

***England and Scotland***  
***June-July 2021***



# *England, May-July 2021*

## **Friday May 28/Saturday May 29**

After a stress-filled few days spent getting ready for our first trip overseas in 1 1/2 years (paperwork, tests, etc required), we left home a little before 11am to get to the airport for a 2pm flight to Detroit.

Work on the bridge over the Ohio River caused a significant slowdown, so we detoured via I-471. We returned the rental car and checked in with time for a drink in the lounge.

The flight to Detroit was a little bouncy but we arrived early and got our exercise walking to the lounge nearest our departure gate. We had almost 2 hours before boarding the overnight flight to Paris. This flight was relatively smooth most of the time and the meal service was adequate – a cut above that we have recently received in First Class domestically, but not the “full service” we used to have on Delta One.

We arrived in Paris a little early on a beautiful sunny morning. Forms filled out on board regarding Covid tests and destination date apparently were not the ones the French authorities really needed so we were returned to our seats with additional forms to complete – essentially the same as the ones I had already completed online before we left! Duly collected, we were allowed to disembark.

Fortunately (this was CDG airport!) we had over two hours before our onward flight which gave us time to get through Security (not sure why this is necessary for a transfer) and find our gate – plus have a drink in the lounge. We had noted that the lines to exit the airport were extremely long and wondered if this was a foretaste of Manchester.

The one-hour flight on Air France was fine and we arrived on time in Manchester to a bright and mild morning. Getting through Passport Control was nowhere near as bad as we had been warned about (and nothing like Paris) so we soon had our bags and went outside to be greeted by our driver. It had been just 50 minutes since touchdown.

The drive over to Ilkley was quick and the weather got better as we went over the Pennines. We arrived at Wells House at 12:40pm, only 21 hours after leaving Mason, so all-in-all a good trip.

Wells House and the flat were as we remembered (although there is major construction work ongoing on Flat 27 near the gate) and Joanne had done a great job of stocking up with supplies and had even put out some flowers for our arrival. We soon felt as though we had never left and were unpacked and having a light lunch before 1:30. The afternoon consisted mainly of napping, some TV and then a very light evening meal before retiring around 9:30.

## **Sunday May 30**

It was hazy when we woke up around 8:30 but soon the sun was shining on another beautiful day. We had breakfast in the flat (no alternative during quarantine) and then settled in for a quiet day. I got a call from the Track and Trace people and about two hours later Molly also received one – but didn't get to answer it in time! I decided that I could sneak out for a short walk and covered about two miles. The rest of the day was indoors – looking out at the sunshine.

## **Monday May 31 (Memorial Day/Bank Holiday Monday)**

Another beautiful day in Ilkley! And another day waiting for telephone calls. Molly's came first (about 10:30) and mine was shortly after noon. Again, I decided that a walk was safe, so I ventured out – this time for 2.5 miles. We were then confined for the rest of the day but felt we were making progress.

## **Tuesday June 1**

About noon I checked the mailbox (for the third time today!) and found our Day2/Day 8 Covid test kits so we spent the next hour trying to interpret the instructions and taking the nasal swab test. Once they were ready for mailing, I felt quite justified in taking a longer walk (eventually to a mailbox) and spent some time down by the crowded riverside on another very warm day (opposite). Molly also ventured out for a walk up the hill to Westwood Lodge and back. With the test completed, we really felt that we were making progress.

## **Wednesday June 2**

It was yet another sunny and warm morning as we relaxed in the flat waiting for our calls. We got one around 11:30 but it was just a reminder about our appointment tomorrow when we must visit Boots in Keighley for our Day 5 “Test to Release” swab.



Hopefully, those results will be negative and will be quick to reach us – then we can get out of quarantine.

Tonight, Robert and Joanne came round, and we had a lovely fish and chip dinner and a great chat to catch up on the past 18 months.



#### Thursday June 3

After breakfast we walked into town and caught the bus to Keighley where we took our Test to Release Covid test at Boots. The process was quite efficient, and we were out within 20 minutes. This was just long enough for us to miss the bus back to Ilkley, so we decided to go via Skipton. We made an assumption that the test would be negative and had a coffee in Caffe Nero before taking the bus back to Ilkley. Once home, we learned that our Day 2 test had been negative and hope to get the important Day 5 results by Friday morning.

We also broke the rules and went to Pintoh for dinner where the owners greeted us like old friends and where the food was as good as ever.

#### Friday June 4

We woke up to find that I had received a negative Day 5 test so was free to leave quarantine. Molly's came a little later in

the day, so we are now free to do as we wish. We celebrated with breakfast at Caffe Nero and did a little shopping. Later, I took my first walk on the moor and went clockwise via the highest point. It's a five-mile walk, and I felt that I covered it at a reasonable pace.



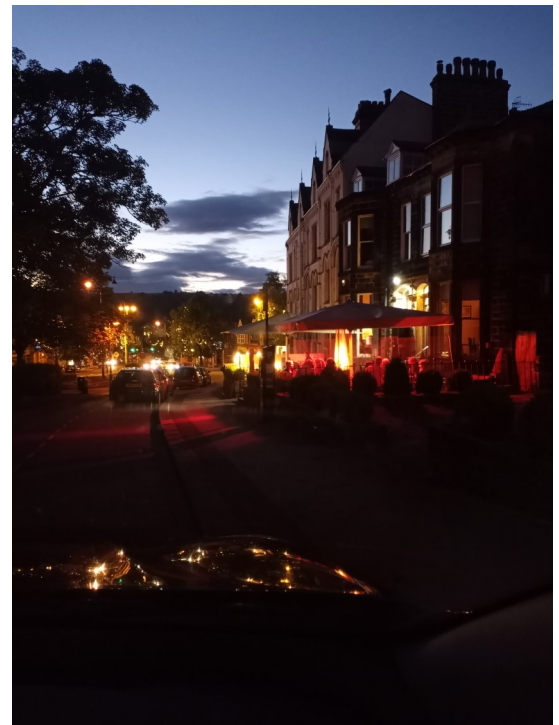


Tonight, we ate at Piccolino, where Noemi greeted us, and we were recognized by one of the managers. It was an excellent meal and we felt as though we had never been away. As last night, we took a taxi home as we won't have a car until Monday.

#### **Saturday June 5**

We had breakfast at Caffè Nero again and I went for a short walk while Molly did her shopping. Later, I went for a 16-mile bike ride (Otley return) and felt pretty good after completing it.

The rest of the day was spent in the flat and we finished with a great meal at Quinta and a long chat with the owner.



#### **Sunday June 6**

We had breakfast at home, and I went for a bike ride to Bolton Abbey (18 miles return). Although the temperature indicated differently, it felt quite cool most of the time – but of course, I warmed up on some of the hills! We then did our Day 8 Covid test (the last) and I did a 3-mile walk to post them.

We had dinner at home. As with all days so far, the weather was great - mostly sunny and temperatures in the sixties and low seventies.

#### **Monday June 7**

Today I had to get the bus (actually two) to the LB Airport to pick up our rental car. The pickup was slow but essentially uneventful (LBA was a ghost town) but I soon noticed a scraping sound on decelerating from higher gears. After getting back to Ilkley and meeting Molly for coffee, I took another drive and confirmed that the noise was still there. I called Hertz – with little

hope since they had very few vehicles available – but they eventually found another Kia Sportage and I picked it up at 3:30. They did their usual thing of insisting that I return the car with the same fuel level, despite the fact that most of it had been used testing and returning the car.

I managed to get in a short walk between car events and we went to Panache for a good Indian dinner.

### **Tuesday June 8**

Joanne came round soon after 10am and we went for a five-mile walk via the Cow and Calf and Ben Rhydding, meeting Molly at Caffe Nero for coffee.

Tonight, we had a very pleasant evening having dinner with Linda at Emporio Italia – great as usual.

### **Wednesday June 9**

I was up by 7am and did some paperwork before Molly and I drove to Harrogate for breakfast and for our first shopping expedition. What a disappointment! The town was very quiet, the café where we always have breakfast was still closed and the shops were almost deserted. We did have a nice sit down in Caffe Nero and we looked in M&S but came away empty handed. Back in Ilkley, I went for a three-mile walk, which included the area along the riverside.



Tonight, we ate at La Casita, which is now located in the restaurant previously owned by Monkman's. They have significantly changed the floor layout but the food is still very good – and the main waitress not only remembered us but also remembered the name of our favorite wine there!

### **Thursday June 10**

We had breakfast at Caffe Nero and did a Tesco shop. Later I went for a 28-mile bike ride to Skipton and back. It was slow but I enjoyed all but the last mile! We stayed home for dinner tonight.

### **Friday June 11**

We had a light breakfast at home and then drove to Skipton. The market was very quiet and there was a little drizzle, so we didn't linger before coffee. We then drove back to Ilkley via Keighley and Crossflats, after which I went for walk. Tonight, we met Joanne and Robert at the Square and Compass for dinner.

### **Saturday June 12**

We walked into town, had breakfast and then I went for a walk while Molly did her shopping and returned via bus. In the afternoon we had a brief water outage – no obvious reason – and later went to Quinta for dinner. It was exceptionally busy and a little slow.

### **Sunday June 13**

We had planned to go to church but cancelled as Molly had a tickly cough, so we thought it wiser to stay away from crowds. I went for a walk along the north ridge of the moor and then we went into town for coffee. We stayed home for the rest of the day.

### **Monday June 14**

After breakfast I went for a walk towards Addingham and back along the river and Dalesway. We dined tonight at Piccolino.

### **Tuesday June 15**

We drove to Harrogate for breakfast at Café M and then on to York to do some shopping. It was good to see that York was far livelier than Harrogate although shopping at M&S was less than stellar. Fashions seem to have changed significantly!

We then drove to Ripon and spent a very pleasant 3 ½ hours chatting with Dorothy and David in their garden on a lovely, sunny afternoon.

We ate at Pintoh tonight.

### **Wednesday June 16**

Joanne came over after breakfast and we went for a walk through the Panorama Woods to the river and then to Caffè Nero to meet Molly for coffee.

The afternoon was spent at home, and we dined in.

### **Thursday June 17**

We had breakfast at home and then I walked over the moor to Keighley, returning on the bus. The afternoon was spent trying to get the driveway concreting sorted out – which I believe we finally accomplished.

Tonight, we ate at La Casita.

### **Friday June 18**

We had breakfast at Caffè Nero and did a Tesco shop. Later we went for a drive to Grassington. It was a very pleasant drive, and we had a brief walk and a light lunch.

Lunch in town before returning via Skipton. I then spent several hours with Hertz, the AA and the RAC in attempts to diagnose the problem with the car and get it exchanged. Part way so far.

We walked into town for dinner at Piccolino and returned via taxi.

### **Saturday June 19**

It was another bright and sunny morning, pretty much as they have all been since our arrival three weeks ago. After a light breakfast I was able to contact Hertz in Leeds city center who have a car available. So, I drove to pick up a Toyota Corolla automatic – not what we want but better than nothing, and it's good to have a car that runs.

I had a short afternoon walk and we went to the Vine for dinner, a good Italian meal.

### **Sunday June 20**

We had breakfast at home and then went to the 10:45 service at St Margaret's. It was nice to be in a proper church setting again, with a (small) choir. We were in assigned seats, but I would guess that there were at least 50 in attendance. We had a nice chat with Stephen and Joyce and several other members.

I went for a short afternoon walk and then we stayed home for the rest of the day and evening.

### **Monday June 21 (Our 56<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary)**

We had breakfast at home and then we both walked into town – Molly to do a little shopping, me to continue for a short walk. Went to dinner at Piccolino with Robert and Joanne.

### **Tuesday June 22**

We had breakfast at home and then I went for a very short walk before we left for Pateley Bridge. Here we met Fr Philip for coffee and had a very pleasant and amusing hour plus with him. We returned home for just about an hour before driving to Barnoldswick to see Cat and Jenson. The big news is that another baby is on the way, due around Christmas. We spent about 1 ½ hours catching up and then she suggested coming to see us in Ilkley before we go back to Ohio.

Tonight, we had another great evening at Emporio Italia.

### **Wednesday June 23**

We had breakfast at Caffe Nero followed by a Tesco shop. I walked 3 ½ miles before we left for the Smokehouse for lunch with Dorothy and David and Keith and Eileen. It was a nice lunch with some spirited discussion as always. We then spent the rest of the afternoon and evening at home.

### **Thursday June 24**

We had breakfast at Caffe Nero again and at 11:30 left for Silsden to pick up Susan for lunch. We were joined at the Fleece in Addingham by Joanne and Robert for a very pleasant chat and leisurely meal before taking Susan home. She is a remarkable 87-year-old.

Tonight, we ate at La Casita.

### **Friday June 25**

We had breakfast at Caffe Nero and then Molly did a little shopping. We returned to the flat and booked our pre-departure Covid tests at Manchester on the Friday before we leave. (None were available in Leeds).

I went for an almost six-mile walk in dreary conditions, but it did stay dry on a mostly rainy day.

Tonight, we ate at the Box Tree with Joanne and Robert and had a four-hour meal and chat. Excellent food and company, spoiled a little by the messing up of a drink.

### **Saturday June 26**

We had breakfast at Caffe Nero, and Molly did an M&S food shop. We are expecting Fran and Alan this afternoon and Robert was also supposed to come. However, we received a message to say he wasn't feeling well and had returned home. We later heard that he had had a dizzy spell (which he has had before) and would not be joining us. Alan and Fran arrived about 4pm and we all ate at Pintoh later.

### **Sunday June 27**



We were up before 9, had breakfast in the flat and caught the 11:20 train to Leeds to meet Matthew and Elizabeth. We had a very pleasant lunch and chat at the Restaurant Bar and Grill (in the fine old post office building) before returning to Ilkley and spending the rest of the day relaxing and chatting in the flat.

### **Monday June 28**

Fran and Alan left about 10:30 and I went for a walk from Guiseley to Shipley. I then met Molly in Ilkley for coffee, and we ate at the Ilkley Cow tonight.

**Tuesday June 28-Wednesday June 30. Visit to Scotland. See Rambler's Fairway Re-visited, attached as Appendix.**



#### **Thursday July 1**

We left Powfoulis after breakfast and a very nice stay and left for Ilkley. We drove by the Kelsie statues and then pretty much kept going, with one coffee stop. It was a beautiful drive, and we too took advantage of the weather to get off the motorway south of Edinburgh before re-joining the M6 at Kirkby Lonsdale. We were home by 4pm and dined at Quinta.

#### **Friday July 2**

I went for a 23-mile bike ride (Pool return) and we were picked up at 6:45 by Joanne and Robert for our evening in the Belegant Burlington Room at the Devonshire. An excellent meal and conversation that lasted over 4 ½ hours.



#### **Saturday July 3**

We went to Caffe Nero for breakfast and then spent the day at home. It rained on and off all day – the first such experience for the visit so far. We stayed home, watched TV (Tour de France and UEFA Euros) and had an Indian meal.

#### **Sunday July 4 (Independence Day)**

We went to church and then to Caffe Nero. In the afternoon I went for a walk, got drenched in a heavy thunderstorm, partially dried out and then got drenched again on the last stretch of Wells Road.

Tonight, we met Joanne and Robert for dinner at the Square and Compass.

#### **Monday July 5**

We had breakfast at Caffe Nero, and I went for a five-mile walk later. Tonight, we ate at Piccolino.

#### **Tuesday July 6**

We had breakfast at Caffe Nero, and I went for a short walk. Just before 3pm we left for Addingham to have dinner with Dorothy and David at Linda's home. It was a lovely meal, and we had some interesting conversation over a 6 ½ hour period.

#### **Wednesday July 7**

We had breakfast at home and then I went for a walk over the moors to Keighley. I met Molly there and we did a little shopping before returning to Ilkley together on the bus.

Tonight, we ate at Emporio Italia.

#### **Thursday July 8**

We had breakfast at Caffe Nero and dropped off some clothes at the charity shop. I then walked via White Wells and the Cow and Calf to Burley, returning to Ilkley by train.

Tonight, we ate at the Box Tree.

#### **Friday July 9**

Today we had to go to Manchester to get our pre-departure Covid tests. We had breakfast at Caffe Nero and then took a train to Leeds and on to Manchester. We arrived before noon and (eventually) found the Boots on Market Street where we were to be tested. This went smoothly (negative results, we found out later). We then spent about 3 hours in the city center, trying to identify where we were and commenting on how much it had changed since we lived there. We left for home just before 4pm and were home in time for a final meal at Quinta for this trip.

#### **Saturday July 10**

After breakfast at Caffe Nero we went back to the flat to wait for Cat, Steve and Jenson to arrive for a visit. We had a very

pleasant 2 hours or more – chatting, playing games with Jenson, feeding the ducks and having a snack. I went for a short walk in the afternoon, and we went to Pintoh with Keith for dinner. Unfortunately, Zena was in pain following some dental work and could not join us, but we had a good chat with Keith.

### **Sunday July 11**

We had breakfast at Caffe Nero (second attempt as they don't open until nine on Sundays!) and then we packed and prepared the flat for our departure. I had time to walk down to town to watch over 4000 runners in the Ilkley Half Marathon as they passed mile 3 of their journey.

We drove to Manchester in the afternoon, turned in the car, and went to San Carlos in the Marriott for a good Italian meal. This happened to coincide with the final of the Euros in which Italy and England competed. It was a rather noisy evening which, unfortunately, left England as runners-up after extra time and the penalty shootout.

### **Monday July 12**

We were up at 7:30 and got our taxi at 8 to arrive at the airport for a 10:50 flight to Paris. It turned out to be a very fortuitous early arrival as the Air France agent didn't accept our Covid test results (partly my fault, but he didn't cut us any slack) so we had to walk across the airport and take another test – still negative! We were able to then get our boarding passes, pass through security and made our flight with probably 30 minutes to spare. It was raining as we left and was even heavier rain in Paris where we transferred to our flight to Detroit. Formalities here were a little less stressful but included some last-minute (and unnecessary?) paperwork.

The flight to Detroit was fine and we enjoyed a good meal and a long sleep. The transfer time in Detroit allowed us to relax in the lounge for a while before the last leg to Cincinnati. We knew that the rental car facility would be closed (arriving after 10pm!) but were surprised when uber cars were costing over \$150 and then were unavailable. So, we took a taxi back to Mason and arrived home right about midnight. It was a rather eventful day, but we made it after a great visit to Ilkley.

***Appendix***

***The Ramnler's Fairway Re-visited***

***June 2021***