

# ***England, Summer 2019 (Daily Journal)***

## **Monday May 20/Tuesday May 21**

We left home close to noon and had an easy drive to the airport where we were quickly checked in and through Security – with time for a stop in the Sky Club before our 3:30 flight to New York. This was a rather bumpy ride but we still arrived on time at JFK, giving us plenty of time to walk between gates to our overnight flight on Virgin Atlantic to Manchester. We had a good meal on board and time for some sleep despite a flight time of less than six hours.

We arrived in Manchester at 7:15 and had a very easy Immigration and Customs entry (the new electronic system, just introduced, is amazingly quick and easy) and even the pick up of the rental car went smoothly. We left Manchester before 8:30 and were in Ilkley by 10am. By now it was a very bright and sunny day with some high white clouds and a temperature near 60F. We had a coffee at Caffè Nero before going to the flat.

We saw the burned hillside but it didn't look as bad as we had expected after fires at Easter and again last weekend. It is obviously blackened in places but a first glance suggests the Moor is as green as one would expect at this time of year.

After unpacking and settling in, I went for a 3.5 mile walk down to the river and back before resting (and napping) later in the afternoon.

Tonight (now Tuesday) we had our first meal at Piccolino.

## **Wednesday May 22**

We went to Caffè Nero for breakfast and then did a Tesco shop. I went for a bike ride (39 miles "Round the Mountain" via Skipton) and felt very tired afterwards. Meanwhile Molly had walked into town for some more shopping at M&S.

Tonight we ate at Quinta. It was while we were in the restaurant that I received an e-mail from Dave saying that Kathy had suffered a medical emergency as they were waiting to leave CVG and that they would not be arriving here in Ilkley tomorrow morning. We later learned that she had been released from ER, was feeling fine, and they anticipated flying on Friday (no flights available Thursday).

## **Thursday May 23**

We had breakfast at Caffè Nero again and then did a little shopping. I went for another bike ride (20 miles this time – much better) and then we stayed home for the rest of the day until we went to La Casita for dinner. We also heard that Kathy is much better and it looks like they will be joining us in Ilkley on Saturday.

## **Friday May 24**

After breakfast at home, I went for a late morning walk to the Cow and Calf and then to Ben Rhydding before walking into Ilkley to meet Molly for coffee. I returned via Victoria Avenue so I ended up with a 6+ mile walk. I added a little to this in the afternoon with a short shopping walk.

Tonight, Joanne and Robert picked us up at 8:15 and we had a very enjoyable meal at Emporio Italia. It was great to see them again and we had a pleasant chat.

## **Saturday May 25**

We had breakfast at Caffè Nero and then returned home to await our guests arriving from Manchester. It was about 12:30 when Kathy and David got to the flat and got settled in their room. We had a light lunch before three of us set out on a short walk. We went via White Wells to the Cow and Calf and returned on one of the many lower paths that end up on Wells Road near the apartment. It was quite breezy and we experienced a little rain on our return but everyone enjoyed the experience – even Kathy, who took a fall when we were almost back home.

Tonight we drove "the back way" to the Square and Compass in North Ripton. We had a very leisurely meal on what had now turned out to be a pleasant, dry evening and were back at the flat about 10:30.

## **Sunday May 26**

It was a wet and windy morning as we ate breakfast in the flat. Despite that, Dave wanted to take another walk onto the Moor, so we donned our gear and set out soon after 10. It was very windy on top as we climbed the steps behind White Wells and made our way to the Twelve Apostles and then to the marker at the highest point on Ilkley Moor. We returned via Keighley Road and got back around noon – absolutely wet through!

We again had a light lunch and then took a drive into the Dales. By now there was quite a bit of sunshine so we saw the countryside at its best as we drove to Bolton Abbey, Kettlewell and up the very steep road beyond to view the hills from a high vantage point. We then returned to the Wharfe Valley, had tea in Grassington and then meandered along back roads until we found our way back to Ilkley.

Tonight we had a very good meal at Pintoh, where the proprietors greeted us like long lost friends and underscored it with a free bottle of wine! We returned to the flat, enjoyed a nightcap and retired around 11pm.

#### **Monday May 27 (Memorial Day and Spring Bank Holiday)**

Kathy and Dave left us after breakfast and set out for three days in Edinburgh. They will return to Ilkley for two more nights on Thursday. The rest of the day for us was very lazy, with snacks/meals interspersed with naps/relaxation – and no walks! We did, however, make it to Piccolino for dinner.

#### **Tuesday May 28**

We had breakfast at Caffè Nero and then I went for a walk over the moor to Keighley, returning to Ilkley on the bus. In all, I completed almost 8 miles – a small compensation for the lack of exercise yesterday.

We stayed home for the rest of the day and for our evening meal.

#### **Wednesday May 29**

We had breakfast at Caffè Nero and then Molly walked into town for a little shopping. I walked down with her and then walked an additional 4 miles before we spent the rest of the day at home.

#### **Thursday May 30**

Today we drove to Harrogate first thing and had breakfast at our usual place. We then shopped at M&S and other stores along Cambridge Street before driving back to Ilkley. I had a short, somewhat wet walk before Dave and Kathy arrived back at the flat after their time in Edinburgh.

We had dinner reservations at Quinta where there was a fixed five course meal accompanied by Argentinian wines. The meal was generally good, although I thought not up to usual Quinta standards, but we had a very enjoyable evening nevertheless.

#### **Friday May 31**

We had breakfast at the flat and then left for York around 9am. We spent about 6 hours in the city, including almost two in the Minster where we took a guided tour. The volunteer was very good and gave us a lot of information that we would otherwise have missed. We spent time on the Shambles, walked a section of the city walls, and had two snack breaks. We arrived back in Ilkley about 5:30 and went for dinner at Piccolino at 8.

#### **Saturday June 1**

After breakfast, Dave and I went for a 4 mile walk along the north ridge of the moor. We dropped down towards Addingham Moorside but couldn't find a walkway to the lower road, so we had a short, but tough climb back to the ridge. We got back to the flat after walking the last ½ mile in a slight drizzle.

It was still drizzling a little as the four of us walked around Skipton in the early afternoon. We walked through the High Street market and along the canal before going to a local pub for a late lunch. Then it was time for Dave and Kathy to leave us and set off to Manchester, where they would spend the night before flying home Sunday.

Molly and I returned to Ilkley and went to Pintoh for dinner.

#### **Sunday June 2**

We had breakfast at Caffè Nero and went to the 10:45 service at church. I went for a 20 mile bike ride to Pool and back in the afternoon and we had dinner at La Casita.

#### **Monday June 3**

We had breakfast at Caffè Nero again and Molly walked into town later to do some shopping. Meanwhile I did another "Round the Mountain" ride via Skipton (41 miles) on a bright but very windy day. We then stayed home for the rest of the day.

#### **Tuesday June 4**

We had breakfast at Caffè Nero and later I went for a walk around Middleton, while Molly did her shopping. It was a very pleasant day

although there was a cooling breeze. Tonight we went to Monkmans.

### **Wednesday June 5**

Breakfast at Caffe Nero was followed by a bike ride. It was very breezy and quite cool (just touching 60F) but I managed to cover 36 miles, riding past the airport and then via Arthington to Dunkeswick, Pool, Huby and Otley to home. I probably felt as good after this trip as any so far, but I still wouldn't have felt like doing another 35 miles – as I will have to do on the Great Yorkshire Bike Ride.

Tonight Keith and Zena came over and we had a very pleasant meal at Emporio Italia – and some great conversation.

### **Thursday June 6**

It was another bright morning (not forecast) so, after breakfast, I drove with my bike to Skipton. I wanted to do another ride but fancied some flat land for a change, so I cycled from Skipton to Bradford (Manningham Park) and back. I enjoyed a coffee in Bingley on the return and sat outside in the warm sunshine. This was a 36 mile ride but I felt in pretty good shape after it; fewer hills really make a difference!

Molly had been into Ilkley again while I was gone so we had a late lunch on my return. About 6pm we left for a meal with Dorothy and David in Harrogate (Quantro). It was about 11pm by the time we got home.

### **Friday June 7**

After breakfast (Caffe Nero), Joanne came over to Ilkley about 10 and she and I went for a walk over the top of the moor. It was much better weather than when I did the same walk with Dave a week ago and we ended up meeting Molly for coffee in Ilkley before Joanne left. We ate at home tonight.

### **Saturday June 8**

We had breakfast at Caffe Nero and later we walked into Ilkley together. I did a 3+ mile walk and then we stayed home for the rest of the afternoon and evening.

### **Sunday June 9**

We had an early breakfast at Caffe Nero and went to the 10am service at church. This was a confirmation, so the Bishop of Bradford officiated. In the afternoon I went for a 24 mile bike ride and we met Joanne and Robert for dinner at the White Hart in Pool. Another very pleasant evening.

### **Monday June 10**

After breakfast the weather was still pretty good so I took another bike ride as far as Arthington and back. It was a relatively easy ride under breezy conditions – and it may be the last before the big ride on Saturday as the weather is supposed to deteriorate significantly.

I had a short walk in the afternoon and we went to Piccolino for dinner.

### **Tuesday June 11**

We had breakfast at Caffe Nero and then I drove to Guiseley to do a little shopping for bike stuff. Later I went for a short walk in Skipton. Molly stayed home – probably for the first time this trip!

Tonight we picked up Linda at 7pm and had a very nice meal and chat at Emporio Italia.

### **Wednesday June 12**

It was another showery day, so we did a little shopping after breakfast at Caffe Nero so that Molly didn't have to make another trek down into town later. I managed a (dry) walk, partly along the Dalesway later in the morning and then we spent the rest of the day and evening at home.

### **Thursday June 13**

It was still wet and cool this morning as we ate at Caffe Nero. About 11:30 we left for Silsden to pick up Susan for lunch. We met Joanne and Robert at the Fleece in Addingham and had a very enjoyable meal and chat for a couple of hours. I took a short afternoon walk and tonight we ate at Host, a relatively new restaurant in Ilkley. Despite good reviews, we were a little disappointed in some cold dishes and, worse, the apparent lack of interest by the staff.

### **Friday June 14**

We had breakfast at Caffe Nero and I took a walk later in the day. Tonight we ate at Quinta.

### **Saturday June 15**

Today was the day for the Great Yorkshire Bike Ride, covered separately. Suffice it to say that we made it (!) and ate at Pintoh by way of celebration.

### **Sunday June 16**

After breakfast at Caffè Nero we went to the 10:45 service at St Margaret's. I took a five-mile afternoon walk and we ate at the Vine tonight.

### **Monday June 17**

After breakfast I went for a short walk and around 1pm Cat and Jenson (now 2) came to visit. We had a great time playing with his cars, reading his books and feeding the ducks in the lake at Wells House. He really is a friendly and well-behaved little boy.

Dorothy and David came to the flat at 6:30 and we all went for a nice meal at Piccolino.

### **Tuesday June 18**

We went for another shopping spree in Harrogate this morning. Later, the weather was nice enough for me to try another bike ride, so I went via Bolton Abbey to Embsay and then on to Skipton, before returning to Ilkley. Other than the last mile up the hill, I felt fine on the ride and it was good to know that I could still ride after the GYBR.

Tonight, we ate at home and watched TV.

### **Wednesday June 19**

It was another bright morning so, after breakfast at Caffè Nero, I went for a walk over the Moor to Utley before getting the bus back to Ilkley. A good walk totaling a little over 8 miles. We ate tonight at the Devonshire Arms and had another fantastic meal. Unfortunately, Joanne and Robert had to call off because Joanne has been experiencing dizzy spells and felt it wiser to stay home.

Also, today we heard from Molly's brother, Robert. He was scheduled to join us on Thursday but has developed an itchy rash so has postponed the trip. He says he'll try for later in the week if he feels better.

### **Thursday June 20**

It was windy and relatively cool – but bright – so I went a walk along the north ridge of the moor as far as Addingham before returning by bus. We had another good Italian meal at Emporio Italia.

### **Friday June 21 (Our 54<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary)**

We went to Skipton market this morning and did some shopping. I went for a short walk in the afternoon on another bright day. Molly talked to Robert later in the afternoon and he has decided not to visit us.

We went to Saigon Bistro tonight for the first time in several years and had a very good meal. We even made friends with the new manager who fixed a very good Old Fashioned!

### **Saturday June 22**

We had breakfast at Caffè Nero and then I went for what I thought might be my last bike ride for this trip. I went via Guiseley to the outskirts of Leeds (near Leeds Trinity University) and then via Bramhope and Pool back to Ilkley; 31 miles in all on a pleasant morning. Tonight we ate at Quinta.

### **Sunday June 23**

We missed church today as we went to Leeds on the train to meet Elizabeth and Matthew for lunch. We had a very pleasant three hours with them before returning home. We had a light evening meal at La Casita.

### **Monday June 24**

Today we had a third shopping trip to Harrogate. I'm not sure why we seem to be in a buying mood on this trip but we enjoyed the time there. We then drove via Skipton (stop for tea and a teacake) to Barnoldswick as we wanted to return two toy cars that Jenson had left at the flat a week earlier. When we arrived he was sound asleep on the sofa in the living room so we returned the toys and left him to sleep. We drove back to Ilkley on a rainy afternoon via Crosshills and Keighley and then stayed home until dinner at Piccolino. We had a very pleasant chat with Anna who confided that she is "seeing" someone who is very kind to her! We shall see what develops over

time.

### **Tuesday June 25**

It was another rainy morning with precipitation forecast for much of the day. Molly had a hairdresser appointment at noon and I walked down with her to take a short walk. We both got soaked but at least we were out for a while. Tonight we ate with Stephen and Joyce Pilling at Monkman's.

### **Wednesday June 26**

Joanne came to Ilkley at 10am and we went for a four-mile walk, including coffee with Molly at Caffè Nero. In the evening we were joined by Joanne and Robert for another excellent meal at the Box Tree.

### **Thursday June 27**

We had breakfast at Caffè Nero and later in the morning went to meet Dorothy and David and Keith and Eileen at the Smokehouse for lunch. We had a nice meal and a good catch up on family activities.

At 5pm we were invited for a drink with Phil and Jan, next door at Number 22. They are in Ilkley for two weeks before returning to their summer home in Italy. We spent almost two hours on their deck before going to dinner (just the two of us) at Pintoh.

### **Friday June 28**

It was a very pleasant and sunny morning so I decided on a longer walk. I went via White Wells to Dick Hudson's and then down to Micklethwaite and Crossflatts. I caught a train from there to Steeton, walked another  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile to Silsden and got the bus back to Ilkley. All told I did almost 9 miles and got quite sun-burnt!

Molly meantime had done her final shop in Ilkley so everything is now stocked up for our next visit – or whoever might spend time here next. We ate at Quinta, which was surprisingly very quiet.

### **Saturday June 29**

We had breakfast at Caffè Nero on an overcast morning, although the forecast was for brightening skies and perhaps the warmest day of the year so far. At 12:30 we drove to Apperley Bridge where we met Fran and Alan who were about to start their narrow boat holiday on the Leeds-Liverpool Canal. Part of the transaction is that the new operators of the boat must be accompanied by an experienced "trainer" in order that he can show them the operation of the locks and swing bridges, as well as the boat itself. This would take several hours and we were invited to go along for the ride and take a taxi back to our car at the marina.

We really didn't have time for the full period but finally compromised by accompanying Fran and Alan (and David the teacher) through the first swing bridge and the two-rise locks that immediately followed. So, we quickly had a cup of tea in the marina café and then boarded Little Duke for the ride towards Shipley. As David had told us, the first swing bridge was "just around the corner" and the locks were not much further along. In fact, after opening and closing the first bridge (electrically operated), Fran and David walked along the towpath to get the locks ready for our passage.

Since Fran did not normally drive, it was her job to jump on and off at each of the obstacles en route and do the manual labor involved in opening the sluices and the enormous lock gates, while Alan maneuvered the boat along the canal and through the locks. We felt that Fran would be in pretty good shape at the end of their ten-day holiday, whatever her state of fitness now.

For Molly and I it was simply a lovely way to spend an hour; doing absolutely nothing except eating our teacake and admiring the skills of driver and mate. At the top of the second lock, we said our farewells and disembarked, leaving Alan driving westward and Fran jogging along the towpath towards the next training stop. Since Fran and Alan had experienced a number of narrow boat holidays, they felt that much of this training period was a waste of time (my words not theirs but Alan's comments suggested agreement).

Molly and I walked back along the towpath to the marina (only about twenty minutes) and retrieved our car for the journey back to Ilkley, where we arrived about 4pm. This gave us ample time to clean up and get ready for dinner with Joanne and Robert at the Timble Inn, a beautiful country hostelry about 20 minutes from Ilkley. It had been a very warm day (about 80F) and was now a lovely evening. We had a very good meal, with excellent service in super surroundings and vowed that this would not be the last visit to the Timble Inn. The company, as always, was wonderful.

### **Sunday June 30**

We had breakfast at Caffè Nero and went to the 11:45 church service. We even went to the coffee (and wine) hour following the service and said our good-byes to several of our new friends as well as the vicar.

I managed a short walk in the afternoon and at 7 we left for the King's Hall and a concert by the Airedale Symphony Orchestra. It was an excellent performance with works by Wagner, Weber (bassoon solo by the director's wife) and Berlioz and once again we were very impressed with how well these amateurs perform.

We completed our evening with a late dinner at Piccolino. Our friend Anna had left for the day but she had arranged a complimentary bottle of wine for us; a very thoughtful gesture.

### **Monday July 1**

We had breakfast at Caffè Nero and then started the final cleaning and packing in preparation for our departure from Ilkley. We had a light sandwich lunch at a tearoom in Ilkley shortly after noon and then set off for the drive to Manchester. Unfortunately, my phone ran down before we got to the rental car village, so it was a little difficult getting transportation to the hotel. We eventually made it soon after 4pm and made a dinner reservation at the Italian restaurant on site.

We had a very nice meal and retired about 10.

### **Tuesday July 2**

We were late up (9am) but still had plenty of time to enjoy breakfast in the lounge before getting the 11:15 shuttle bus to the airport for our 1:50 Virgin Atlantic flight to New York. Check in was quick and easy but we had the usual slow progress through security (typical of Manchester) but still had time for a snack in the lounge before our flight. The VA flight left Manchester on time and we had a short, 6 ¾ hour scheduled flight to New York.

The flight was uneventful and we arrived in New York about 30 minutes ahead of schedule. Getting through the airport and the associated security checks was less easy, however, and we needed virtually all the extra time to make it to our onward gate and the last leg to Cincinnati. We arrived home before 10pm, however, and soon collapsed into bed after another great vacation in England.