

England

Winter 2019



Bob and Molly Hillery

England, Winter 2019

This was our annual winter trip to England to stay in our nephew's apartment in Ilkley, on the edge of Ilkley Moor and the Yorkshire Dales National Park. As with all our visits to this location, our time is spent in much the same way as in Mason but with the added attraction of the scenery in this most beautiful part of England.

Our days are spent in and around Ilkley and usually include some local shopping (Molly) and some walking in the local countryside (Bob), together with visits with family and friends—and lots of eating out at the excellent choices in this small town. As such, our daily routine is quite repetitious and probably of little interest to anyone except ourselves. Consequently, while we maintain a daily record of activities (often covered in a sentence or two), we cover only a few in any depth. Perhaps some of these will provide a more general interest to a slightly wider audience than the bulk of this journal (included only for completeness).

As usual, we spent six weeks on this visit and, generally speaking, we had reasonably good weather. First, we had three weeks of mild days (mid-forties) with some rain but, more often it was bright with plenty of sunshine. Often it was quite windy and this was particularly true on days spent on the moor where a thousand feet difference in elevation can—and does—bring some radically different conditions.

Towards the end of January we experienced a cold snap (temperatures dipping into the twenties at night) and we had some ice and snow. This change would hardly be noticed in Southern Ohio but in a town built on a steep hillside in Northern England, where temperature extremes are unusual, it doesn't take much to create traffic concerns and much conversation amongst the locals.

In all, however, the weather was kind to us and certainly didn't impact our stay in any significant way—and certainly did not mar our enjoyment.

England, December 2018 – February 2019

Tuesday December 25

We left home at 7pm and went downtown to Morton's for dinner. Unfortunately, we got a waiter who didn't seem thrilled to be working on Christmas Day and the service was very inattentive and our food was not up the usual standards at this restaurant. Consequently, we were told the meal that we did have would be at no charge; certainly a form of compensation but we would much preferred to have had the usual excellent meal – and paid for it.

We then went to the airport Marriott for the night.

Wednesday December 26/Thursday December 27

We were up before nine, had breakfast in the hotel and then completed our packing before returning the rental car and spending time in the Delta Lounge before our 2pm flight to Orlando. This was the first time we had followed this route, but it gave us a non-stop flight from Orlando to Manchester on Virgin Atlantic. As we taxied to the gate in Orlando, we noticed fire engines on either side of our plane and a huge police presence with about a dozen cars with blue flashing lights. As we passed by the fire engines we were sprayed with water from both sides and I, at least, began to wonder whether perhaps the brakes had got too hot on landing – or worse!

Any fears were alleviated, however, when the captain announced that in the cargo hold were the remains of a Homeland Security guard and this was, in effect, an honor guard and a way of paying tribute to him as he made his way to his final resting place. Indeed, we did see a hearse on the cargo side of the plane and a casket table was brought close, together with a police escort and a few in civilian clothes, presumably family.

When we eventually got into the terminal, we found an almost complete lack of signage, so we ended up taking a shuttle train to the main terminal, fighting our way through Security (with no TSA Pre-Check for reasons we don't understand) only to find that our departure gate was near the gate at which we had arrived. So, we re-traced our steps (this time avoiding Security) and eventually found the correct gate and the Delta Lounge almost adjacent!

We ended up having about an hour in the lounge where we could relax and have a drink before our overnight flight to Manchester. For the first time in many years we were on a

Boeing 747, although somewhat surprisingly the business class seats were on the lower deck. The dinner service was very good and it appeared that we had several flight attendants for only 14 customers. I had the Christmas Dinner, which was very good, and finished the meal with a glass of port.

On Virgin Atlantic, the flat beds have to be made up by the attendants, so I had mine converted immediately after the meal and very quickly fell asleep. Although I do recall turning over a couple of times, we were on our approach to Manchester before I was completely awake so I consider that a good night's sleep.



Immigration was a little slow but by 9am we had our rental car (after an 8am landing) and by 10:30 we were in Caffè Nero in Ilkley. It had been quite foggy in and around Manchester but by the time we crossed into Yorkshire there were patches of sunshine. The temperature was in the mid-forties so, all in all, it was a reasonably pleasant winter day in the north of England.

After coffee, we drove the final half mile to the flat. Here we found that Joanne had been and had left milk in the fridge and a couple of ready meals “in case we didn’t feel like going out right away”. In addition, the heat and hot water system were working well, so we were soon settled, unpacked. By 1:30 we were both asleep in the living room!

Tonight, we did indeed go out to eat and enjoyed our first meal for this trip at Piccolino. We were warmly greeted by the hostess, Anna, who had seen our reservation in their system and rushed to the door as soon as we arrived. It was nice to see her again and catch up on her life and, as usual, we had a very good meal.

Friday December 28 (Exactly 52 years since we emigrated to the United States)

We were up just before nine and drove to Caffè Nero for breakfast. We were spotted in

there by our friends from church, Stephen and Joyce, as well as a lady who we have talked to on many occasions who visits this coffee shop just about every day from her home in Addingham.



Later in the morning, I went for a 4 ¼ mile walk around Ilkley and then we spent the rest of the afternoon in the flat. Tonight, we ate at La Casita (Spanish tapas) – again welcomed back by the staff – and celebrated the 52nd anniversary of our life in America. It's difficult to imagine that it has been so long (twice as long living there as we had lived in England) but even more incredible when we think of everything that has happened to us over those years.

Saturday December 29

We had breakfast at Caffè Nero again on a fairly bright and mild morning but with a very strong wind. Despite this, there were dozens of cyclists starting out on morning runs as we enjoyed our coffee and pastry in the comfort of Caffè Nero.

About 11am, we both walked into Ilkley; Molly to do a little shopping and me to continue a walk by the river. I covered another 4 miles (slowly!) and arrived home around 1pm. We then stayed in the flat for the remainder of the afternoon and evening and had our first dinner at home on this visit.

Sunday December 30

The church service today was at 10am (vs the normal 10:45) so we were up relatively early to have breakfast at home before leaving at 9:30. We were greeted like old friends by many in the congregation and by the vicar – who had remembered that we had said we would be back just after Christmas.

Following the service, we went to Caffè Nero (very busy) for coffee and a mince pie! We feel a need to get these special Christmas treats while they last. After returning to the flat in late morning, neither of us did much except read and work on the computer. Eventually, however, I decided that I should make the effort and take a walk so I set out

about 2pm.

I walked via the road as far as the Cow and Calf Rocks and then cut across the trail that leads to White Wells and then down to home. It was just about 3 miles but in the space of 1 ½ hours I must have seen at least 100 other walkers – and a few cyclists. I was reminded of my Sunday afternoons not far from here when I was in grammar school and several of us would meet in Bingley at 2pm and – in a group of 2 to as many as 10 – just set out and walk for 2 to 3 hours. I recall really enjoying those walks and I was pleased to see that even today a good percentage were of an age similar to mine 60+ years ago. I got back to the flat just as it was going dark, around 3:30.

Tonight, we met Joanne and Robert for dinner at the Square and Compass. We were not expecting to meet them so soon in the visit as they were supposed to be in the Maldives for a week. However, their youngest, William, was taken ill on Boxing Day and had to undergo surgery so the trip had to be postponed. Fortunately, William seems to be making a good recovery, so Joanne and Robert felt comfortable to leave him in the care of his older brothers while they enjoyed a restful meal out with us. We were there about 2 ½ hours and had a very pleasant chat.

Monday January 31

We had breakfast at Caffe Nero and then returned to the flat for a couple of hours before walking down the hill into town again. Molly did her first Tesco shop and I continued a walk around Ilkley. I walked on the Middleton side of the river for a while and then along the Ilkley side through the small wooded area that I had found during our summer visit. By the time I got home I had covered 5 ¾ miles, which wasn't a bad finish to 2018. Unfortunately it was still too little, too late to bring my yearly total close to my goal and I finished by something over 20% down. I took a little solace from the fact that my cycling exceeded the 1000 miles goal by a bit over 10%. There's always next year!

Around 6:30, Keith and Zena arrived at the flat to begin our New Year's Eve celebrations. We had a drink and a chat to catch up since we last met in



September and then went to Quinta for dinner. It was a set meal with little choice but we all found our dishes to be excellent. A (rather poor) vocalist accompanied herself on a (too loud) keyboard but we were still able to enjoy a good conversation. Our reservation was for 8pm and we wondered how we would “make it last” until midnight. However, around 11pm most customers were ready to leave so we did the same and returned to the flat to watch the fireworks over Ilkley and all across the river valley. It’s amazing how such a small area can put on such a display lasting about 30 minutes.

Then it was time to retire after wishing each other a Happy 2019.

Tuesday January 1



We were up about nine and had breakfast together in the flat. We had another couple of hours together before Keith and Zena left for their drive back to Eldwick. I went for a walk around Ilkley on a bright but cool morning (4 miles; at least we are not starting 2019 “in the hole”), Molly and I went for coffee in the afternoon and then stayed home for the rest of the afternoon and evening.

Wednesday January 2

We had breakfast at home and later in the morning we both did our walking. Molly did some shopping in Ilkley and I went for a walk on the Middleton side of the river. I went past the golf course, through the hamlet of Nesfield and headed toward the river to cross on the footbridge to Addingham. Unfortunately, the bridge is closed for repairs – but so far there is little sign of action except the fence to keep out would-be pedestrians. So, I had to retrace my steps on the north side of the river rather than following a part of the Dalesway back to Ilkley. Nevertheless, it was a pleasant walk and by the time I had got back to the flat I had covered almost 8 miles.

Meanwhile, Molly had made a dinner reservation at Emporio Italia so we had a very enjoyable meal there after spending the afternoon in the flat.

Thursday January 3

We had a Caffè Nero breakfast and, while Molly did her usual shopping trip to town, I drove to Skipton and went on a 3 ½ mile there. I started out on the canal bank towards Gargrave but soon came across a bridge that led to a large park so I spent about an hour wandering in and around the area, finally ending up back in the town center. I then drove home, arriving back around 2:30 after a pleasant change of scenery.

Tonight we intended to eat at the Thai restaurant in town but found that they were closed until mid-week next (as are a number of other restaurants in Ilkley now that the Holiday Season is over). So, we walked a few yards up the street to Panache, the Indian restaurant that we have enjoyed so many times in the past. Tonight was no exception.

Friday January 4

We had breakfast at Caffè Nero and then I went for a walk on the north side of the river; another 4 miles under the belt. We then had a quiet day at home.

Saturday January 5

We had breakfast at Caffè Nero and were joined for a while by our friends Joyce and Stephen. Later, Molly did her shopping in Ilkley and I walked over the moor to Keighley, returning on the bus. With the last mile to the flat, I covered a little over 7 miles and felt reasonably good despite the cold and two steep climbs.

Tonight we ate at Piccolino again and had another very enjoyable two hour meal.

Sunday January 6



We had breakfast at home and went to the 10:45 service at St Margaret's. We went to the church coffee hour and made several new friends, including someone who had been at Colingwood College, Durham with Mark (they are still friends) and a young lady (Rebecca, the vicar's daughter) who is currently at that same college, as is Toby, Joanne's son. Small world.

I went for a relatively short walk in the afternoon and we went to Quinta for dinner. We

hadn't really intended to go out this evening, but we received an e-mail from Diego, the owner, telling us that he was spending a few days in his native Portugal but an old friend of ours from Caffè Nero (Stuart) would be substituting. So, we had another lovely meal and a very nice chat with Stuart – and had the restaurant almost to ourselves; just one other couple were in.

Monday January 7

We had breakfast at home and were joined by Joanne and Toby around 10am. Three of us went for a walk across the top of Ilkley Moor on what turned out to be a very windy, wet and quite cool morning. We were all soaked by the time we reached Caffè Nero, where we met Molly for coffee and a pastry. Joanne was so uncomfortable in her wet clothes that she went into Mountain Warehouse and bought a pair of tights to wear home!

Molly and I spent the rest of the day in the flat and had dinner there.

Tuesday January 8

We had breakfast at home and then waited in for the Hertz representative to arrive to switch out our rental car; apparently the one we had was being “recalled”. He arrived as scheduled at 10am so then we were able to get on with our day. I went for a walk – it was a beautiful bright and cool morning – and part way through I met Molly for coffee at Caffè Nero. Molly then did her shopping and I continued walking and eventually completed 6 miles.

Tonight we ate at Monkman's for the first time on this trip and had our usual good meal in very pleasant surroundings. Unfortunately, Mike and Joelle are still enjoying their post-Holidays break (in France) so we didn't see them.

Wednesday January 9

We had breakfast at Caffè Nero and about 11 left for Silsden where we picked up Susan (my late brother's sister-in-law) and drove to the Fleece Inn in Addingham where we were joined by Joanne and Robert for a very enjoyable two-hour lunch. Susan has had a recent shoulder complaint which steroids seem to be controlling, but otherwise seems to be in excellent health and living a full life after Steven's death almost a year ago.

After lunch and returning Susan to her home, I managed a short walk around Ilkley and later we went to Pintoh, the Thai restaurant, for a very good dinner.

Thursday January 10

We once again had breakfast at Caffe Nero and later Molly went to shop while I went for a five-mile walk. We then stayed home for the rest of the afternoon and for dinner.

Friday January 11



We had breakfast at home and then I set out on my walk. I walked to Ilkley and bought a “K Day Pass” (good all day on Keighley buses and a bargain at less than \$6) and took the bus to Silsden. Here I set out up a steep hill towards Bradley – 1 ½ miles up, followed by the same down. At Bradley, I found the canal and walked the rest of the way into Skipton on the bank, a little over 6 miles in all from Silsden.

I had a coffee in town and then used the pass to get a bus to Steeton and then another back to Ilkley. By the time I had completed the last bit up the hill, I had covered 8 ½ miles on an overcast but dry and calm day. Meanwhile, Molly had done her usual shop in town.

Tonight we had been scheduled to meet Dorothy and David for dinner but that has been postponed as David is incapacitated with a bad back. Molly and I consoled ourselves by going to the best restaurant in Ilkley, the Box Tree. It was an excellent meal with superb service and it was 11pm before we arrived home.

Saturday January 12

We had breakfast at Caffe Nero and then I went for a short walk along the north ridge of the Moor on a very windy and slightly damp morning. It was only 3 ½ miles but it blew away any cobwebs from last night’s dinner.

We then stayed home for the rest of the afternoon and evening.

Sunday January 13

We had breakfast at home and then I went for a very short walk before church. Immediately after that and a coffee in Ilkley we drove to Barnoldswick where we were able to spend a couple of hours with Cat and Jenson and about 30 minutes with Steve (who, unfortunately, had to work today). It was nice to see their house and fun to watch Jenson (almost two) on home turf. He really is a happy little soul and is learning a few words. He apparently loves his nursery school and plays very well by himself or with anyone who wants to join in.



Tonight we ate at Piccolino.

Monday January 14

We both walked into Ilkley for breakfast at Caffè Nero and Molly followed this with a pedicure appointment and some shopping before returning to the flat. Meanwhile, I set out on a walk by taking the Dales Way as far as the old part of Addingham. I then followed local streets, footpaths and fields before ending up on the Skipton to Ilkley Road. From there I walked back into Addingham by a different route and caught the bus back to Ilkley from a stop near the Fleece Inn. It was a beautiful day – cool but sunny – so the

8 mile walk was extremely pleasant.



We then stayed home for the rest of the day.

Tuesday January 15

We drove to Harrogate first thing today and had breakfast at our usual café there. After that we spent about 1 ½ hours shopping (mostly at Marks and Spencer) before driving to Ripon to see Dorothy and David. Da-

vid is still suffering with his bad back and Dorothy is very busy helping with Amanda's move as well as with the grandchildren. Nevertheless, we had a very pleasant couple of hours catching up and predicting life after Brexit – if it ever comes!

It was after 4pm by the time we got back to the flat – having stopped for a coffee in Ilkley – and we left again soon after 7 for dinner. We had planned on La Casita, but it was all in darkness when we got there, so we walked another 50 yards and had another nice “tapas” meal at Pintoh (Thai).

Wednesday January 16

We had breakfast at home on an overcast morning and, about 9:30, I left to join Joanne in a walk around the reservoirs at Fewston and Swinsty. It was cool and overcast and there were a few brief showers but we had a very pleasant 2 ½ hours and time for some long conversations.

I returned to Ilkley and we stayed home until we met our friends Joyce and Stephen for

a 3 hour dinner at Quinta.

Thursday January 17

We had breakfast at Caffè Nero and then I drove to Bingley for a walk via Gilstead to Saltaire (on the Coach Road) and then back to Bingley along the canal bank. It was a nice day and the canal bank was filled with walkers, runners and cyclists enjoying the sunshine. After returning to Ilkley we stayed home for the rest of the day.

Friday January 18

We had breakfast at Caffè Nero again and then I hung a few pictures at the flat before walking into town with Molly. She did her shopping and I continued on a walk locally around Ilkley. This evening we dined at Emporio Italia.

Saturday January 19

Once again we had breakfast at Caffè Nero and then I went for a longer walk on the Middleton side of the river and ended up with another six miles under my belt. We then stayed home for the rest of the day and evening.

Sunday January 20

I had time for a short walk before we drove to the station to get the train to Leeds. Here we met Elizabeth and Matthew for lunch and had a very good meal and enjoyable chat which lasted the best part of three hours. On returning to Ilkley we both took a nap before we went to Piccolino for dinner.

Monday January 21

We had breakfast at Caffè Nero and then we both went to Tesco to shop for some of the heavier items on Molly's list – and used the car to get them home! Later we walked into town – Molly to do a little more shopping and me to go on a six mile walk via the Dales Way.

At 7:15 we were picked up by Joanne and Robert and the four of us enjoyed a very good Indian meal at Pananche.

Tuesday January 22

After breakfast at home, we both went into Ilkley – but at slightly different times. Molly had a 10:30 hairdresser appointment and I left a little earlier to get the Keighley bus. I took this as far as Silsden and then walked up to Steeton before taking one of the very steep and narrow lanes from the village to the high road above the valley.



There was a covering of snow on the hills but the day itself was clear and bright so I had some marvelous views over the Aire valley to the moors beyond. I walked towards Keighley, believing that I was on the road that passed Keighley Tarn. However, it turns out that I was at the next level down and actually headed slowly downhill into town. So, I took a right turn up another very steep hill and almost reached the tarn (where I had spent many hours when I lived in Keighley) before turning round and going steeply into town and the bus station.



I got the bus back to Ilkley and walked up the hill to complete an 8 ¼ mile walk. We stayed home for the rest of the day.

Wednesday January 23

It was another cold (around freezing) morning and there was a thick mist across the valley and a frost on cars and roofs. We had decided on another visit to Harrogate today and were a little cautious starting out down Wells Road but the roads had been gritted and were in generally good shape. Nevertheless, there was still a covering of snow on the hills so we chose the low road via Otley to get us to Harrogate.

We had a “fry-up” breakfast in Harrogate and then shopped along Cambridge Street (primarily M&S) before driving back via Beckwithshaw and Otley. In the afternoon I went for a five mile walk around Ilkley, returning to the flat via a steep hill through the

Panorama Woods.

Tonight we met Linda Briggs for a very pleasant chat and another good meal at Monk-mans.

Thursday January 24

We had breakfast at Caffe Nero and then returned to the flat to be sure that we were available when the gas and electric company arrived to install "smart" meters. We had located the meters a week ago in the labyrinth that is the basement of Wells House so I was hopeful that I could remember the route when the technicians arrived.

We were able to locate both meters and the technician completed the job in less than two hours. This allowed me to get in a walk in the early afternoon and we completed the day by going to dinner once again at La Casita.

Friday January 25



We had a very light breakfast at home as we were scheduled to meet Dorothy and David and Keith and Eileen for lunch. I did get a walk in before we left for Blubberhouses and the Smoke-house restaurant. We had never eaten there before and found it a nice place to dine out in the country. We also had a great time with

our relatives with lots of laughter as well as a good catching-up on our respective families. We were together almost three hours before driving home and spent the rest of the day at home.

Saturday January 26

We had breakfast at Caffe Nero on an overcast but relatively mild morning (high forties), At 11am, Molly walked into town to do her shopping and shortly afterwards I left on my walk. I walked along the north ridge of Ilkley Moor and then via Lippersley Lane to the main road between Addingham and Silsden. Here I caught the bus back to Ilkley and walked up the hill back to the flat. It was about 2:30 when I got back after a very pleasant 7 mile walk. It was noticeably windier on the moor!



At 6:30, Joanne and Robert picked us up and we went to the Box Tree restaurant for dinner. As usual, it was an excellent meal with great service and the four hours we were together just flew by.

Sunday January 27

After breakfast at home I went for a three mile walk before we went to church. This was followed by a coffee at Caffe Nero and then a lazy afternoon at home.

Tonight was Burns' Night (officially January 25) at one of our local restaurants, Quinta. We joined an already large and boisterous crowd at 7pm for a typical Burns' Night supper – including the centerpiece, Haggis. Although Quinta is billed as a Mediterranean restaurant and the owner is Portuguese, they did a very creditable job not only in providing the usual Scottish fare but also in the reading of a Burns' poem “addressing the haggis” before its ritual slicing. The meal was accompanied by wine, a glass of port with the cheese plate and a shot of whiskey to finish. Quite a night!



Monday January 28

We had breakfast at Caffe Nero and at 10am Joanne arrived for our walk. It was a beautiful clear and sunny morning, although cold with a stiff breeze, so we set out via White Wells to the Cow and Calf rocks. We were meeting Molly for coffee at noon and we had taken



our time taking in the views from the moor so we didn't have time to cover all of our intended route. Nevertheless, it was a very pleasant walk of just under 4 miles.

The rest of our day was spent in the flat.

Tuesday January 29

We had breakfast at home on a cool and dreary morning I left for a walk that would cover the ground that Joanne and I should have completed yesterday. Molly, meantime went into town to shop. The weather got steadily worse and I was pretty wet y the time I got home.

We went to Emporio Italia for dinner.

Wednesday January 30

We went to Caffè Nero for breakfast and returned to the flat. There was fog in the valley and a little snow on the hills, making for a beautiful picture. I set out on a walk later in the morning, intending to go to Keighley and return by bus. However, I decided to see what it would be like in reverse order; that is, bus to Keighley and then walk back home. This has the advantage of finished the walk with a 1 ½ mile downhill stretch but I knew that the climb UP to Keighley Gate on the moor would be tough.



I actually got off the bus before Keighley town center and made my way via the golf course and across the canal to the very steep climb from Riddlesden. In addition to the

climb, the footing got a little hazardous near Keighley Gate and almost all the way down on the Ilkley side to the flat as there had been about 2 inches of snow on the tops of the hills – none at the elevation of the flat, however. I made it back after about 3 hours of walking and covered a very difficult 8 miles in all.

Tonight we ate at La Casita.

Thursday January 31

We had breakfast out again on a bitterly cold morning. Despite this, we later walked into Ilkley where Molly did what may well be a final shop for this visit and I continued for a walk around Middleton and back through Panorama Woods.

Tonight we drove to Harrogate for dinner with Mike and Joelle Monkman. They had chosen a new (or recently re-opened at a new site) restaurant called Chez La Vie. It was a good meal in very pleasant surroundings, although we didn't think that either the food nor service were as good as Monkmans' own restaurant. Nevertheless, it was great to spend time with them and we enjoyed our three hour conversation.

Friday February 1



There was 1-2 inches of snow on the ground this morning but Wells road appeared to be clear so we went out for breakfast again. Later I went for a walk through Panorama Woods, most of the time trudging through snow, with a few minor snow showers

throughout. Still, a pleasant 5 miles.

Tonight we drove to Harrogate again for dinner with Dorothy and David at Quantro. We had a good meal and a long chat (3 hours) and it was almost 11pm by the time we got back home.

Saturday February 2

We had breakfast at Caffè Nero and I left about 10:15 for a walk. I intended to cover my "usual" Guiseley to Shipley walk (about 5 miles) but kept adding bits by going through Baildon and Saltaire so I have covered over 9 miles by the time I got home. This was the

longest so far this trip but the weather was bright and cold so I didn't feel too bad until the last part from Ben Rhydding after I got off the train from Shipley.

Tonight we ate again at Quinta.

Sunday February 3

We went to church for the last time on this trip and said good-bye to the Pillings and the vicar (just returned from a gambling trip to Las Vegas. I went for a short walk in the afternoon (still a lot of icy spots) and we went to Pintoh for dinner. We were surprised towards the end of our meal to see Anna (from Piccolino) and two of her friends who were just arriving at Pintoh for their evening meal. We had a short chat, posed for a photograph and then left them to their meal.



Monday February 4



Breakfast at Caffè Nero (left is our view when we get "our" window seats) was followed by a five mile walk for me while Molly started on the pre-departure washing. It was much milder today and all the snow and ice have disappeared – to be replaced by mud on most of my walking path!

Tonight we had our final meal for this trip with Joanne and Robert. They had invited us to the Clock Tower restaurant at Rudding Park where we had the usual great meal with excellent service. We also had a wonderful three our chat before saying farewell until May.

Tuesday February 5

Today was our day for cleaning – clothes, bed linens, towels and the carpets – in preparation for our departure tomorrow. I managed to get in another walk on another quite mild, but foggy, day.

Tonight we went to Piccolino for dinner – ending our stay where we began just short of six weeks ago and saying farewell to Anna once more.

Wednesday January 6

We had breakfast at Caffè Nero and then returned to the flat to complete our cleaning and preparations to leave. We were all done by noon and, after an easy drive to Manchester (and a successful Uber pickup from the rental car return) we were settled in the airport Marriott before 3pm.

Tonight we ate at the Italian restaurant in the hotel, San Carlo, where we enjoyed a very good meal.

Thursday February 7

We were up shortly after 6:30 and took the 7:30 hotel shuttle to the airport. It was drizzling a little as we left the hotel but it got much heavier as we were dropped off at Terminal 2 – or as close as vehicles can get these days. We had only about 100 yards to walk in the open but enough to get us quite wet – our jackets were in the outside pockets of our cases as we hadn't expected to be outside! However, we dried out fairly quickly and certainly we were completely dry by the time we had made our way through Security where every other bag, it seems, was given some additional inspection – including ours. Nevertheless, we had time for a snack and cup of coffee in the Virgin Atlantic lounge before boarding the 10:40 flight for Atlanta. Both our flights – to Atlanta and then on to Cincinnati—were on time and we arrived at CVG at 6pm. It was pouring rain and there were some strong winds but we fairly quickly got our bags, the rental car and were home before 7:30 after another very pleasant and relaxing vacation in England.



XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

The following few pages describe in some detail a “walk” in and around Ilkley in an attempt to answer an often-asked question: “What is it like where you stay when you go to England?”

Well, this is my response.....

