



When we reached Roy's house we spent about 2 hours chatting in his conservatory before going out for an early dinner at the Brown Cow in Dalton, where we were able to sit outside on what had turned into a pleasant but cool afternoon.



We returned to Roy's for coffee and a viewing of his workshop and motorbikes before leaving about 9pm after a very pleasant visit. We had a nightcap in the hotel bar before retiring.



Once again, the Lake District provided us with more magnificent scenery throughout our visit.





Friday July 21

We left Bowness on a rainy morning after breakfast at Costa and drove home via Keswick, Sedbergh, Hawes and Grassington. Despite the clouds and continuing rain it was a very pleasant drive and a good alternative to the main roads.

The final major event of this summer's visit was another family reunion in Ilkley. Christopher, Cyndi and Samantha arrived late on Saturday July 29 after traveling overnight from Sacramento. They had flown from Oakland to Gatwick and then took a series of trains via London, finally arriving in Ilkley a little after 8:30pm. We met them at Ilkley Station and immediately went to Panache for dinner so it was after 10pm before the tired trio got to bed—but at least they were here safely.



Sunday July 3

Molly and I had been out for coffee before anyone stirred at home. However, everyone was up and ready for the family reunion, which started at 4 and went on till about 7pm. Apologies to Keith and Zena who appear not to have made the official photographer's collection! Afterwards we went to Picollino for dinner with Robert and also with Isobel who decided to stay the night with Sammy.





***The Second
Family
Reunion***

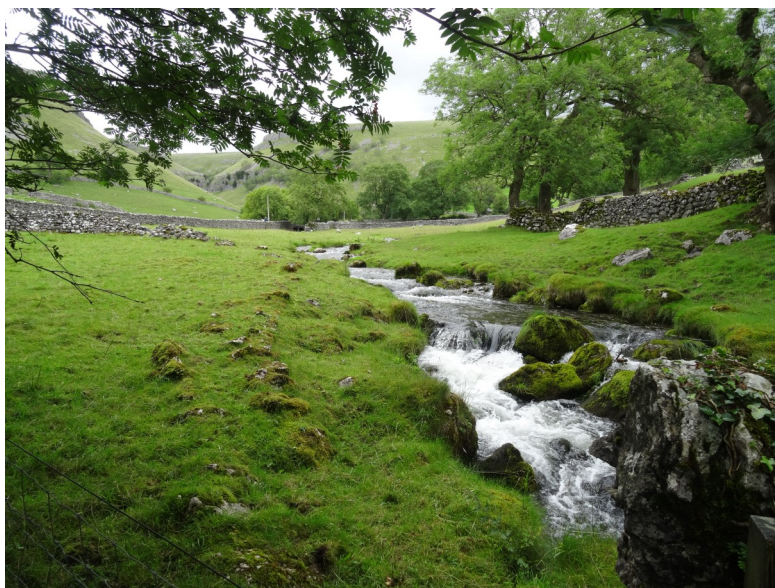


Monday July 31

Today we had planned a walk from Malham (about 45 minutes from Ilkley) to the top of Malham Cove. The cove is known locally as the source of the River Aire (or at least its main tributary) but apparently is also the site used in some of the Harry Potter movie. Naturally this was on Sammy's list for a visit so we drove to Malham. Here we had a light lunch in a local café before starting on our 4 ½ mile trek that took us through some pleasant woodland, past a waterfall, across a high ridge and eventually to the very unusual cove surface. Glacial action and river flow have created a surface that is unusually contoured and which has deep crevices in the surface. It makes for a very interesting – and somewhat treacherous – walk and certainly appealed to Sammy as she re-created scenes from the movie.

We returned to the car (and Grandma) and drove home before cleaning up for another dinner at Picollino.





*A Beautiful
Walk*



***Top of
The Cove,
The steps down,
And the Source of
the
River Aire***



Tuesday August 1

We left for York about 10 and had breakfast/lunch before getting in the line for Jorvik. The line move more quickly than forecast so we were in well within an hour.

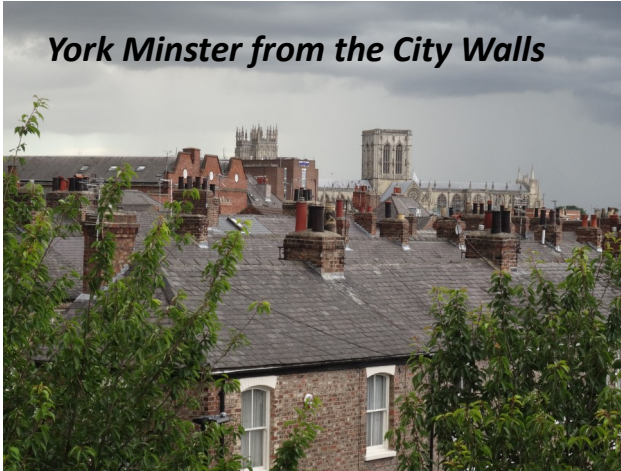


We spent about 1 ½ hours inside, made a brief stop at Clifford's Tower and then spent our remaining time walking on the city walls. It was towards the end of this walk that the weather changed from sunny to rather wet and there was even some distant thunder. We got a little wet but we walked to the railway station to catch the bus back to the Park and Ride car park.





York Minster from the City Walls



We then drove about a mile to Arnold Clark where Christopher and Cyndi picked up their rental car for the next segment of their trip. We drove in two cars back to Ilkley and at 7:30 went to Quinta for dinner.

On Wednesday morning (August 2) Christopher, Cyndi and Sammy left for Alnwick and then on to Scotland to continue their vacation and Molly and I resumed our daily routine as we began our final week in Ilkley.

XX

In addition to our mini-vacations, our three sets of visitors and our “home” life in the Ilkley apartment and, of course, many excellent meals, Molly and I also enjoyed a few additional functions during our stay.



I spent part of one morning watching Rugby at the Ilkley Sevens Tournament. This took me back to my youth when “The Sevens” had been an inter-school competition (won on one memorable occasion by Keighley Boys’ Grammar School) but is now played between clubs from across the area—including today several women’s teams.

We sat and enjoyed several afternoon concerts at the Grove bandstand and a couple of more professional shows at the Kings Hall. The first was an excellent program by the Airedale Symphony Orchestra and the



Airedale Symphony Orchestra

King's Hall, Ilkley

Sunday 25 June 2017

Overture The Barber of Seville	Rossini
Flute Concerto in G	Mozart
Trumpet Concerto in E flat	Hummel
I N T E R V A L	
Symphony No. 5 in E minor	Tchaikovsky

Oliver Wiggins *flute*

Jacqueline Cima

John Anderson

Tom Lane *trumpet*

leader

conductor

www.airedaleso.org.uk

second (with Keith and Zena as well as Jeremy and Gillian Law—Jeremy another ex-KBGS friend) by the Syd Lawrence Orchestra. This latter is a 16 piece swing band formed in the late sixties which has enjoyed a good deal of success over its fifty year existence. This, too, was a very entertaining evening.



One final item. Molly and I have recently finished reading a book about a couple who, in the 1970s, spent a year as landlords of the highest pub in England. It happens that this pub (not identified by name in the book) is at the northern end of the Yorkshire Dales about 2 hours drive from Ilkley. So, on our final weekend on this trip, we decided to take a drive to see this isolated public house.

It was a fine afternoon as we left Ilkley and drove via Kettlewell and the Wharfe Valley to Hawes. From Hawes the road was very steep (both up and down) but generally climbing towards Tan Hill, the site of the “Inn at the Top”. It was raining and a strong wind was blowing as we reached our destination which only added to the overall effect and—even in the middle of summer—underscored just how remote this place is. In the book, the couple were cut off by deep snowdrifts for about three months and even today it wasn’t too difficult to imagine that situation.



So, we concluded a nine week stay in England and, on August 10, returned to Mason after a lengthy and memorable visit.

The Daily Journal

These are the notes for the activities for each day of our stay in England for completeness. It will be seen that our routine was indeed just that and there is a lot of repetition—but that is the general rule now for our stays in Ilkley.

Thursday June 8

We left home (part way through the Comey testimony to Congress) about 11:30 and arrived at the airport with over an hour to spend in the Lounge before our first flight to Atlanta at 2:10. The flight was on time, leaving us with a 3 hour layover before our Virgin Atlantic flight to Manchester.

We had never flown VA before (although we have had recent good experience with Virgin Australia) but found it to be very comfortable, the service and food were good and the staff were very pleasant and well-groomed.

Friday June 9

It was raining as we descended into Manchester but it had cleared up by the time we had picked up our bags and the rental car.

We drove south beyond Birmingham before stopping for coffee. We made one other stop at another motorway service area to take a nap for an hour. Unfortunately, it took us almost another hour to get out of the parking area and back onto the M5. After that it was an easy drive to Haytor and the Rock Inn, where we arrived shortly after 4:30. For the most part it had been a dry and warm day (70F+) but it was cooler and more cloudy as we climbed up the hill to Dartmoor.

We unpacked and cleaned up before enjoying our first dinner – traditional fish and chips!

Saturday June 10

It was cloudy and a little wet as we ate breakfast before starting out for the day. We drove via Widecombe to Tavistock, where we visited the Pannier Market and a couple of shops on the High Street before having our late morning cup of tea. We then drove via Okehampton to Mortenhampstead where we once again climbed the Moor towards Haytor. We stopped at an overlook for a while but didn't see a great deal as it was very misty, windy and raining – as it had much of the day. We returned to the Rock Inn around 5pm and had another very nice dinner at eight.

Sunday June 11

It was a much brighter morning as we set out on a circular drive to visit the eastern end of Cornwall. We drove via Mortonhamstead and Okehampton to Bude on the Atlantic coast. We stopped here for about an hour and had a light lunch. It was still quite sunny, although there were a few spots of rain, but the town was very quiet and many shops were closed.

From Bude we let the GPS system in the car take us to Looe on the south coast, still in Cornwall about 20 miles west of Plymouth. We went through Looe another 4 miles to Polperro, where Elizabeth and family were expected to arrive today for a two day stay. We spent about 1 ½ hours in this very lively fishing village (where a week-long music festival had just started) but had to leave for our hotel before the Shepards arrived. We communicated via e-mail and eventually by phone when they reached their hotel. They seem to be having a good time touring England.

We arrived back at the Rock Inn soon after 6pm and had an 8pm dinner.

Monday June 12

Today we spent the morning in Exeter, doing a little shopping but mostly just strolling the main streets and admiring the old buildings – especially the cathedral. We then drove back to Bovey Tracey where we picked up a self-guided walking tour brochure that explained about a dozen of the older buildings in the town. The walk took just an hour but was very interesting and we learned quite a lot about the town and its history, which dates back to pre-medieval times.

We then drove further up the Moor and watched the ponies – and other animals – for another hour or more before returning to the hotel a little before 5:30. Dinner was once again at 8pm.

Tuesday June 13

It was an absolutely gorgeous morning as we set off via Widecombe and Ashburton to the lovely town of Totnes. We spent over an hour on the steep main street with its narrow lanes, shops, cafes and lots of tourists. We saw the 1000 year old castle and Guildhall as well as a beautiful old church – also dating from the 11th century.

We had our morning coffee break in the town before driving through more beautiful Devon farm land to the estuary town of Dartmouth. We had approached the town by way of Slapton Sands, where the D-Day landings were planned and mock invasions took place in 1944. As we left this historic area we could see a large cruise ship off shore and later found out (by the number of Americans in Dartmouth) that this was a port of call for the Regent Lines Seven Seas Explorer. Apparently Dartmouth is now a popular stop for cruise ships and – as we know – would be a great spot for day trips to Dartmoor, Plymouth and a number of other scenic areas, in addition to Dartmouth itself.

We spent another 1 ½ hours here on a sunny afternoon, although the wind up the estuary was a little chilly. We then set off back to Haytor.

As we have on a number of occasions on this visit, we started the drive being guided home by the Sat Nav system in the car. This has proved very useful on the myriad of roads that exist in this area and we have seen many areas that we would otherwise have missed. On this drive home, however, we chose to switch off the system once we “knew” where we were and ran by the seat of our pants. Consequently, it took us about an hour longer than it should have and we traveled for miles along VERY narrow roads before eventually recognizing the name of Widecombe on a signpost.

Once through that village, we had our customary stop for a nap on the Moor and it was after 6pm by the time we arrived back at the Rock Inn. We had our final dinner there for this trip and retired about 10:30.

Wednesday June 14

We had breakfast and checked out of the Rock Inn about 10am. It was already warm as we set off for our relatively short drive to Bristol. We stopped for about an hour in Wells, admired the cathedral and strolled the market and main streets as well as enjoying a cup of coffee. We then drove the remaining 20 miles to our hotel in Bristol.

Tonight we met some old friends, Stephen and Penny Parsons, whom we have known since Stephen became a work colleague in the late 1980s. They live just south of Bristol and drove to a very nice restaurant a few minutes’ walk from our hotel. We had a very nice evening and spent about 3 hours catching up on things since we last met – which none of us could remember exactly but has been several years.

Thursday June 15

We had breakfast in the hotel and then checked out, leaving Bristol around 10am. We drove via the M5, M6 and M62 to Ilkley where we arrived around 2:30 and had a cup of coffee at our local Caffè Nero. We then went to the flat and unpacked. Thanks to Joanne, there were flowers in almost every room and we felt at home immediately.

At 7:30 we had a reservation at Quinta where we had the usual excellent meal.

Friday June 16

We had breakfast at Caffè Nero and then did a major shop at Tesco. I went for a 4-mile walk later in the morning and then we spent a quiet afternoon in the flat. Tonight we had our first meal at Monkmans on this trip.

Saturday June 17

We had breakfast at Caffè Nero again and then did an M&S shop. I went for a short walk and then we stayed home awaiting the arrival of Elizabeth, Chip and Cameron who were driving up from London today. They arrived at the flat soon after five and we went for a pub meal at the Busfeild Arms around 8pm. It was a beautiful evening and the forecast for the rest of the weekend is for unusually high temperatures with lots of sun.

Sunday June 18

Molly and I were up by 7:30 and had finished our breakfast by 8:30. We ALL went to church at 11:45 and in the afternoon went for a drive to Grassington. Once again, it was a beautiful day and very warm. We had dinner at Piccolino where the “Best ribs in the world” were enjoyed by Cameron.

Monday June 19

After breakfast, four of us took an almost 5 mile walk to the top of Ilkley Moor via White Wells and returning down Keighley Road. It was very hot but there was a pleasant breeze on top and again we had some magnificent views.

In the afternoon, starting about 4pm, we had a total of 22 people in the flat for a family gathering to meet the Shepards. We had a buffet meal, plenty of wine, tea and coffee and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves despite the stifling temperature. Most started to leave by about 6:30 and by 7:30 only Robert, from London, was with us so the six of us went for dinner at Piccolino. It was after 10pm by the time we got home.

Tuesday June 20

Chip left for his golfing adventure about 11am and the rest of us joined Robert for coffee at Caffè Nero around noon. Robert got his train back to London and the remaining four of us took the bus to Keighley. We spent almost 2 hours in town and got the bus back to Ilkley.

Tonight we ate at Quinta.

Wednesday June 21 (Our 52nd Wedding Anniversary)

We drove to York on a very mild morning, although it was a little overcast. We took the Park and Ride bus into town and went first to Jorvik to see about tickets. We were told that there was essentially no wait so we had breakfast at a local café and then went into Jorvik. The site had been completely renovated after the floods of 18 months ago and had only re-opened in April. The ride “back in time” and the museum were pretty much as we remembered them and it was an interesting way to spend an hour.

We then walked up The Shambles, all the way around the Minster and then found a stretch of city wall that we could walk. By now it was well into the eighties and sunny so we were glad of a rest and a coffee in a cool basement café before returning to Ilkley.

Tonight we ate at the Moody Cow at 6:45 so that we could then spend some time watching the Ilkley Cycle Races. We saw the last laps of the women's race and all of the men's. There was a brief but heavy shower shortly after we arrived but it didn't appear to slow down the riders.

We returned to the flat about 10pm.

Thursday June 22

Elizabeth and I went for a walk around Ilkley after breakfast and then she and Cameron finished their packing. We had coffee at the local Caffè Nero and then drove to Manchester. We stayed at the Stockport Holiday Inn Express, which was perfectly adequate, and ate at our favorite local pub, the Plough and Flail. We had a glass of wine in the hotel bar before retiring.

Friday June 23

We were up about 7:30 and had a light breakfast in the hotel restaurant before driving Elizabeth and Cameron to the airport for their flight to Atlanta and then on to Cincinnati. It was raining as we said our good-byes and Elizabeth commented that this was one of only a very few times when they had seen rain on their entire two week visit. We dropped them off and Molly and I returned to Ilkley. Late morning I went for a walk (in the rain) and then we stayed home until about 6pm when we left for Harrogate to meet Dorothy and David for dinner. We had a very nice meal at Lucia's, sitting under cover but in an outside patio. We had a good chat and it was 10pm before we left to return to Ilkley.

Saturday June 24

We had breakfast at Caffè Nero, did a little M&S shopping and went to the Visitor Centre to buy tickets for two upcoming shows at the Kings Hall. I went for a walk in the afternoon and spent a little time listening to the band concert on The Grove. We then spent the rest of the afternoon and evening at home.

Sunday June 25

We went to church after breakfast at home and followed this with a drive to Skipton to meet Cat, Stephen and their 3 ½ month old son Jenson. We had a great two hours with them during which time Jenson was very well behaved and seemed to enjoy being passed around to strangers.

We spent the rest of the afternoon at home and went to a concert by the Airedale Symphony Orchestra in the evening. It was an excellent concert, lasting 2 ½ hours, and a great way to spend the evening before returning to the flat for a light dinner. Today we also learned that Chip and his five friends had completed their golfing journey across Scotland.

Monday June 26

We had breakfast at Caffè Nero and then I got my bike ready for a ride. I left about 10:30 and went "around the mountain" via Menston, Shipley, Keighley and Silsden. I covered 30 miles and was back at the flat by 2pm. Surprisingly the ride didn't seem too difficult – until, of course, the last mile home up the hill!

Tonight we ate at Panache and had a good Indian meal; too much food, but very tasty.

Tuesday June 27

It was raining heavily as we got up and went to Caffè Nero for breakfast. Joanne was scheduled to come to Ilkley for a walk and she confirmed that, despite the weather, she would be over about 10am.

We walked about 3 miles, mostly in the rain but with some dry spells. We met Molly for coffee and then walked back up the hill before Joanne left for home.

I went for another walk in the afternoon during a dry spell and then we stayed home for the rest of the afternoon and evening,

Wednesday June 28

It was raining quite heavily as we got up and the forecast was for more of the same all day. Despite this, I went for a short walk in the afternoon. Chip e-mailed to say that he would take us up on our offer of a room tonight. He drove from Edinburgh and arrived in Ilkley in time to join us for a very pleasant meal at La Casita. We then had a nightcap before retiring.

Thursday June 29

To our surprise, Chip was up by 8:30 and joined us for breakfast at Caffè Nero. We returned to the flat – where he promptly took a nap! He woke up around noon and left for Manchester about 1pm. I went for a short walk and then we stayed home for the rest of the day.

Friday June 30

After breakfast we did a Tesco shop and then I left on a walk along the Dalesway as far as the point where it crosses the Addingham boundary, returning via the main road – about six miles in all. Molly meantime did work around the house before we went out for an excellent (2 hour) dinner at Quinta.

Saturday July 1

It was a much brighter day so late in the morning – after breakfast at Caffè Nero and a nap – I decided on a short bicycle ride. Molly went to town to do some shopping and I rode as far as Bolton Abbey. There was a pretty strong breeze from the west so the return was a lot easier than the ride out.

We stayed home for dinner.

Sunday July 2

We went to church and then for coffee. I went for a lovely walk along the north ridge of Ilkley Moor and back by way of Crag House, Grove Road and the river. In the evening we had a good pub meal with Joanne and Robert at the Square and Compass.

Monday July 3

After breakfast at Caffè Nero, I set off and walked over the moor to Keighley, where Molly joined me to do some shopping and have a cup of coffee. We rode back on the bus together and then stayed home for the evening.

Tuesday July 4 (Independence Day)

We had breakfast at home and then I went for a walk. It was an overcast morning with some drizzle as I started and it remained misty and overcast. However, I got wetter from the long grass that I walked through after leaving the Cow and Calf Rocks and up along the ridge over Hangingstone Road. I got into a small ravine on the way down to the road and had to do a little backtracking before reaching Burley Woodhead. Then it was a relatively easy walk to the train station at Menston, where I got the train home. Actually I walked via the park before heading up the hill.

After a cup of tea and a sandwich I still felt like walking a little more – but on the flat – so I drove down to the park. I completed one circuit before the rain started again so I went back home. Tonight we ate at Monkmans and were again greeted like old friends.

Wednesday July 5

After breakfast at home I decided to try to walk to Skipton – a trip that has been on my list for a long time, but never attempted. The route via Addingham and over Draughton Moor looked easy enough to follow and achievable. Research suggested that it was a 9.3 mile walk from Ilkley so, as I was leaving from up the hill but taking a shortcut to the main road, I anticipated something similar. I walked via Victoria Avenue to the A65 but soon took the old road into Addingham and via Church St to the Fleece Inn at the top of the village (4 miles from home). From there I was to follow Moor Lane all the way to Skipton – although it had a number of name changes along the way. It also had a number of gradient and surface changes en route going from paved to stony to grass with several width variations. It was a fairly steep climb up for almost 3 miles, followed by a steeper and more uneven grade down towards Skipton.

The last mile in particular was very steep and the ground was heavily rutted and rooted (it was in a small wooded area) and the footing was precarious at times. I thought several times that it is at these times (tough going after a long walk) that a twisted ankle could happen so easily and I vowed to sit on the first low wall or, even better, a bench that I came across. Needless to say there were none but I finally came on to a town street and then walked more confidently into the center.

I got the bus back to Ilkley and felt okay again walking up the hill to Wells House after a pleasant sit down and drive through the countryside.

Molly and I went for coffee and then stayed home for the rest of the afternoon and evening.

Thursday July 6

The forecast was good for today so after breakfast I went for a bike ride. I went on the back road across the river as far as Pool and then via Arthington to the bottom of Harewood Hill. Then I returned via Weeton, Castley, Pool and Otley for a total of just over 31 miles. Molly had been to town to do some shopping so we had a light lunch before I went for a short walk around town. Tonight we ate at La Casita.

Friday July 7

It was another pleasant and warm morning so I decided on another ride “around the mountain”. It threatened rain but never actually started and the late afternoon was very pleasant.

Joanne and Robert picked us up at 7:15 and we had another very good meal at the Burlington Room in the Devonshire Arms.

Saturday July 8

We had breakfast at Caffè Nero and around 10am left for Sheffield. We went first to Elizabeth’s house where we were joined by Fran and Alan who had driven up from Worcester. After a light lunch we went to visit Richard and were joined there by Robert who had come up from London by train and had spent the morning visiting his Aunt Jean.

I thought that Richard seemed quite perky and he certainly has not lost any of his sense of humor. It was a very pleasant two hour visit with lots of laughs.

Robert, Fran and Alan joined us in Ilkley for the next two days. Tonight we ate at Emporio Italia where we had the usual excellent meal but were sorry to hear that Luigi is still quite ill and has been in Hospital again recently.

Sunday July 9

We had breakfast at home and had a lazy morning before going into town and having coffee. We then spent almost two hours sitting at the bandstand listening to the Guiseley Brass Band. It was a beautiful afternoon and a very “English” way to spend the time. We ate tonight at Panache.

Monday July 10

Fran and Alan left for home after breakfast and we took Robert to the railway station about 11:30 so that he could return home. I went for an easy walk and then we spent the rest of the afternoon and evening at home.

Tuesday July 11

Today was a misty and wet day for me to return the car to Manchester and pick up a new one. Hertz excelled themselves in the agonizing process of getting a new car but I was able to keep the same car and made it back to Ilkley – and sanity. A good meal at Quinta with Keith and Zena help end the day on an up note.

Wednesday July 12

Today we used the tickets we had been given by Keith and Zena for the Great Yorkshire Show. Our tickets were for “Members” so we got preferred parking and entrance to grandstand and dining areas. It was a beautiful day and the showgrounds were crowded but we were able to see the show jumping, the cattle parade, an excellent and entertaining quartet and visited many exhibit areas. We both really enjoyed our day at our first GYS.

When we got back to Ilkley we rested before dinner at Piccolino.

Thursday July 13

After breakfast I walked over the moors to Bingley, caught a bus to Keighley and met Molly for coffee. We both returned together and then stayed home for the evening. It was another bright and sunny day.

Friday July 14 (Quatorze Juillet)

We had breakfast at Caffè Nero and then I drove over to Bingley to take a walk. I walked on the canal bank to Saltaire, crossed the river and then up Coach Road to Gilstead and back down to Bingley. We stayed home for the afternoon and went to Monkmans for dinner.

Saturday July 15

We had breakfast at Caffè Nero and then I walked to town to spend some time at the Ilkley Rugby Sevens. Molly also did a little shopping. In the afternoon we listened to the Yorkshire Brass Quintet (only 4 showed!) and then spent the rest of the day at home.

Sunday July 16

We went to church and about 1:30 Cat, Stephen and Jensen arrived at the flat. They were with us for almost two hours and Jensen behaved himself very well. He is a very happy and contented little boy and his parents seem very comfortable with him.

In the evening we went to the Fleece in Addingham with Linda and had a very good meal and a three hour chat.

Monday July 17

We had breakfast at home and soon after nine I set off on a bike ride. There was a strong wind from the west so my journey out – Bolton Abbey, Hesketh, Embsay, Rylstone, Gargrave – was pretty hard going but the return with the wind (via Skipton by-pass) was much easier. My legs were tired after the final climb home, however. Molly had done her daily shop so we went to coffee together then I did a very short walk. We stayed home for dinner.

Lake District, July 18-21

Tuesday July 18

We left Ilkley around noon and drove via Skipton and Kirkby Lonsdale to Bowness. We stopped for lunch at Country Harvest near Kirkby and arrived at the hotel around 2:30. Our room was ready so we checked in and then walked into town to sit and watch the holidaymakers.

Bowness was very busy and the lake steamers in particular were doing a very brisk trade on a very warm (80F) and somewhat humid afternoon.

Tonight we walked back into town (only about 10 minutes) and had a good Italian meal at Villa Positano. It was an interesting restaurant with several rooms each housing 3 or 4 tables.

Wednesday July 19

We walked to Costa for breakfast and sat outside overlooking the hills of Bowness. About 10 we left the hotel and drove via Keswick to Honister Pass where we stopped at the slate quarry - and gift shop. It was another bright day and still warm (over 70F) and the scenery was stunning.

After our stop we descended to Buttermere and then over another pass back to Keswick where we had lunch - once again sitting outside in the warm sunshine.

Rather than take the direct route back to Bowness we drove via Ulswater and the Kirkstone Pass, driving through more magnificent lake and mountain scenery. Before reaching the hotel we stopped overlooking Lake Windermere and had a nap, after a beautiful day out.

Tonight we ate at Porto which we had known and enjoyed for many years as The Porthole. It has changed hands since we were last there a number of years ago but we had another good meal. My steak was a little tougher than I would have liked but the staff were very pleasant and accommodating.

As we said, the weather had been fine all day but between our return to Bowness and our walk down for dinner there was a long, loud thunderstorm with very heavy rain. Again, we were lucky in that it let up some around 7:30 and we saw only a few spots on our way down to dinner and it was completely dry on our return at 10pm.

Thursday July 20

It was still overcast this morning but we managed to stay dry as we walked to breakfast at Costa Coffee.

About 10 we left to drive via Wrynose and Hardknott passes to Boot, where we had a light lunch, and then via another pass to visit cousin Roy at his home in Lindal.

We spent about 2 hours chatting there before going out for an early dinner at the Brown Cow in Dalton, where we were able to sit outside on what had turned into a pleasant but cool afternoon.

We returned to Roy's for coffee and a viewing of his workshop and motorbikes before leaving about 9pm after a very pleasant visit. We had a nightcap in the hotel bar before retiring.

Friday July 21

We left Bowness on a rainy morning after breakfast at Costa and drove home via Keswick, Sedbergh, Hawes and Grassington. Despite the clouds and continuing rain it was a very pleasant drive and a good alternative to the main roads.

Once back in Ilkley we stayed home until 6pm before driving to Eldwick to meet Keith and Zena. We had dinner at Galo's in Bingley where we had an excellent meal. It was a rather noisy restaurant but was obviously doing very well on a Friday evening.

We went back to Keith and Zena's home for another hour of chatting before driving back to Ilkley.

Saturday July 22

It was raining very heavily as we drove to Caffè Nero for breakfast but there were signs of brighter skies by the time we returned home around 10. I went for a short walk and, in the afternoon, we went into Ilkley again to listen to the Guiseley Music Club Jazz Band at the Grove bandstand. By now it was another beautiful afternoon and it was very pleasant to sit and listen in the warm sunshine.

In the evening Dorothy and David came over about 6:30 and we went for a very good meal at Quinta. It was after 10pm by the time they left for home after a very nice evening together.

Sunday July 23

We went to church and then coffee before relaxing for a while. We then drove to Harrogate for a late Sunday lunch with Mike and Joelle Monkman at their flat. Mike cooked a great lamb dish and Joelle made a very good dessert. We also spent about 5 hours having some good conversation.

Monday July 24

It was overcast and threatening rain as we drove to Skipton. Here we had breakfast at a very old restaurant (once a rope factory) and then walked around the market for an hour. We drove home via Cononley, Keighley and Morton.

I went for a 4 mile walk and then we drove down for coffee before staying home for the rest of the day and evening.

Tuesday July 25

Today we essentially stayed home with the exception of a couple of short walks and Molly's usual visit to the shops. In addition, we had a very nice lunch and chat with Father Philip at Monkman's. We were home for dinner.

Wednesday July 26

It was another mixed weather day and we did our usual shop visits and walks. We had dinner at Piccolino.

Thursday July 27

We had breakfast at Caffè Nero and Molly followed this with a visit to the pedicurist and I went for a walk on the north side of the river to Addingham and back via the Dalesway. At 5:30 we met Keith and Zena, Jeremy and Jillian Law (Jeremy was a school pal) and a cousin of Zena's visiting from Australia. We had dinner at Bistrot Pierre and then went to King's Hall to a concert by the Syd Lawrence Orchestra – a big band, swing ensemble. They formed in 1967 (which I would have thought was a little late for such a band but they have been very popular over the years). They were indeed very good and we knew pretty much their whole repertoire from Glenn Miller to Count Basie to Ella.

Friday July 28

After breakfast at home on a very rainy morning (with promise of rain all day) I still decided to start my walk over the Moor to Keighley where I would meet Molly.

As it turned out, the weather didn't get worse and the rain was essentially over before I reached the top of the moor and it was sunny and quite warm by the time I was descending into Keighley. Meantime Molly had come by bus and done her shopping before we met in Costa for coffee. We returned to Ilkley by bus, still in bright sunny weather so I walked back up the hill.

Tonight Joanne and Robert picked us up at 7:15 and we enjoyed a great dinner and chat together at Monkman's.

Saturday July 29

We had breakfast at Caffè Nero and then did the final shopping for the party tomorrow. I went for a walk later in the morning and then we kept in touch with Christopher as they arrived at Gatwick, traveled to London and then on to Ilkley. They arrived here at 8:30pm and we immediately went to Panache for dinner before they collapsed into bed.

Sunday July 30

Molly and I had been out for coffee before anyone stirred at home. However, everyone was up and ready for the family reunion, which started at 4 and went on till about 7pm. Afterwards we went to Piccolino for dinner with Robert and also with Isobel who decided to stay the night with Sammy.

Monday July 31

Today we had planned a walk from Malham (about 45 minutes from Ilkley) to the top of Malham Cove. The cove is known locally as the source of the River Aire (or at least its main tributary) but apparently is also the site used in some of the Harry Potter movie. Naturally this was on Sammy's list for a visit so we drove to Malham. Here we had a light lunch in a local café before starting on our 4 ½ mile trek that took us through some pleasant woodland, past a waterfall, across a high ridge and eventually to the very unusual cove surface. Glacial action and river flow have created a surface that is unusually contoured and which has deep crevices in the surface. It makes for a very interesting – and somewhat treacherous – walk and certainly appealed to Sammy as she re-created scenes from the movie.

We returned to the car (and Grandma) and drove home before cleaning up for another dinner at Piccolino.

Tuesday August 1

We left for York about 10 and had breakfast/lunch before getting in the line for Jorvik. The line move more quickly than forecast so we were in well within an hour. We spent about 1 ½ hours inside, made a brief stop at Clifford's Tower and then spent our remaining time walking on the city walls. It was towards the end of this walk that the weather changed from sunny to rather wet and there was even some distant thunder. We got a little wet but we walked to the railway station to catch the bus back to the Park and Ride car park.

We then drove about a mile to Arnold Clark where Christopher and Cyndi picked up their rental car for the next segment of their trip.

We drove in two cars back to Ilkley and at 7:30 went to Quinta for dinner.

Wednesday August 2

Our guests left about 9:30 on their way to Alnwick and then to Scotland. Molly and I had been out for an early morning coffee before they left and later in the morning we both went into town for walks. It began to rain and we both got quite wet before we got home.

We spent the afternoon at home and met Dorothy and David for dinner.

Thursday August 3

It was raining quite heavily as we ate breakfast at Caffè Nero but cleared up sufficiently by about 11:30 for Molly to walk into town and for me to do my walk. I took the train to Guiseley and walked down to Shipley via the River Aire, finding a "new" path that took me right next to the river into town. I took the train back to Ben Rhydding and walked home from there.

Tonight we had another good meal at Quinta with Joanne and Robert before they leave tomorrow for France.

Friday August 4

We had breakfast at home and then I went for a walk. This time I walked to Ilkley, got the bus to Keighley and then walked back over the Moor. This meant that my final 1 ½ miles to home were downhill (an unusual occurrence) but it also meant that I had about 3 miles of uphill (some very steep) from the outskirts of Keighley to the top of Ilkley Moor. Nevertheless it was a good walk and the weather stayed dry and mostly sunny throughout.

Molly and I had coffee when I returned and tonight we went to Monkmans with friends from the local church who have always been very welcoming. It was a good meal and a very enjoyable time.

Saturday August 5

We had breakfast at Caffè Nero and Molly made her shopping visit to town later in the morning. I went for a 6 mile walk across the valley to Middleton Manor and return.

Tonight we ate at Emporio Italia.

Sunday August 6

We went to church for the last time on this trip and said goodbye to our new friends – as well as to a couple who live (at times) in the flat next door to us at Wells House.

Molly and I have recently finished reading a book about a couple who, in the 1970s, spent a year as landlords of the highest pub in England. It happens that this pub (not identified by name in the book) is at the northern end of the Yorkshire Dales about 2 hours drive from Ilkley. So, this afternoon, we decided to take a drive to see this isolated public house.

It was a fine afternoon as we left Ilkley and drove via Kettlewell and the Wharfe Valley to Hawes. From Hawes the road was very steep (both up and down) but generally climbing towards Tan Hill, the site of the "Inn at the Top". It was raining and a strong wind was blowing as we reached our destination which only added to the overall effect and—even in the middle of summer—underscored just how remote this place is. In the book, the couple was cut off by deep snowdrifts for about three months and even today it wasn't too difficult to imagine that situation.

On the way back we had afternoon tea in Hawes (by which time it was raining quite heavily) and then drove to Settle. It was here that we joined the end of a miles-long backup caused by an accident further down the road. This delayed us by almost an hour but we were back in Ilkley in time for dinner at Piccolino.

Monday August 7

We drove to Harrogate for breakfast and some shopping but were back in Ilkley soon after noon. I went for a short walk and we went to Caffè Nero for coffee in the afternoon. We then stayed home for the rest of the day.

Tuesday August 8

After breakfast I went for a walk over the Moor to Dick Hudson's and then across Shipley Glen to Saltaire. Here I got the train to Steeton and then the bus to Ilkley. Molly and I went for coffee on my return.

Tonight we had our final meal in Ilkley for this trip at Quinta.

Wednesday August 9

We had breakfast at Caffè Nero and then returned to the flat to get things washed, cleaned up and packed before our afternoon drive to Manchester. We had one last coffee for this trip around 3pm and then left for Manchester. I felt a little under the weather throughout the trip and was glad to get to the hotel for a rest. We decided to stay in the hotel for dinner and, to our surprise, had a very good Italian meal at a new restaurant there. We retired immediately after dinner.

Thursday August 10

We were up about 7, returned the car and checked in for our flight to Atlanta. The flight was on time and a smooth one, but I felt pretty awful throughout. Fortunately I was able to sleep quite a bit but was still very relieved to get to Atlanta, through Security and into the Sky Club. I felt a little better here as we waited for our onward flight but once again was pleased to get through that and get our rental car in Cincinnati so we could get home – and to bed. It was a little disappointing to end it this way, but we had had a great two months in England.

