

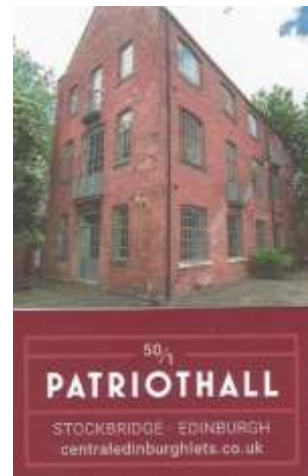
Scotland

July 24-August 4, 2016

Sunday, July 24 - Since our flight from Boston to Heathrow left so late (21:35), we had plenty of time to take the bus from Portland. So we drove from Brunswick to Portland and had lunch at Bao Bao (now closed). After enjoying their Breakfast Bun, Shao Mai, and Lamb Dumplings we headed off to the Portland Transportation Center and caught the 13:30 bus to Boston Logan. We arrived too early to check-in for our flight, we had a drink while we waited for the Virgin Atlantic desk to open at 17:30. Finally, we were able to check-in and proceeded to the Upper Class lounge. It was very nice and we were ensconced to wait for our flight to board. There was a short wait to board because the plane had a problem with its air conditioning system. In fact, even after we boarded, the plane was still uncomfortably warm. However, the seats in [Upper Class](#) were great. Cindy and I were able to sit at the table in my seat/suite to have a drink before we left for take-off. We had a small meal, then had a good sleep until we were awakened to prepare for landing.

Monday, July 25 - We landed at Heathrow around 09:15, deplaned, picked up our bags, went through Immigration, and headed for the [Revival Lounge](#). What a great concept! We went into the lounge and ordered breakfast. I had a very well done Eggs Benedict and Cindy had Greek yogurt with fruit. It made the trip from Terminal 3 to Terminal 5 (for our British Airways flight to Edinburgh) much easier to bear. Anyway, we took the Heathrow Express to Terminal 5 and checked-in for our flight. After arriving in Edinburgh, we picked up our bags and walked to SIXT where we picked up the rental car, went into the Sainsbury's along the way for supplies, and drove to the apartment at Patriothall. We parked the car (Patriothall also provided a parking space in an enclosed lot) and went into the apartment. We settled in and had a drink, then went down the street to Hamilton's (now closed) for dinner. Afterwards, we walked back to the apartment, read for a while, then went, gratefully, to sleep.

Tuesday, July 26 - Since we had a reservation at [Purslane](#) for dinner on Thursday with Tom, Alexander, Genevieve, and Olivia, we decided to go there for lunch. It was only a



short walk around the corner through St. Stephen's Place to St. Stephen's Street. We saw the sign and walked into the door only to discover that we were in a barber shop. The occupants (barbers and customers) gave us an odd look and the barber explained that the restaurant was downstairs. There are many businesses in basements of buildings in Edinburgh and Purslane was one of them.



Anyway, we went into the tiny restaurant and were greeted by a friendly waiter. We had a wonderful lunch of beef salad for a starter and salmon with pea and artichoke risotto for the main course. It was, overall, a fantastic lunch. I've always been impressed that people in Edinburgh are so friendly.

After lunch we took a walk around the neighborhood to see what had changed since we were here in 2011. There have been a few changes but most things seem the same. We walked past Rafael's (now closed) and decided to have dinner there tonight. So we returned to the apartment and relaxed until it was time for dinner. The owner of the restaurant (Rafael I assume) greeted us and when I told him that we had dined there in 2011 he said he thought he recognized me (I guess I haven't changed that much). Anyway, we ordered from the chalkboard menu that offers the available daily dishes. Cindy started with a duck and orange pat  and I had blood sausages and lentils. For our mains, Cindy had sea bass and I had lamb shoulder, which was a large serving and I was barely able to finish it. It was a wonderful meal though.

Wednesday, July 27 - This is the day that Tom, Alexander, Genevieve, and Olivia arrive, albeit at 23:15 tonight. So we had lots of time to kill. We drove to New Town and [Caf  Royal](#) for lunch. We found a parking garage, left the car, and walked to the caf  where we had some oysters to start. They have great oysters there as we learned from our first visit in 2011. Cindy had Salmon and Caper Fishcakes and I



had Fish and Chips. Both were a bit disappointing but OK. Afterward, we walked to Princes Street and decided to go to the [Scottish National Gallery](#), which is at the end of the [Princes Street Gardens](#). It was hot and crowded when we went into the gallery and we were still a bit jet-lagged. The gallery was also overwhelming so we decided to go

back to the car and drive home. We went into what we thought was a shopping mall attached to the parking garage but there were no stores open there and it was difficult to find a way into the garage. Fortunately, we found a friendly guard there who showed us how to get to level 3 of the garage. I had to turn the car around because we had driven to a dead-end on level 3. Then, as we were driving out, I scraped the passenger side of the car on a corner as we turned to exit the garage. Up until that point, I seemed to be doing OK with the right-hand drive, standard shift car but this incident ruined my mood for the day. We also got a bit lost on the way back to the apartment but finally made it back.

We had agreed to meet Nicola, the owner of Tom's apartment, to get the keys and drop off some supplies for them. She showed us around the apartment and gave us the keys and, also, recommended Peter's Yard for freshly-made pizza on weekends (more on that later). So we left and walked back to our apartment where I had a martini to soothe my tortured soul.

We decided to have dinner at [Sabor Criollo](#), where we had eaten when we were here in 2011. I didn't have any beer or wine, because I would be driving a lot later, so dinner was just OK.

We finally drove to the airport where we traded our small car for a van at SIXT. Then we settled in for a long wait (about three hours until Tom's flight arrived from Malta). We had some coffee and tea at a Starbuck's there and were tortured for a couple of hours by some awful jazz music that was only being played there. Eventually, we moved closer to the International Arrival gates and escaped the music to a quiet spot. After what seemed like an eternity, their flight arrived. We collected the van and took them to their apartment and went home.

Thursday, July 28 - We had to get up early since we planned to drive to [Glasgow](#) for a tour of Glasgow University (the first one that Genevieve wanted to consider when she goes to college in 2018). Of course, parking was difficult but we found park-and-pay spaces on a street near the building where the tour was to start. I stayed with the van while the others walked to the tour because it was only possible to pay for the parking for thirty minutes at a time and the tour would last for a couple of hours. When they returned, we drove into town and parked on the street near [No. 16](#) restaurant, where we had booked for lunch. Supposedly, we could only park on the street for thirty minutes but, after talking with the waitress about the consequences, I decided to take a chance and we did not get ticketed. Whew! After lunch, we drove back to Edinburgh and our respective apartments. Tom and Alexander went for a walk around the neighborhood and found [Nok's Kitchen](#), a great Thai restaurant just a few minutes from the

apartment. We had a very good meal, sharing several dishes, then went back to our apartments.

Friday, July 29 - Cindy and I chose to ride a bus (Lothian #42) to [University of Edinburgh](#) rather than walk with Tom and the kids. We arrived at 2 Charles Street shortly before them to await the second tour for Genevieve. At about 11:00 we were guided around the campus and saw some interesting sights. Also, we saw preparations underway for the Edinburgh Festival, which begins August 5. After the tour, we had lunch at Tutto Matto (now closed), near the university, then went to the [National Museum of Scotland](#). It was fabulous! Great exhibits, everything from transportation, communications, science, technology, wildlife, etc. Way too much to see in a short period of time. So we left Tom and the kids and took the bus back to our apartment.

This was the night we would have dinner at Purslane. We had a great time and everyone enjoyed the evening. I think this is now our favorite restaurant in Edinburgh.



Saturday, July 30 - Tom, Alexander, Genevieve, and Olivia went into town to see the castle and do some shopping so Cindy and I decided to relax, then take the #66 bus to the waterfront for lunch at [The Ship on the Shore](#). While waiting for the bus, we talked with some local folks and they were very intrigued, and concerned, by the Trump situation in the US. It appears that many Scottish people are bemused by that, as well as the Brexit situation in the UK.

Anyway, we rode the bus to a stop near the restaurant and had a delightful meal of oysters and mussels. Then we walked around the waterfront a bit and back to the bus stop, where we waited for a very long time for the bus.

We had decided to have pizza from Peter's Yard, which Nicola had recommended. Tom and the kids had eaten sushi shortly before we arrived at their apartment, so about 20:00, Tom Alexander, and I walked to Peter's Yard. We ordered four pizzas and had a drink while we were waiting. After about fifteen minutes, they informed us that they only had enough pizza dough left for two pizzas (Nicola had warned us about this possibility). So Tom and Alexander took the two pizzas and I walked next door to [Pizza Express](#) to get two more pizzas. It turned out that we all liked

the pizzas from Pizza Express more than the ones from Peter' Yard (we won't tell Nicola).

Sunday, July 31 - We packed up, loaded the van, and headed out of Edinburgh for [St. Andrews](#) and our 12:30 lunch at the [Grange Inn](#). After a few missteps, we finally arrived right on time. The Grange Inn restaurant was wonderful. Our table had a spectacular view, overlooking a peaceful, bucolic field with St. Andrews in the distance. The food was also spectacular. Alexander, Genevieve, and Olivia were ecstatic about their dessert of Clock Beer Pudding.

After lunch, we drove into St. Andrews and our lovely house at 29 Argyle Street. It had five bedrooms, two and one-half baths, a great kitchen, huge sitting and dining room with a peaceful view of the garden. The picture at right is the roundabout just down the street from the house, which leads into town. After we settled in, we walked to the ruins of the [St. Andrews Cathedral](#),



where Tom discovered a headstone of one of his ancestors Alexander Thomson. We also saw the tomb of Old Tom Morris and his son, Young Tom Morris, both famous golfers from Scotland. Afterward, we walked past the ruins of the St. Andrews Castle and on toward the [Old Course](#) at St. Andrews. Tom and the



kids walked the course and took pictures on the famous bridge (see below). Cindy and I chose to walk

back to the house (we were pretty tired and it was a long walk back).

Since it was Sunday, there weren't many options for dinner. Just down the street from the house we found [St. Andrew's Brewing Company](#). They served mainly burgers, which suited all of us, and some really good beer. We had a great time there.

Monday, August 1 - We all walked to the admissions office at [St. Andrew's University](#) to schedule a tour for Genevieve. We set of for a long tour led by a freshman student. It was an extensive tour including a session with a counselor who offered a detailed explanation of the course offerings, etc. Genevieve was impressed but said she thinks she liked University of Edinburgh best. There are also some other UK schools that she may consider so the jury is still out.

After the counseling session finally ended, we were all starved so we went to [Forgan's](#) for a nice lunch. I had been keeping my Visa card and driver's license in my front shirt pocket and realized it wasn't there. I thought it had fallen out when I pulled my glasses out of the pocket so I set of to try to find them. I asked at the restaurant whether someone had found it but they said it hadn't been turned in. Tom and the kids went shopping while Cindy and I walked back to St. Andre's admissions office to see if some there had found it. No one had turned it in there either so we walked back to the house. When we arrived, it occurred to me that I had changed shirts that morning. Surely enough, my Visa card and driver's license were in the pocket of that shirt. Whew! What a relief.



Later, Tom and kids returned to the house and we visited for a while. Alexander suggested that we cook dinner at the house that night. So after a bit of discussion, we decided to have lamb and asparagus. So I went to a local butcher (Minick) to find something. When I went in and asked whether they had any racks of lamb, the butcher told me that an American had just left with the last of them. However, he did have ten lamb chops so I got those and headed for Tesco to get some asparagus and salad. We cooked them and had a delicious home-cooked dinner.

Tuesday, August 2 - Tom wanted to try a restaurant at a place outside of town called [Balgove Larder](#) so we drove then van there only to discover that it was only open from Wednesday to Sunday. So we drove back to the house and walked to a nearby restaurant called The Grill House (now closed). They had sort of a Mexican themed menu that was pretty good, especially considering that we are in Scotland. After lunch, we went to [Topping & Co.](#), which is an intimate little bookstore nearby. Even though it is small, they have an extensive selection of books, some of which are even signed first editions. I bought a map to help get a better idea where things were in St. Andrew's. I had been wanting to see the harbor but wasn't sure how to get there. So we walked down to the harbor, which was east of town behind St. Andrew's Cathedral. Here are a few pictures:



We began walking back along the waterfront. Tom got way ahead of Cindy and me so we broke off and started walking back to the house. This quickly became a good idea since it started raining on the way back.

That night, we didn't really want to go out for dinner. So we decided to have Indian take-out from [Tulsi](#). The food wasn't that good and it was also pretty cold by the time it arrived at the house. At least we had something to eat that wasn't a lot of trouble.

Wednesday, August 3 - We packed up and left the house (we had to be out by 10:00) so we had a lot of time to kill before our 12:30 reservation at the [Peat Inn](#). We drove to the [St. Andrew's Botanic Gardens](#) where we managed to enter by a back entrance. See the next page for some pictures.



We finally left the gardens and proceeded toward the Peat Inn. It was still before noon when we arrived. Tom went inside to ask if we could have a drink while we waited for our reservation and they said it would be after 12:00 before they could accommodate us. They mentioned to Tom that there was a walking path near the restaurant so he and Cindy went for a walk. Meanwhile, I sat in the van with the kids and read my book "American Nations". I read a chapter and wanted to stretch my legs. So I walked to the back of the inn where I saw some llamas in a pen behind the inn. I went back to the van to get Alexander, Genevieve, and Olivia and show

them the llamas. They got a kick out of it. Shortly, we were able to go in and order a drink and look at the menu. Then we were escorted to a nice room overlooking the garden. We had a fantastic meal of starters, main, and dessert. It was expensive but well worth it. The restaurant has one Michelin star and it showed.

Next, we drove to a little village called [Culross](#) where Tom wanted to take a picture of himself under the town sign. It seems the company that helped start his new career was incorporated there. So we stopped at a car park and Tom, Cindy, and Alexander walked around the village for a while.

We left and drove on to the Hilton at the Edinburgh airport. We checked in, went to our rooms, relaxed a bit, and did some research to determine where we might get something for dinner later. We found a Morrison's in the [Gyle](#) shopping mall not too far away. Tom, Alexander, and I drove there but turned the wrong way from a roundabout and had to go back to the store and finally got there. We bought some chicken and pasta and drove back to the airport where I returned the van to SIXT and walked to the Hilton. We had a final visit with Tom, Alexander, Genevieve, and Olivia, said our goodbyes, and went to our room to prepare for an early trip home.

Thursday, August 4 - Our flight from EDI to LHR left at 07:00 so we got up early. We were able to get to the airport in time to get a bite of breakfast before we boarded the flight. When we arrived at Heathrow, we picked up our bags, checked in for our flight to Boston, and headed for the [No. 1 Traveller](#) lounge. It was a great way to pass the time while waiting for the flight. Anyway, we flew home in Premium Economy, which was quite comfortable. We got to Boston and were able to bypass immigration because of our Global Entry status (best \$100 ever spent). We took the bus to Portland and then drove home.