

England

July– August 2016



England, July-August 2016

Tuesday July 12

We started this day in Prague at the end of our two week visit to Eastern and Central Europe. We walked to the local shopping mall for breakfast at Costa and then relaxed in the hotel until almost 11:30 when the hotel car took us to the airport. We arrived there in plenty of time for our 2:15 flight to Amsterdam. This left just a few minutes late but arrived on time which gave us just sufficient walking and passport control time to make our onward flight to Leeds.

We arrived in Leeds to a cool 55F and spent the usual inordinate amount of time getting our car. It wasn't the one we ordered (!) but, after delays here and later "discussions", we kept the car we had been given – together with a substantial refund.

We arrived at the flat in Ilkley about 6:15 and found everything as we had left it in February. We unpacked, cleaned up a bit and went to Piccolino for dinner. Again, we were remembered by several members of staff and had another good meal before retiring around 10pm.

This six week stay in Ilkley at our nephew's apartment was much like our previous visits and essentially was another "home away from home" vacation. Most days included some walking and/or cycling for Bob and a walk into Ilkley to do some shopping for Molly. On several occasions we met either in Ilkley or in Keighley after our separate activities and had a coffee before returning home.

We had about half of our meals in the flat and the rest in Caffè Nero (for breakfast) or at one of the several good restaurants in town (for dinner). On about half a dozen evenings we met with family (Dorothy and David, Linda, Joanne and Robert) or friends (Keith and Zena) in or around Ilkley and had two days out with Molly's siblings, including a trip to Sheffield, and a fully day with cousins Keith and Eileen and Roy.

In addition to the one day trip to Sheffield we made a more extended journey to Lichfield and Canterbury. This trip is covered in a little more detail in this journal, but the rest of the text is a very terse synopsis of each day, simply to provide a record of our activities.

For all its "sameness", we never tire of the time we spend in Ilkley and feel extremely lucky to have such a beautiful place at our disposal.

Wednesday July 13

We were up early and drove into Ilkley to have breakfast at Caffè Nero and then do a significant Tesco shop. Later in the morning I went for a 3.5 mile walk and in the afternoon went to the airport to sort out the car details – and secure the refund! We stayed home for dinner. Today had been quite mild and bright most of the day but there were a couple of heavy showers in the late afternoon.

Thursday July 14

We were up even earlier today and had breakfast at home. It was a cool but very sunny morning so, about 9:30, we both walked into town for an early coffee. I then continued on my walk and Molly did her shopping. I chose to walk a little way up the Dalesway and back on the main road – a bit over five miles. The rest of the day was spent at home and in the evening we had our first visit to Monkman's – where Mike treated us like old friends and greeted us with a glass of Champagne. A good meal as always.

Friday July 15

Breakfast at home again followed by shopping and a walk (the reverse of yesterday's) and the rest of the day at home except for an afternoon coffee break.

Saturday July 16

We had breakfast at Caffè Nero and did a little shopping before coming home. I walked via Ben Rhydding to Ilkley, had an ice cream on The Grove and then napped! Molly is getting on with her latest knitting project.

At 7:30 we met Dorothy and David and had a very enjoyable three hour meal at Siam Square in Ilkley.

Sunday July 17

Breakfast was at home before going to church. Directly after the service we went to Caffè Nero and met up with Joanne and Robert who had been for a walk on the moors with Oliver and William. Toby is on a 2 ½ week school-organized trip to Ecuador. It was nice to sit for an hour and catch up before they leave for a week in France and Switzerland but we arranged to get together for dinner as soon as they return.

I got on the bike this afternoon and did a 16 mile trip to Bolton Abbey and back. It felt very comfortable and I wasn't too worn out on the return – despite the hilly end up to Wells House.

Tonight we ate at Quinta. Once again we were greeted like old friends and had another great meal.

Monday July 18

Today and tomorrow were predicted to be warm and sunny so I planned to do long-ish trips on the bike. After breakfast at Caffè Nero, I set off "round the mountain" and completed the circuit via Shipley and Silsden. Following that I did a short walk into town – which was a mistake as I could barely walk after the long bike ride. We ate at home tonight.

Tuesday July 19

We ate breakfast at home and then I set off on another ride around the hill, this time going into Skipton. Although the temperature reached the mid-eighties, it didn't feel quite so humid as yesterday and I did the extra miles with little problem. The hill up to home was, however, a killer as usual.

Molly did her walks into Ilkley and did some shopping on both Monday and Tuesday. She is also making good progress on her latest knitting project.

Tonight we ate at Emporio Italia for the first time on this visit.

Wednesday July 20

We went for breakfast at Caffè Nero and then essentially stayed home on another hot and humid day. I felt a little queasy all day (probably after the exertion of yesterday) and went for only a short walk around the park while Molly was at the hairdresser. We stayed home for dinner.

Thursday July 21

We went to Caffè Nero again and later Molly went into town to do a little shopping while I went for a very pleasant walk. I was feeling much better than yesterday and the weather was a little more temperate so I completed an eight mile trip feeling good. I went along the north ridge of the moor, down to Addingham Moorside and then via the Dalesway back to Ilkley. I had a VERY pleasant pint and bag of crisps in town before coming back up the hill.

We then stayed home for the rest of the day and ate at home.

Friday July 22

After breakfast at Caffè Nero I went for another very pleasant walk under blue skies – this time over the Moor to the road to Micklethwaite and then Crossflatts. I came home via train to Steeton and bus to Ilkley. Again I had a pint in town before coming up the hill. Meanwhile Molly had been into town to do her almost daily shop.

Tonight we left Ilkley about 6:45 and drove to Harrogate to have dinner with Dorothy and David at Quantro in Harrogate. We have eaten there several times and once again had a good meal and a nice long chat.

Saturday July 23

After breakfast I went for another bike ride, this time via Otley to Almscliffe Crag and return. It was a little over 30 miles but felt very comfortable on a cooler day. We stayed home for the remainder of the day and evening.

Sunday July 24

We had breakfast at home and then went to church, followed by coffee at Caffè Nero. We spent the afternoon at home (I did a short walk) and watched the finale of the Tour de France. Tonight we had another good meal at Piccolino.

Monday July 25

We drove to Harrogate for breakfast and then a (disappointing) visit to Marks and Spencer. We drove home via Leathley and Otley and I had another short walk before we both went for coffee. Tonight we ate at Panache.

VISIT TO ILKLEY BY ROBERT, FRAN AND ALAN AND DAY VISIT TO SHEFFIELD TO SEE RICHARD AND ELIZABETH

Tuesday July 26

We had breakfast at home and then I went for a short walk. In the early afternoon we drove into town, had a coffee and then met Robert at the station. We chatted and caught up during the afternoon and went to Siam Square for dinner.

Wednesday July 27

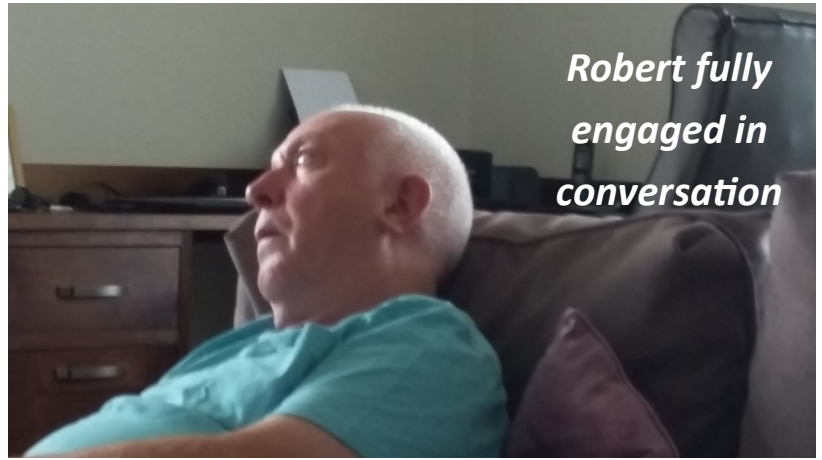
We had breakfast at home and then took a drive to Grassington, where we had tea and crumpets and a stroll around the village before taking a scenic drive home. About 4pm, Fran and Alan arrived from Worcester and we chatted for several hours before the five of us went to dinner at Monkman's.



Thursday July 28

After breakfast at home we drove in two cars to Sheffield where we met Elizabeth for lunch in the Meadowhall Shopping Center. Then we went to spend a couple of hours with Richard. He seemed in very good spirits and we had a great time with lots of reminiscing and laughter.

At 4pm we left and Fran and Alan set off back home. Robert took the train back to London and we drove back to Ilkley, where we arrived about 6:30. Today had been overcast and we had seen quite a bit of rain at times but as we arrived in Ilkley it seemed to get quite a bit brighter and we even saw a little sunshine. We ate at the Moody Cow.



Robert fully engaged in conversation



Sibling Reunion, Sheffield

BACK TO ILKLEY

Friday July 29

We had breakfast out again and later I went for a walk as Molly did some shopping. Tonight we met Joanne and Robert at Monkman's for dinner.

Saturday July 30

After breakfast at home I got ready for a cycle ride. However, just as I was about to leave, a power cut occurred and all the electricity in the building was out. Consequently I couldn't get the bike out until someone manually over-rode the gates from the garage. Eventually I was able to leave and I had a good (hard in spots) ride to Pool, Arthington and Bramhope. This included a short push on the steep hill from Arthington but otherwise it was a good ride.

Just as I climbed the final flight of stairs back at the apartment, the electricity came back on! So, after I got my breath back, Molly and I drove down to town, did a little shopping and went for coffee.

We then spent the rest of the day and evening at home.

TRIP TO LICHFIELD AND CANTERBURY – SUNDAY JULY 31 TO AUGUST 3

Sunday July 31

We had breakfast at the apartment and packed for our few days away. Around 11 we set off on the 3 1/2 hour drive to Lichfield. Here we were to stay the night and meet up with an old school pal of mine, Colin Pearson, and his wife Pauline.

Colin and I have become regular correspondents since late last year when he got in touch with me after a fifty year gap. We have since exchanged memories and stories about our days together in primary school and in grammar school. Tonight was to be our first meeting since we left school (late 1950s) and, of course, it would be the first meeting between our wives.

The drive to Lichfield was uneventful with just a few slow spots for roadworks and we arrived around 2pm. After checking in we drove a couple of miles into the center of town and had a coffee and a short stroll around the pedestrian area near to the huge cathedral.



We returned to the hotel and cleaned up ready for the arrival of Pauline and Colin when they came to pick us up. Although I am certain that I would not have recognized him "out of context", there was no doubt in our minds as soon as we saw them approaching the hotel.

They drove us first to their home about 10 miles away. It is a large bungalow with a huge, well kept garden and is very nicely decorated and furnished inside. It is probably bigger than our condominium in Mason.

After an hour there we drove to Burton-on-Trent where Colin had a reservation at The Winery, a beautiful old building near the center of town. We had a very pleasant meal (although Colin kept saying that he wished his favorite restaurant had been open on Sunday evenings) and the venue was conducive to easy conversation. And it was easy; no awkward lags in the conversation and some excellent memories revived. Molly and Pauline also chatted together as though they were old friends.

So, we had a 3 hour meal and then Colin and Pauline took us back to the hotel where we said our goodbyes around 10:30 after another good reunion. We hope to keep in touch and meet up again some time. Unfortunately, none of us remembered to take photographs to mark the occasion so we have none of the four of us together. However, after our visit, Colin sent a couple of photographs of him and Pauline taken at their 50th anniversary, so at least we have those to remind us of a very pleasant evening.



Monday August 1

We had breakfast at a nearby McDonald's (!) and then left Lichfield. We followed the A5 as far as the M1 and then went south to the M25. We drove around the east side of London and then headed further east to Maidstone. The traffic was generally fine with just a few slow spots so we arrived at our Marriott hotel just outside Maidstone before 2pm

We checked in, cleaned up and then drove about 45 minutes to Canterbury. Here we parked fairly close to the cathedral, walked around the pedestrian shopping area, found a likely place to eat later and then went into the cathedral.



Canterbury

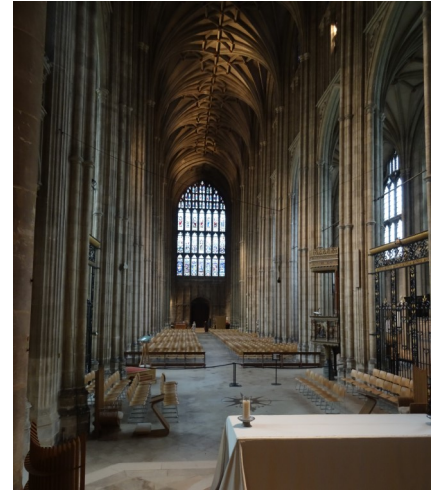
We met Larry Haas as we entered the quire and had a quick chat before the Evensong service started. The Glendale choir had arrived in Canterbury just that afternoon and hadn't even checked in to their hotels yet, so we arranged a get-together for Tuesday after Evensong.

The service lasted about 50 minutes and the choir did themselves proud. Afterwards we walked to a Moroccan restaurant and had an excellent tapas meal before driving back to the hotel - in the rain! We had a nightcap in the hotel bar and then retired before 10pm.



The Cathedral Quire





**Canterbury
Cathedral**

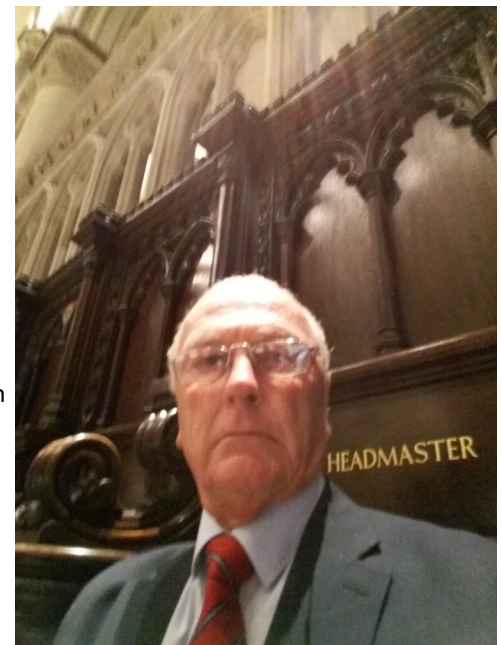
Tuesday August 2

It was an overcast morning as we ate breakfast in the hotel but we decided on a drive to the south coast anyway. We went via Hastings, Eastbourne and Newhaven, finally ending up in Lewes for coffee. It rained quite heavily at times and no town seemed to have a great deal of appeal, nor in fact much happening at all.

Despite the rain and the countless roundabouts, we enjoyed the drive through some very pretty countryside which, we are sure, would have been so much more inviting with a little sunshine.

We arrived back at the hotel shortly after 2:30 and relaxed until about 4pm when we set off once again for Canterbury cathedral. By now the rain had essentially stopped.

We once again went to Evensong and tonight I got to sit in the Headmaster's pew. Many of the pews are reserved for local dignitaries so I tried to be appropriately dignified. Afterwards we met Larry and several of the choir members and went for a pub meal just across from the cathedral and had a very pleasant two hours with the group. We then drove back to the hotel.



Wednesday August 3

We left Maidstone at 9am and drove first to Burnham-on-Crouch, where Molly's brother Robert has a summer home. We had not arranged to meet him but were curious as to exactly where he lived during the summer months. Burnham is actually a very pretty little



town on the River Crouch and has several marinas. It is known as Britain's yachting center.

We walked along the sea wall for a while and then





had morning coffee on the main street. We also visited the area where we believe Robert lives, although the site is gated so we were not able to see his home (if indeed we were at the right place). It was while we were in Burnham (we think) that we did a little damage to the car as a result of bottoming in a pothole – although we didn't see the damage to the front bumper until we stopped at a rest area several hours later. So now we have that little issue to contend with when we return the car!



Other than that it was an uneventful drive home to Ilkley and we reached Wells House at 5pm. We ate tonight at Piccolino.

BACK TO OUR NORMAL ROUTINE

Thursday August 4

It was raining on and off all morning so we put off our outside walks and shopping until later in the day. I eventually covered a few miles in town and Molly did some shopping, before we stayed home for the rest of the day and evening.

Friday August 5

After breakfast at home I set off to walk over the Moor to Keighley and Molly joined me there a few hours later. She had come by bus and had done some shopping before we met up and had a coffee before returning home together by bus.

Tonight we met Dorothy and David and Linda at Quinta for a very enjoyable chat and another good meal.

Saturday August 6

We had breakfast at Caffè Nero and then I set off on a bike ride. It was a little cool at first but it turned out to be generally sunny with a westerly breeze. I went via Bingley and Keighley to Skipton and then back to Ilkley, covering just over forty miles.

Tonight we met Keith and Zena for the first time this trip and had a good meal and a fun time with them at the Villa Maria in Skipton. This had been the second Emporio Italia until about a year ago when it was sold by our friend in Ilkley but the ambience is good and the food also – maybe not the same as Emporio in Ilkley but authentic Italian nevertheless.

Sunday August 7

We had breakfast at home and then went to church. Immediately afterwards we drove to Skipton to meet Cat and her boyfriend Steve. She had been our favorite barista in Ilkley until she left two years ago but we have kept in touch. They had BIG news for us; they have bought a house together (they had been living in his flat and at her mother's home) and will be moving next month. Also, Cat is pregnant and is expecting her baby next March. So, it was really nice to see them again and share in their obvious joy.

I went for a walk around town later in the afternoon and we dined again at Piccolino.

Monday August 8

After breakfast at Caffè Nero we drove straight to York, parked at the Poppleton Bar lot and took the Park and Ride bus into the city. We spent about 3 hours shopping and enjoying the city as well as having a pleasant light lunch sitting outside in the courtyard of a pub.

Once back in Ilkley we stayed home for the rest of the afternoon and evening.

Tuesday August 9

We had breakfast at home and then I went for a short walk around Ilkley before we set off for Silsden. Here we met Susan and Stephen at their very nice home and had coffee and a very pleasant reunion after three years. About 1pm we drove to the Steeton Hall Hotel where we had a very nice lunch in the conservatory and continued our family reminiscences. It was after 3 before we dropped them off back at their home and drove to Ilkley – in a sudden downpour, after a very nice morning.

The rain didn't last long and it was dry by the time we reached the flat. We stayed home for the rest of the day.

Wednesday August 10

We had breakfast at home again and at 9:45 we left for Skipton. Here we picked up Keith and Eileen and started our drive to meet Roy near Kirkby Lonsdale. We stopped at Country Harvest for coffee and a quick look around the store (a bit like the Vermont Country Store) and then met Roy in the car park in Kirkby. We had a very enjoyable 2 ½ hour lunch and chat before we



drove back to Skipton, stopping once again at Country Harvest and actually buying a few supplies.

Keith and Eileen invited us in for a cup of tea before we left for Ilkley, arriving home after a very pleasant day out. We dined at home.

Thursday August 11

We had breakfast at Caffè Nero and then I set off over the Moor to Keighley where Molly joined me for coffee and a little shopping. We came back on the bus together and later met Joanne and Robert for dinner at Orchid in Harrogate. We had another great evening with them and a very good Asian meal.

Friday August 12

We had breakfast at home and then we both walked into Ilkley where Molly got the bus to Skipton and I set off along a short

stretch of the Dalesway. We met again for coffee in Ilkley and then returned home where we spent the rest of the day at home.

Saturday August 13

We had breakfast at Caffe Nero and then I set off on a walk. Actually, I got the train to Shipley and then walked via Saltaire and Gilstead to Bingley, where I had a snack. Just as I was paying, I met Zena who was just ordering a coffee so I sat down with her for another 30 minutes or so before walking back on the canal bank to Shipley and the train home. Actually, I had to nip back to the coffee shop after about 10 minutes as I had forgotten to pay for my drink!

Once home we stayed in for the rest of the afternoon (Molly had been into town to do her shopping) before a late dinner at Monkman's.

Sunday August 14

We broke with tradition and had breakfast at Caffe Nero and had our bacon sandwich after church! It was bright and cool but there was little breeze so I went on a bike ride in the afternoon, covering 25 miles in a trip to Embsay via Bolton Abbey and returning home via Skipton.

Tonight we ate at Quinta.

Monday August 15

It was another bright and sunny day as we went for breakfast at Caffe Nero so I decided on another ride while Molly did her Ilkley shopping run. I went via Bolton Abbey to Embsay and the Grassington Road before heading back to Skipton and "around the mountain" via Bingley (bacon sandwich and tea) and Shipley. In all I covered 45 miles but felt quite good afterwards. A nap followed and then we stayed home for the evening.

Tuesday August 16

We ate at home and around 10:30 Joanne came over and she and I went for a walk over the moor top on a beautiful warm day. We then picked up Molly (who had already had a trip to town) and we all went to Caffe Nero for a light lunch.

Keith came over about 7 and the three of us went to Monkman's Jazz Night. The duo (keyboard, double bass who also sang) were excellent and we thoroughly enjoyed their two sets.

Wednesday August 17

I decided on another bike ride after breakfast and made it to Harrogate via Fewston, returning via North Rigton and Pool. There were some tough hills but I enjoyed the forty mile run. We ate tonight at Siam Square.



Thursday August 18

It was another slightly overcast but mild morning so Molly and I decided on a trip to Keighley after breakfast at Caffe Nero. I set off via the Dalesway to Addingham and caught the bus on the top side of the village, after walking about 5 miles. Molly meanwhile had caught an earlier bus and we met up for coffee after she had done her shopping. We came back on the same bus and I walked up the hill to finish my walk.

Tonight we had another very good meal with Joanne and Robert at the Box Tree restaurant and were there for about 3 hours.

Friday August 19

It was overcast and rain was forecast for later in the morning so I decided to get my walk in early after we had breakfast at Caffè Nero. Despite an early start, I managed to finish the last mile or so in a torrential downpour. We then stayed home until we left for dinner with Dorothy and David at Guy Fawkes in Scotton. The meal was very good but the place was a little noisy so conversation was difficult – but heated, nevertheless! We left for home about 10pm.

**Saturday August 20**

Breakfast once again at Caffè Nero was followed by a walk over the top of the Moor and a little to the west of Keighley Gate. The last 45 minutes were in a steady downpour but the walk was very enjoyable. We ate at Emporio Italia tonight.

Sunday August 21

We had breakfast at Caffè Nero and a light lunch at home after church. The rest of the day was spent getting the flat ready to leave for another few months but we also enjoyed a final dinner at Piccolino for this trip.

Monday August 22

Our final day in the flat was spent finishing washing and cleaning and packing to leave mid-afternoon for the Hollins Hall Marriott. I returned the car to Leeds-Bradford airport this afternoon to avoid the inevitable hassle early on Tuesday morning. This evening, Keith and Zena picked us up and we enjoyed a final fish and chip meal with them (until December) at the Wetherby Whaler.

Tuesday August 23

We got a taxi to the airport and were soon on our way to Amsterdam. Here we had some time in the lounge before our flight to Detroit. This, and the following flight to Cincinnati were on time and uneventful and Elizabeth was there to meet us on our arrival at CVG.

We were home by 8pm after another super trip to England and a very interesting earlier river cruise in Eastern and Central Europe.

