

Daily Diary

England, January 2018. Summary of Daily Activities

Tuesday January 16

We had breakfast in the airport Marriott where we had stayed overnight after driving down from dinner in West Chester (Sultan's) last evening – the last few miles in a snowstorm. It had snowed on and off all day but there had been a little hiatus as we ate dinner. Nevertheless the roads were clear, despite another fall off about 3 inches.

This morning it was very cold (8F) so it took a while to thaw out the rental car before we returned it and went to the airport. We had time in the Sky Club – actually, more than we had anticipated as the flight to Detroit was delayed about an hour. But, we made it and in plenty of time for our onward flight to Amsterdam.

This flight left a little before 4pm so we had an early dinner before trying to get some sleep as we crossed the Atlantic.

Wednesday January 17

We both got only a little sleep before arriving to a very windy Amsterdam. Here we had a two hour layover before the one hour flight to Manchester – during which breakfast was served. We saw a lot of snow-covered hills from the air and there was a covering even in Manchester when we arrived. We had the usual hassle getting the car but were on our way by 10am. The roads had been treated well so it was an easy drive via Colne to Ilkley.

We arrived at the flat about 11:30, unpacked and did a few “maintenance” jobs before sleeping for several hours. We had our inaugural dinner at Piccolino and were in bed before 10.

Thursday January 18

We slept the clock round and didn't get up until 10:15. We went to Caffè Nero for breakfast and did a small M&S shop before returning to the flat. I went for a 3 mile walk but, other than that, we stayed home and caught up on jobs before going to dinner at La Casita where we had a good tapas meal.

Friday January 19

We both slept rather poorly (penalty for the excellent previous night?) but it was still 9:30 before we had breakfast at home.

Later Molly walked into town and I did another relatively short walk. We had afternoon coffee at Caffè Nero and then stayed home for dinner and some TV watching.

Saturday January 20

We had breakfast at Caffè Nero and later I went for a walk from Saltaire to Gilstead and Bingley, returning via the canal bank (5.3 miles). We ate tonight at Monkman's.

Sunday January 21

We had breakfast at home then went to church and finally for coffee at Caffè Nero. There was more snow and rain this afternoon and I took a rather treacherous walk around town. Glad to get home and stay home for the rest of the day.

Monday January 22

We had breakfast at home then I set off over the Moor to Keighley. The path was still icy on the north-

facing side despite air temperatures well into the forties. The Keighley side was much better and the weather remained dry. I met Molly in Keighley and we came back together on the bus. Tonight we met Joanne and Robert for dinner at the Square and Compass and had a very pleasant meal and a good long chat.

Tuesday January 23

After breakfast at Caffè Nero and a little shopping we both walked down into Ilkley where Molly went to M&S for a few more food items and I continued for a five mile walk. The temperature was over 50F and we had a little rain. We stayed home for the rest of the day.

Wednesday January 24

We were home for breakfast on a very wet morning. I then drove to B&Q in Keighley to get some supplies to put shelves in the closet and Molly stayed home to await the arrival of a new dryer. Around 12:30 we went to Caffè Nero for coffee and, as it was now a lot nicer, I went for a five mile walk. We went to La Casita again for another nice meal.

Thursday January 25

After breakfast at home, Joanne came over and she and I went for a three mile walk and met up with Molly for coffee. In the afternoon, I picked up one more supply for the shelves and then stayed home for the rest of the day and dinner.

Friday January 26

We had breakfast at Caffè Nero and did several bits of shopping. I went for a short walk in the early afternoon and the serviceman came to service our gas appliances about 3:30. Tonight we drove to Harrogate to meet Dorothy and David for a good dinner and long chat at the Chinese restaurant in the Royal Baths.

Saturday January 27

We had breakfast at Caffè Nero and then I spent time putting up some shelving in the hall closet. I walked into town for a necessary bit and completed the job before we went to dinner (2 hours +) at Quinta.

Sunday January 28

We had breakfast at home and then went to church. We then visited Caffè Nero and I went for a 4 mile walk in the afternoon. It was a mild but damp day and we stayed home for dinner and the evening.

Monday January 29

We were home for breakfast and much of the damp morning but then I went for a walk from Guiseley to Shipley via Baildon and Saltaire. It was a hard but pleasant walk and I got the train back to Ilkley to meet Molly for coffee. Tonight we went to Piccolino.

Tuesday January 30

We drove to Harrogate for breakfast and to spend our M&S gift cards. We spent about 2 hours in town and then drove home. In the afternoon I went for an eye examination at Boots in Ilkley and they found a scratch on my left eyeball. It had been scratchy for a couple of days and apparently will heal itself in 1-2 weeks. I was very impressed with the thoroughness of the examination; at least as detailed as that we get at home every year – and it only cost 10GBP! (This was a special offer but even the normal price is 25GBP (similar to that at home).

Tonight we stayed home for dinner.

Wednesday January 31

After breakfast at home, I walked to Addingham and then back via Nesfield – almost 8 miles in all. It was mostly sunny and blustery but I went through three short – but intense – hailstorms. I met Molly for coffee at the end of the walk and we went to dinner later at Panache.

Thursday February 1

After breakfast at Caffè Nero I drove to Fewston to meet Joanne for a 6.5 mile walk around Swinsty and Fewston reservoirs. It was a lovely day – crisp and windy – and we had a good long chat as we walked. After getting home, we went for coffee and then stayed home for the rest of the day. The service man came and replaced a part in the boiler so all is well again.

Friday February 2

We had breakfast at home and Molly was feeling a little under the weather with a cold. I went for a walk over Ilkley Moor and then into town, covering another 7 ½ miles in all. It was a beautiful sunny morning and I thoroughly enjoyed the walk.

In the evening we drove to Eldwick and spent an hour at Keith and Zena's before going to dinner at the Old Registry House in Haworth. It was a very good meal and the ambiance is great: an old house with many small rooms big enough for one to three tables in each. There were also all kinds of old photos and other memorabilia on the walls. It was a great place for a meal and a good long chat. We got home about 11pm as the temperature dipped just below freezing.

Saturday February 3

We had breakfast at Caffè Nero on a foggy, damp morning with a few snowflakes in the air. We stayed home for the morning and left again about 12:30 to drive to Skipton to meet up with Cat, Stephen and Jensen. Unfortunately, Stephen wasn't feeling too well so didn't come but we had a great hour or more with Cat and Jensen. He is still a very happy and friendly baby.

We stayed home in the afternoon and went for a super meal at Emporio Italia, made all the better as the owner, Luigi, was there and back in action after his prolonged illness.

Sunday February 4

I went for a three mile walk after breakfast as the rest of the day was going to be filled. We went to church and then for coffee before returning to the flat for about an hour. Then we drove to Ripon to visit the cathedral for the investiture of the new bishop. She had been a bishop in New Zealand and a couple of priests and other friends from her old diocese were present for this ceremony. The cathedral was packed when we arrived about 20 minutes before the ceremony and we had to stand for the entire 1 ½ hours. Nevertheless, it was an interesting time in the beautiful cathedral. This was followed by a quick visit to see Dorothy and David as well as Amanda and her two kids, before we drove to Rudding Park for dinner with Joanne and Robert.

Monday February 5

After breakfast at Caffè Nero I went for a walk over Ilkley Moor towards Keighley but turned at Riddlesden and headed to Silsden where I got the bus back. It was a tough 8 ½ miles walk. Meanwhile, Molly had been into Ilkley to do some shopping. Later in the afternoon I walked down to Weatherspoon's pub to meet Steve and Margaret Corker. Steve is an old friend of Roy and will be with us on Wednesday when we scatter Roy's ashes on White Maiden in Cumbria.

We then stayed home for the evening,

Tuesday February 6

It was snowing as we woke up and after breakfast there was a covering on the ground. The hills looked beautiful again with their white tops and, so far, the roads looked generally OK. There was a wet snow on and off all day but I managed a walk around town.

Tonight we went to Monkman's as the guests of our friends Stephen and Joyce who we met at the Ilkley church. It was a great meal of course, and a wonderful evening chatting with two people who have become good friends.

Wednesday February 7

It was a beautiful cold but sunny morning, for which I, in particular, was grateful as I was scheduled to drive to the Lake District to walk to a spot to scatter Cousin Roy's ashes. In Skipton I met my Cousin Keith and Ian Shepard (who drove to Cumbria with me) and Steve Corker and Steve Dodds who drove together to the Lake District where they picked up Ken Donaghy who had traveled down from Scotland.

Once we all met up at the designated parking area, we started out on our walk to the top of White Maiden. All, that is, except Keith who is still not up to walks of this nature. Actually, when I saw the planned route, my inclination was to wait at the car with Keith. However, five of us set out on a rocky path that soon was covered in snow (not snowing at the time but from overnight and before) and ice and was very steep. It was a bit like some of the lower slopes onto Ilkley Moor near Wells House but this went on, more or less unabated, for a total of just over two miles.

It took us two hours to make the climb at which point we found a cairn that seemed like the ideal place to leave Roy's ashes. This we did, each of us saying our farewells, and then we started back down the slope. I would like to say that it was an easier walk down but, although it was less effort in breathing, it was very hard on the legs and knees and quite dangerous in parts covered with ice. Nevertheless, we all made it back to the car, reunited with Keith, and went for a welcome pub meal. We then drove in two cars back to Skipton where I then took the road to Ilkley after a very exhilarating and pleasant day – despite the reason for us getting together.

When I got home (almost 7pm) and had a bath and changed, Molly and I went for another good meal at Piccolino.

Thursday February 8 (Molly's Birthday)

We had a late breakfast at Caffè Nero and later I went for a walk around town – and did a little birthday shopping!. We were then home for the afternoon before Molly's birthday dinner at Quinta.

Friday February 9

We had breakfast at home and then I went for a short walk around Ilkley. We left at noon to meet Dorothy and David and Keith and Eileen for lunch at the Hopper Lane pub. It was a good meal and nice 3 hour chat on another beautiful day. We then stayed home for the rest of the afternoon and had a very light evening meal with a little TV viewing

Saturday February 10

We had breakfast at Caffè Nero on a cool, windy and drizzly morning. Later we walked into town; Molly to do some shopping and me to take a short walk. Tonight we had a very good meal at the Thai restaurant, Sawasdee.

Sunday February 11

We went to church after breakfast at home and followed this with coffee at Caffè Nero. A walk in the afternoon was followed up with a visit once again to Piccolino.

Monday February 12

We had breakfast at Caffè Nero and then I set out on a walk over the moor to Keighley. It was generally breezy and cool and there were a number of snow squalls as I approached the top. Nevertheless it was a nice walk and I met Molly for coffee in Keighley before we returned together to Ilkley on the bus. We ate at home this evening.

Tuesday February 13

After breakfast at home we drove to Silsden to have coffee with Susan and Stephen. Despite his leukemia treatment, Stephen looked remarkably well and was in fine spirits. He talked and laughed throughout our two hour visit.

I went for a short walk in the afternoon and in the evening we met Linda for a very pleasant evening at The Vine restaurant.

Wednesday February 14

We had breakfast at Caffè Nero and at 10:30 we went to the one hour Ashing service at St Margaret's. I had a short afternoon walk. And we ate at home this evening.

Thursday February 15

Breakfast at home was followed by walking down to Ilkley where Molly did some shopping and I went for a longer walk across the river, up the opposite hill, past Middleton Grange and back home – six miles in all.

We had another great meal at Emporio Italia.

Friday February 16

Once more we had breakfast at home and then walked into town. Molly did her shopping, I did a shorter walk and then we went to Caffè Nero for afternoon coffee.

Tonight we met Dorothy and David for a celebratory meal (David, Molly and Dorothy all have birthdays this month or next) at the Box Tree in Ilkley. As usual, it was an excellent meal with superb service in very pleasant surroundings.

Saturday February 17

We went to Caffè Nero for breakfast and then I went for what turned out to be a 9 mile walk over Ilkley Moor to Dick Hudson's and then on to Shipley. I took the train home and then we stayed home for the rest of the day.

Sunday February 18

We had breakfast at home, I took a short walk and then we went to church. We had coffee and then waited for Cat, Stephen and Jensen to arrive around 2:30. They spent about 1 ½ hours with us and Jensen seemed to enjoy exploring the living room. He is almost walking and moved quite easily between appropriately close pieces of furniture.

We went to Sawasdee for dinner.

