell. Movies but no earphones. Apparently have to bring your own.

Thursday 12 May 2016. Landed on time. Gatwick kind of a mess. Bought a ticket for the Gatwick Express. Supposed to be half an hour; more like three quarters of an hour.

Arrived at Victoria. Had orange juice, coffee and a bacon sandwich in the station. Couldn't find my Oyster Car (later did) so bought another one. To Paddington, then walked to the Bonhams at 84 Westbourne Terrace, arriving at noon. Went up to their flat and had a nice lunch of meat pie and vegetables. Got settled in Flat 2 and went up to Paddington to get my phone going at Vodafone and then shopped at Sainsburys. Got money from the bank then had a lager at the pub on the corner of Praed and ? St. Back to the Bonhams. Had a short lie-down.

Met up with John around 4 and took the tube to Euston Square and walked to the Warburg Institute where we went for a talk on mapselling by Jonathan Potter. Bob Headland was there. Tube back to Paddington.

John and I walked up the road to ??, a quite good Chinese Restaurant. Back again to Flat 2 and to bed for an early night.

Friday 13 May 2016. Up and showered. John came down. I headed off on foot to the RGS across the park. A nice walk. Was at the RGS when it opened at 10am and went to the Archives where I met up with Eugene Rae who sat me down with the RGS copy of the Aurora Australis, newly rebound. Collated it. Sometime after 11, Joe O'Farrell showed up at the RGS. We then took a cab to the Bonhams and Joe got settled. We walked up to Praed Street and stopped into the same pub as yesterday and had a drink and lunch. I headed off on my own afterwards by the 436 bus to Park Lane and walked to the Naval Club where I checked on my membership and spoke with Mr Sonderskov about our lunch on Monday. From there to Curzon Street where I stopped into Maggs and visited with Fuchsia Voremberg. Then wandered to Green Park and relaxed there for awhile. Walked down Jermyn Street to Piccadilly Circus tube station where I picked up tube and bus maps. Tube to Bank where I visited the Royal Exchange and waited until 5 when I showed up at Mansion House to see Juliet Evans, now Juliet Mountevans. Beautiful interior. She gave me the grand tour including the plate room where all the gold and silver is kept.

Tube from Cannon Street to Victoria, then train to West Dulwich. Walked to Dulwich College and got there just as people were congregating for dinner. Many of the

usual people were there: Jonathan and Daphne Shackleton, Brad Borkan, Jan Piggott, Judy Skelton, Ann Shirley, Patrick Fagan, et al. Zaz Shackleton gave the talk. Very nice dinner selections. Back to the Bonhams with them in their car.

Saturday 14 May 2016. After breakfast Joe and I headed for Queensway to find a place to buy reading glasses (he left his at Dulwich). By tube out to Hammersmith where we called at Zaz's house. We enjoyed a glass of wine. Went across the road to the Stonemasons Arms and had a nice lunch. Tube to Hampstead, Swiss Cottage tube station, and went to the matinee of 'Lawrence After Arabia,' quite a good play although there was absolutely no leg room. For the second act I was able to sit down below with lots of room. We took the tube to Paddington, stopped by a shop and bought some groceries, then back to the Bonhams. Met up with them later and went to the ?? pub for a drink, then close by to Taorima for a nice Italian dinner. Back to the house and eventually to bed.

Sunday 15 May 2016. On Sunday we met up with the Bonhams and Ann Shirley at the East India Club in St. James' and had a very nice birthday lunch buffet. Following that we went down the street to the Army & Navy Club and saw Murray Levick's penguin on the 1st floor. Joe and I walked through Mayfair, stopped at a church in South Audley Street, walked to Marble Arch stopping at Speakers Corner. Joe rang his daughter Sarah and we arranged to meet her in Islington. We ended up in a brewpub which was filled with supporters of Arsenal after its football victory. Sarah met us there and we had a beer and then walked down to the road to LeCoq and had a bit to eat. Joe and I took the bus back to central London, then ending up back at the Bonhams.

Monday 16 May 2016. My 75th birthday! Fine weather. Joe and I got up early and after breakfast took a cab to the Naval Club, 38 Hill Street, where Ann Shirley and I were hosting a session and lunch recognizing the 100th anniversary of Sir Clements Markham's death. We had a lively discussion in an upstairs room from about 10:30 to 12:30, then drinks in the bar, then a very pleasant lunch of Fish Pie at one long table in the Dining Room. Joe and I left promptly at 2:30 and took a cab, first to Kings Cross where we dropped off Bob and Jackie Burton, then to Liverpool Street Station. Took the train to Ipswich and walked across the bridge to the Avis garage and picked up a rental car. Drove north stopping at a Waitrose in Saxmundham. Bought groceries for the 4 days and nights that we would be at New Inn in Peasenhall, a 16th century building accommodating 8 people. We were only 4 so had our pick of bedrooms. Had drinks and cooked up a dinner of ??? Stayed up late talking, then to bed.

Tuesday 17 May 2016. A lovely day. After a goof Irish Fryup we all headed off in my car to Framlingham, a very nice town. The centerpiece is the Castle, operated by English Heritage. We spend perhaps two hours there. A nice museum. We walked the ramparts. View out to the surrounding countryside. Not crowded at all and quite unhurried. We walked into the town admiring the architecture and the shops. Had lunch in a little café recommended by a local man. Bought two tea towels. Back to the car and then on to Halesworth. While going through a round-about recognize a building which was Hooker

House, which I had seen with Antony Bowring some years back. It was the home of Joseph Hooker and his father, both commemorated by plaques.

Wednesday 18 May 2016. A gray and sometimes lightly drizzly day. Essentially stayed at the house all day. Breakfast and lunch and dinner at the house. Bob and Jackie Burton arrived sometime before 4pm and we started to prepare for the night's dinner. Lots of conversation. Got the fire going. About 5:30 or so Gill and Antony Bowring showed up for a drink. Nice to see them again after some years. After they left we finished preparing the dinner and then had quite a feast with a very nice Leg of Lamb as the centerpiece. Too bed a hour or two later, Bob in my bedroom and Jackie in Ann's.

Thursday 19 May 2016. Quite a nice day altogether. Not long after breakfast Jackie and Bob headed home. We dropped in next door at the Weavers Tea Shop and had coffee on the porch. Not long after noon we drove the 3/4 of a mile to Sibton and The White Horse, a very nice pub, and had a long and leisurely Sunday type lunch. I have Fishermans Pie. Back to the house. I had a short lie-down, then had a bath. The others headed off for a walk. Had odds and ends for supper.

Friday 20 May 2016. Up before 6. Pack up and tidy up and on our way by about 7:15. Drive to Ipswich getting petrol on the way. Drop Ann and Joe off at the station, then to Avis to leave car. Back to station. Coffee. Train to Liverpool Street Station. Tube to Westminster. Go to Institute of Mechanical Engineers and leave Ann's bag. Walk to Westminster Abbey. Congregate outside. Then inside to VIP section. Sit behind Falcon and Jane and between Seamus and Kevin. Service impressive; exactly one hour. Walked to Inst of Mechanical Engineers for reception. Very crowded. Joe, Carmel, Brian Lyntott and I took cab to the Wellington on the Embankment for Friends of SPRI event. Not well organized. Met head of Mariners and saw John King Davis sextant. I then took tube to East Acton and picked up my bag at Judy Skelton's. Back to the Bonhams in Westbourne Terrace and relaxed a bit. Joe showed up in time and he, I and John Bonham went to a Thai restaurant on the Queensway.

Saturday 21 May 2016. Relaxed most of the morning. Met Brad Borkan at the Hilton at Paddington to talk about his book project. Lunch in bar in Paddington. To Kings Cross and by train up to Cambridge for party at Bob Headland's. Went to the Burtons in Huntingdon for the night.

Sunday 22 May 2016. Lovely morning. Up around 8:30. Showered. Cereal and toast. Bob took me into Huntingdon to the station and I was in Kings Cross by 11am. Met up briefly with Joe and then took tube to Paddington and went to the Bonhams. Picked up my bag and headed back to Paddington. Circle Line to Victoria, Gatwick Express to the airport, a hamburger, then on Norwegian to Boston. Nearby kid cried the whole way. Had to wait for the Boston Express bus for close to 2 hours. Had coffee and a sandwich. To Nashua. Picked up my car and back home again before midnight.