

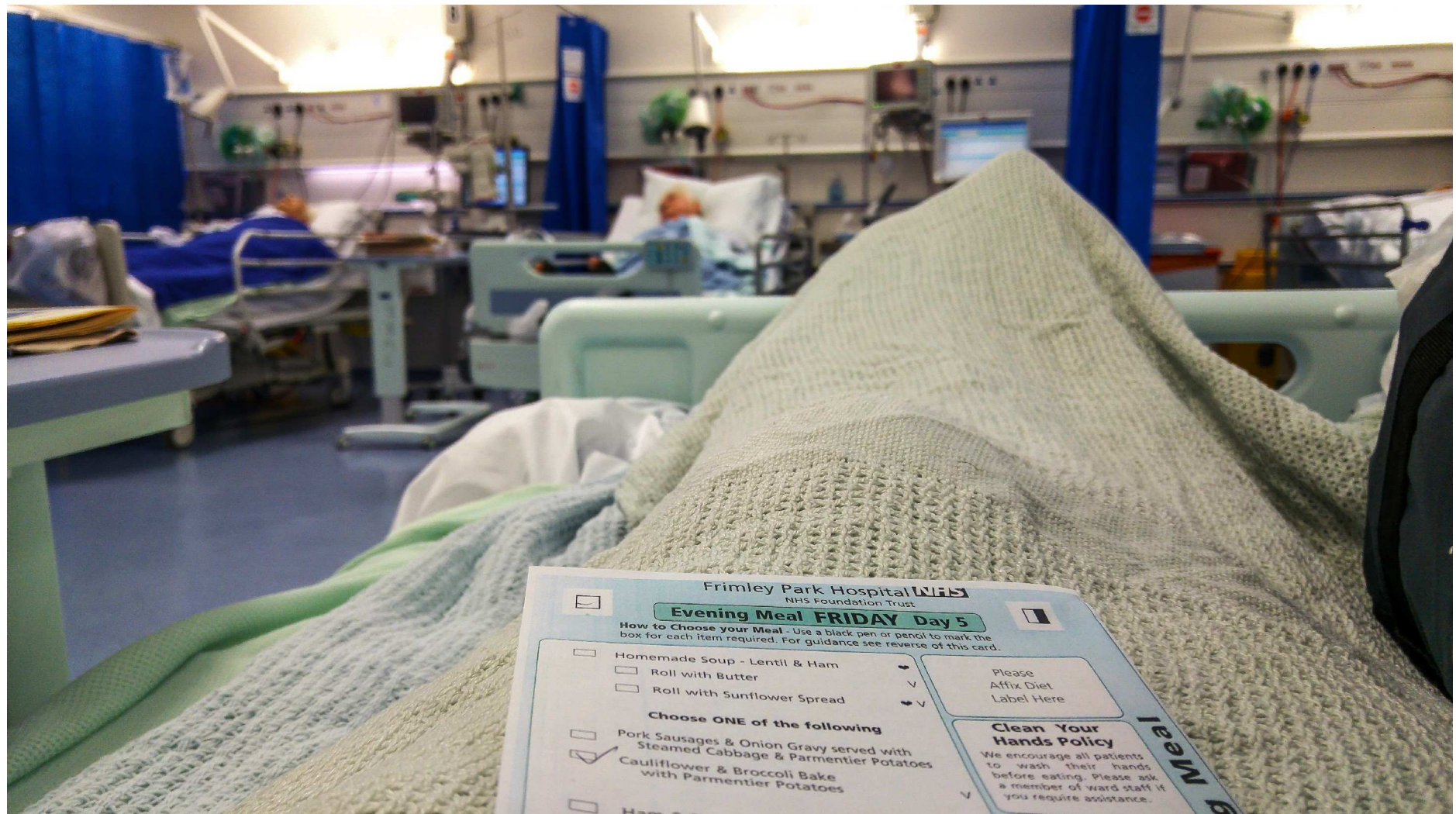
A Bag Full of Peaches



A Bag Full of Peaches

This is the third book in the series, approximately covering the years 2015 & 2016. On a personal level these two years were overshadowed by a sciatic nerve problem in both legs, which was solved by two lots of surgery. The picture below, taken with my phone, at Frimley Hospital as I lay in the recovery ward, not in any pain, happy as a lark on morphine. At the time I reflected that although life was not particularly great at the moment, it could have been a lot worse. Looking through the pictures in fact it was very good.

During this time mobile phone cameras became a lot better, a number of pictures were taken with my phone as it was the best camera I had with me at the time. I have indicated where I have used my phone, you can then judge if they are good enough to stand this amount of enlarging.



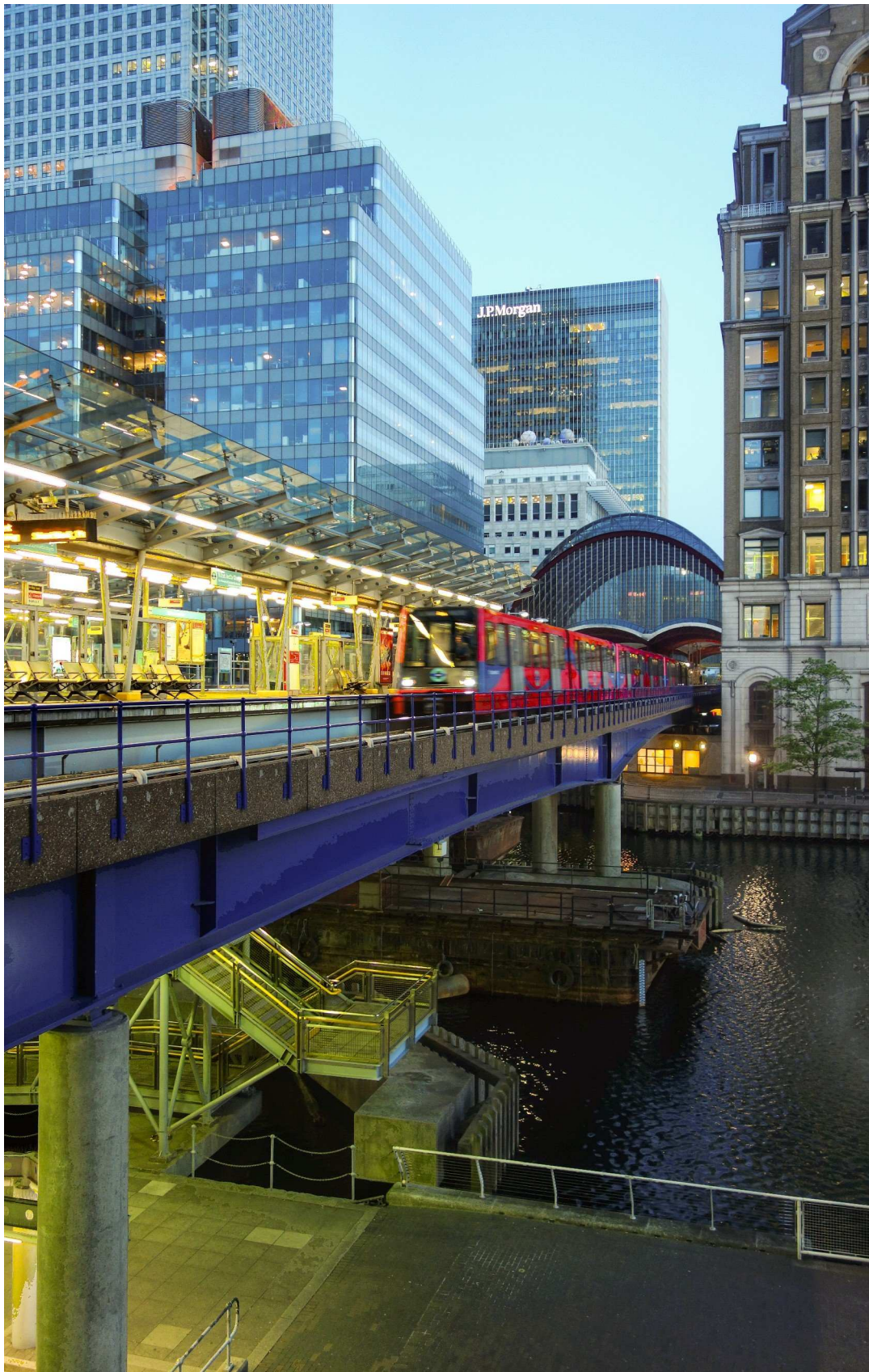


London

The first pictures are from various visits to London. An endlessly fascinating place, just delighted I don't live there.









Above: A hipster coffee shop and roasting place near Old Street; lots of atmosphere, expensive, but sadly crap coffee. On the left a coffee cup in the Serpentine Gallery, a great bit of design and good coffee.....Both are phone pictures.

On the right: Under a bridge on the Regent's Canal.

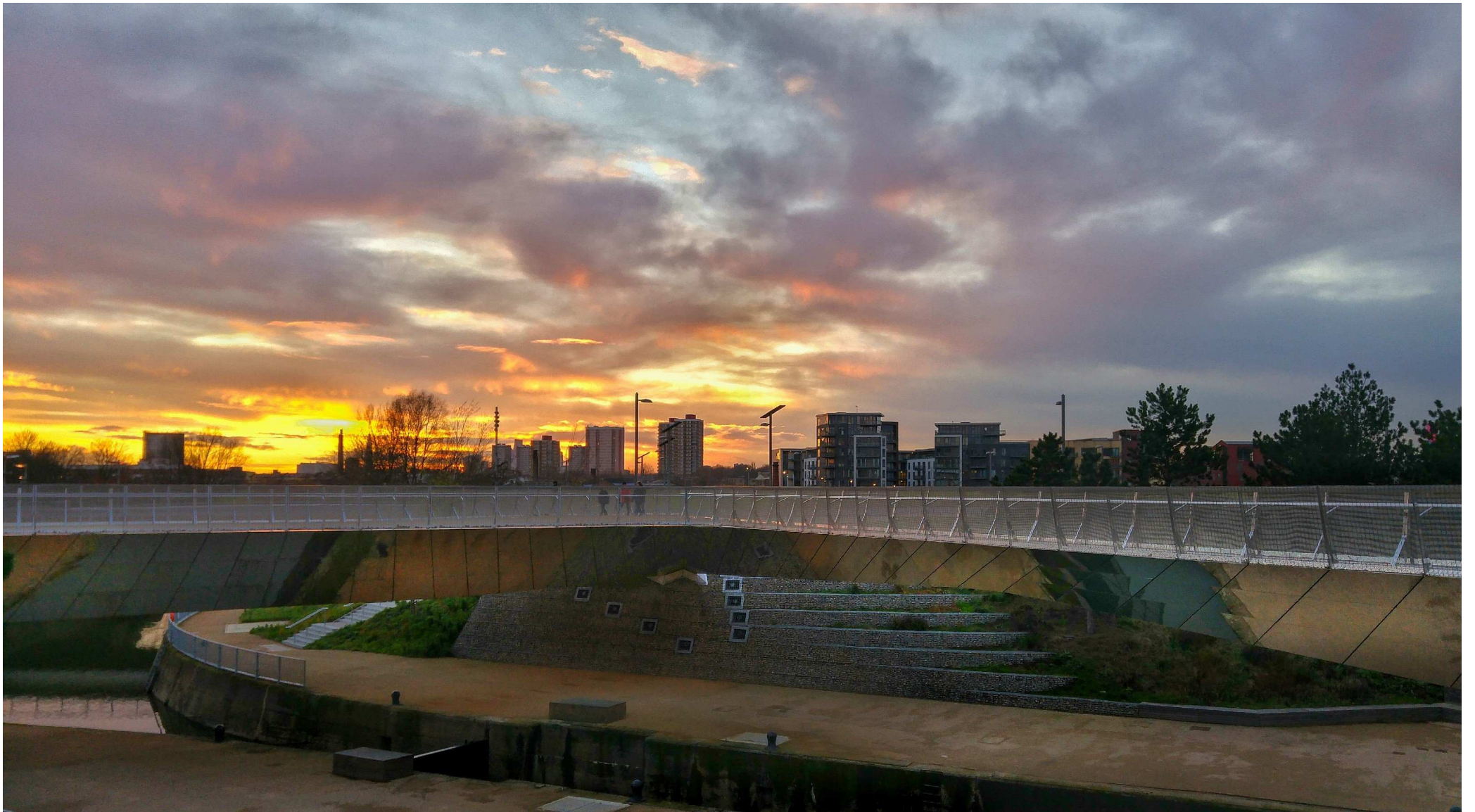






MIRROR FRAGILE. PLEASE DO NOT





Previous page: A lonely security guard at the top of the ArcelorMittal Orbit....or as the family know it 'The Red Donger' .

Above: An evening walk with Hannah the Hound (aka The Granddog) and Kathryn in The Queen Elisabeth Country Park. All three pictures were taken on my phone.



In this modern age you have to be careful of taking pictures of children. However this site in Leicester Square was too good to miss. When I enlarged the picture I just loved the look of joy on the little boy being restrained by his big sister.



Previous page: The city reduced to lines.

On the right: A phone picture of The Thames at Christmas.







Countryside

This section is made up of pictures from country walks in southern England.

Above : This year's cygnets on the Basingstoke canal.

Right: A winter's day in Winchester





Above : Evening mist at the source of the River Test, near Overton

Right: The River Itchen at Winchester







Top Left: Gurkha families sit and look at the view of Aldershot from Caesars camp

Bottom Left: Chesil Beach from Portland Bill

Above: Memories of frequent evening walks by the canal near Winchfield



Above: Down a long path I found this field of Medicinal Poppy seeds near the South Downs, the exact location I cannot remember.....just as well

Right: Somewhere on the South Downs

Over: A cold day at Caesars Camp









Above & Right: The River Itchen near Winchester College

Over: Near the source of the river Test







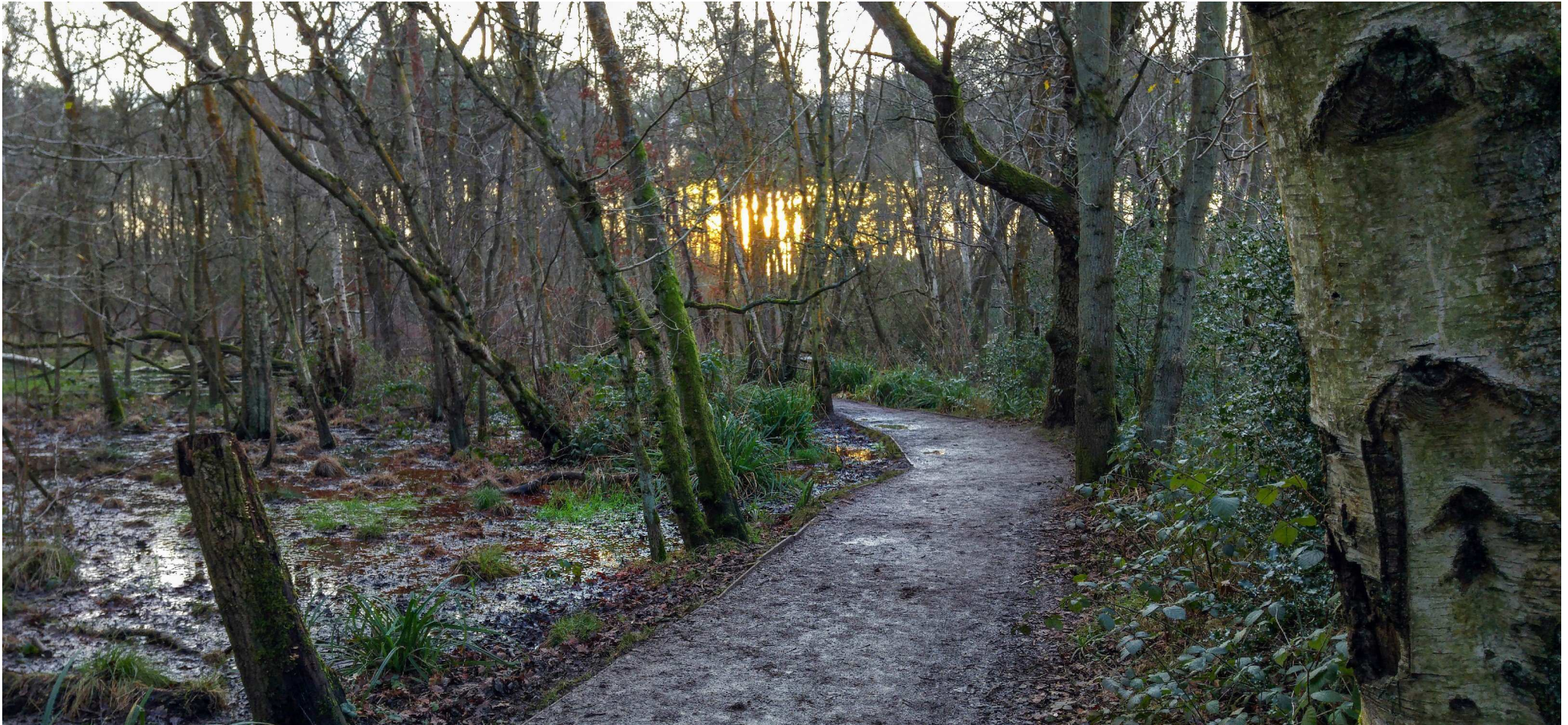




Above & Left: Both taken with a phone....With Glyn & Brian walking to the Degenerate Bums' lunch at Farnham. A pleasant 4.5 mile walk through the woods, that leads to a beer (or two?) lunch, followed by a snooze. It's all in the title.....Degenerate Bums' Lunch.

Sadly Brian will no longer be making the walk with us. Glyn and I were always reluctant to tell Brian to slow down because we could not keep up with him going uphill. Just after these phone pictures were taken, Brian's long distance walking days were over.

Above and Right: These phone pictures were taken on a walk around Fleet Pond the day after I came out of hospital It might have been a cold day in winter, but it was great to be out walking with little discomfort!









Left: Swan's Farm, near Winchfield

Above: From the canal near Greywell

Below: Brian was always good at finding new walks; this lovely little spot is near Hartley Whitney





Right: On the frequent trips to Devon we pass this copse of trees near Chicklade. I am always fascinated at how they look at different times of the year.

Above: Sunset from Sandbanks beach.









Left: On the beach, Weymouth.

Above: One of the few pictures painted in these couple of years.





Left: A winter walk near Pembury, Kent, taken on my phone.

Above: A butterfly at Wisley



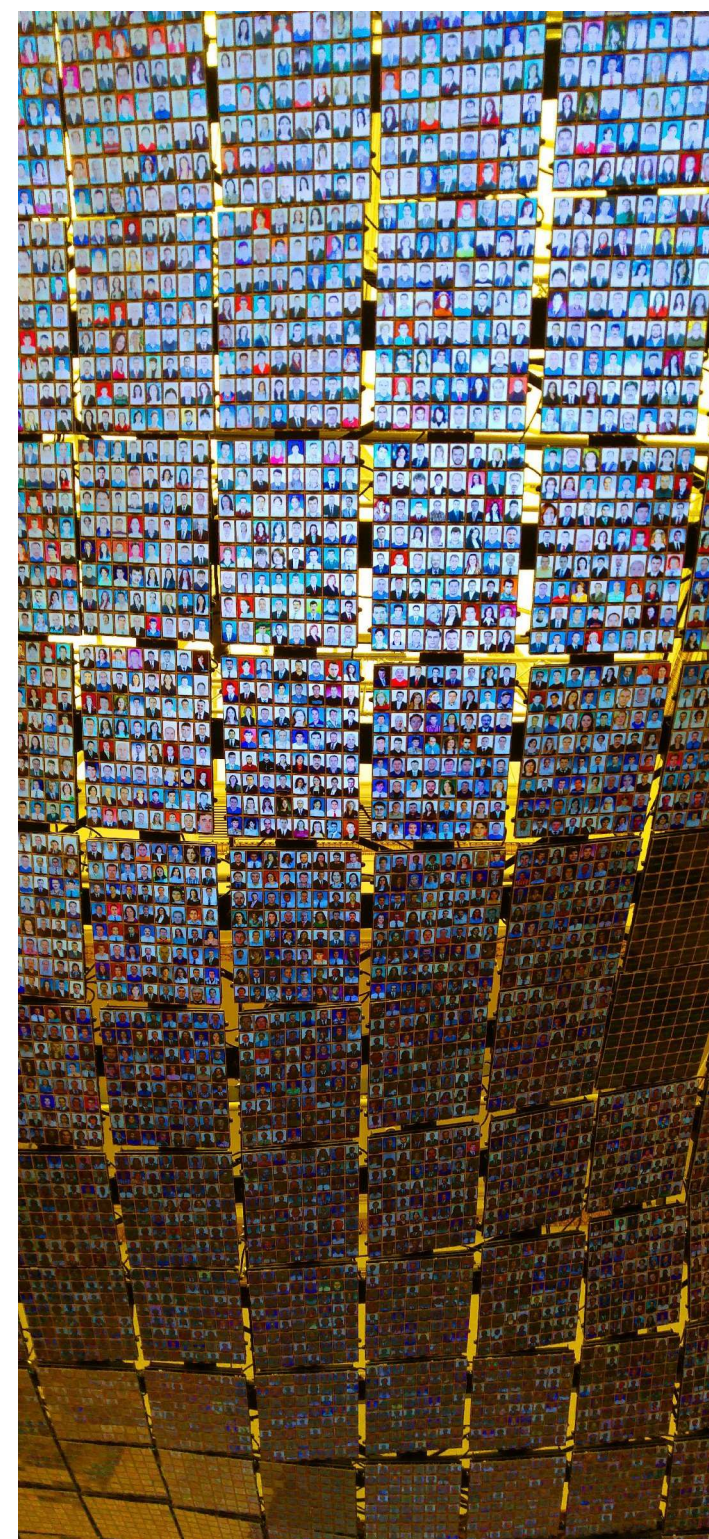
Art

My father once said 'Culture comes by the square foot or the hour; you just have to choose how to take your punishment'. I tend to like it by the square foot. The picture on the left is Rob and I working on a phone selfy in the Saatchi gallery.

Above: My painting (which sold) at The Frame in Odiham.



Left: Somewhere in Bordeaux?



Centre, Right and next pages: Summer Exhibition RA, Piccadilly









Both Pages: Summer Exhibition RA, Piccadilly

THE TANKS

SWITCH
HOUSE
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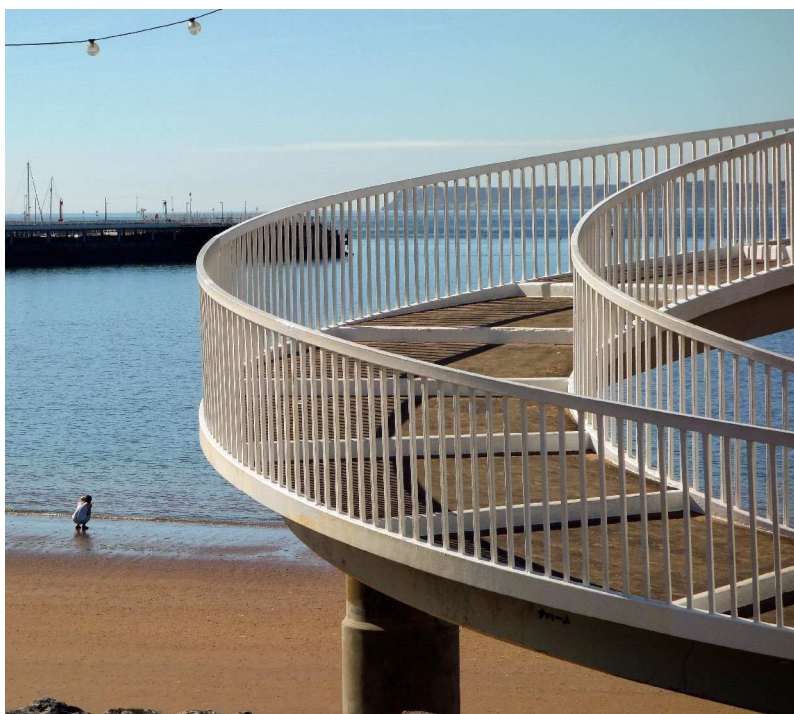
Previous Page and Right: Tate Modern, London





Food

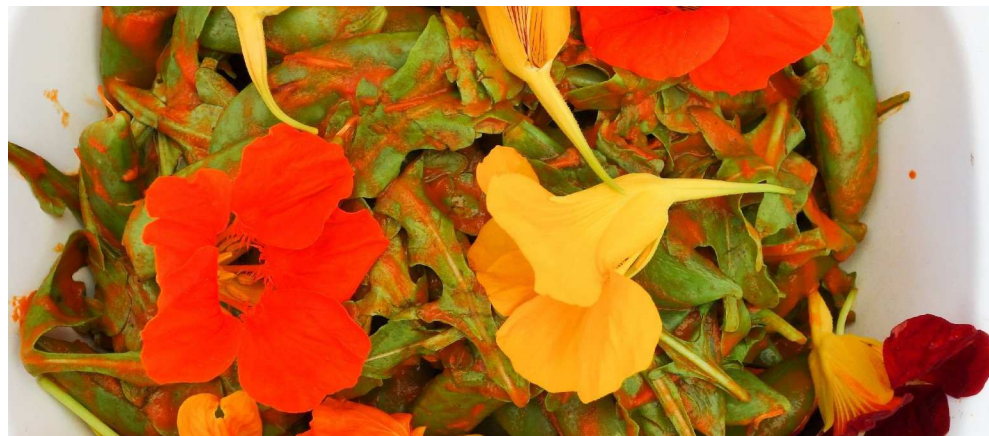
Taking pictures of food is regarded as being a bit 'naf'.... Don't know why, I love good food, especially with good company. The pictures in this section are from two occasions, my birthday and Brother Ian's big birthday.



It's my birthday and we are using Ian & Mary's house in Torbay while they are away enjoying the Australian winter. My birthday....so I can choose the day.

Breakfast is Costa and SB on the sea front, followed by lunch at my favourite restaurant, Riverford Kitchen near Totnes. Even better that Kathryn and Jon are on holiday in the area and able to join us for lunch.









Big Brother's Big Birthday Bash....Ian and Mary flew into London City. We met them, had breakfast at The Breakfast Club in the Olympic Park, and walked towards the Red Donger, trying to imagine the great views through the fog.

Then on to Muro's for lunch....it could not have been better. OK the Sky Garden was closed for a fire alarm. But Kathryn laid on grub and a great birthday cake in Hackney Wick to round off the day.









Switzerland with Rob

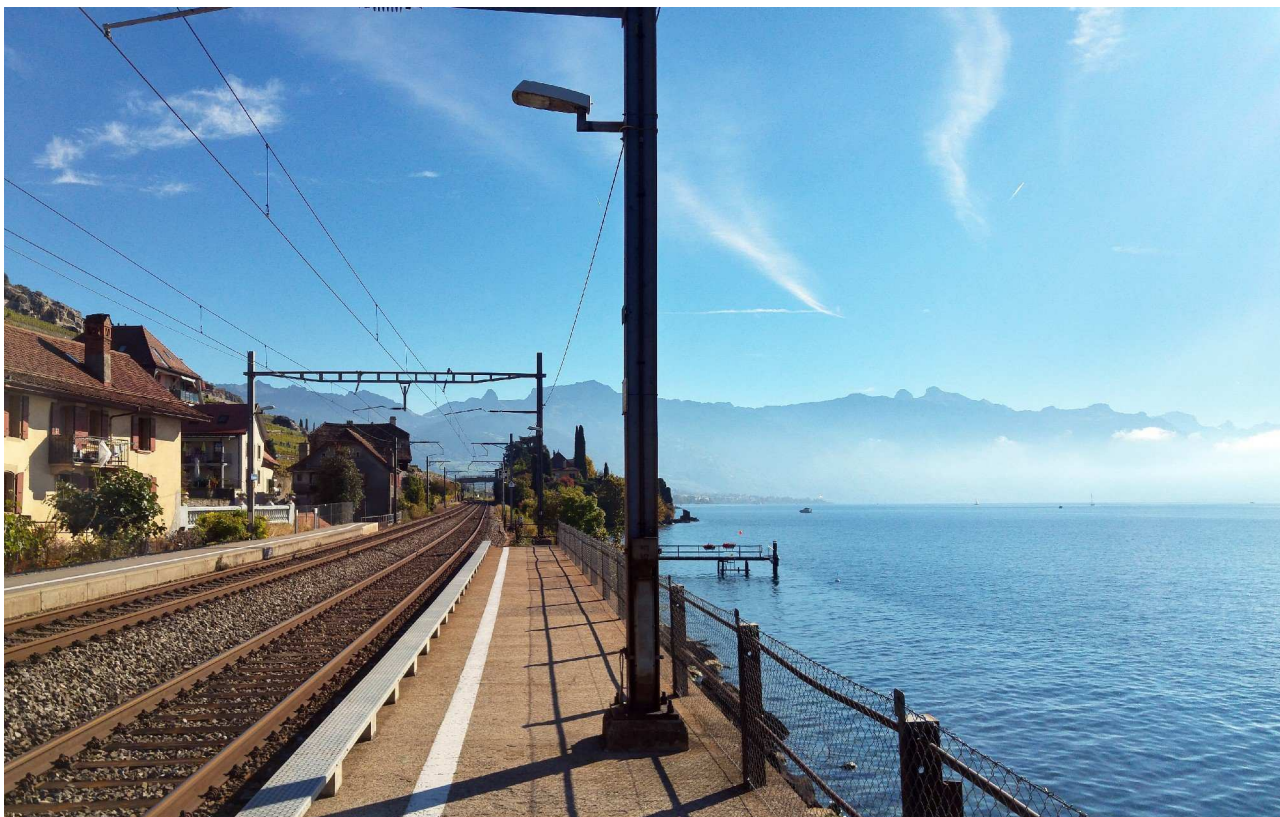
Usually once a year Rob and I head out for 4 or 5 days walking, hanging out together, drinking and eating.... I enjoy every moment.

In 2016 we decided to improve the quality of loafing around with an Airbnb flat in Geneva. The weather was mixed, the walking was great.

Far Left: From the top of La Dôle, a quick 600mtr climb. Where one of the party reminded the other how unfit and old he was.... Great view from the top though.

Left: Waiting for a train in the café above the station.... I think they beat Costa and Fleet Station for views.

Apart from these two pages all the rest of the photos were taken on my phone.



















The picture on the left and far left did not follow the usual form for our walks. As it was I and not Robert who led us astray to try the swing.

Below and on the previous two pages: Pictures from one of my most memorable walks ever; through the vineyards between Saint-Saphorin and Pully by Lake Geneva.

The swing pictures and the next page: on a rainy day's walk from Aigle to Bex.









The Lake District

Two trips in two years....the first with Glyn to walk the Cumbrian part of the coast to coast walk. The second to show Joy everything I had found on the first trip.

Both very enjoyable journeys, but I think my days of hill walking might be coming to a close. The pain vs reward balance seems to be tipping towards pain. The pictures on this page were from the last walk of the Coast to Coast trip.

Above: I climb into the cloud, strong wind and driving rain - High Street.

Right: The view of Kidsty Hows taken in driving wind and rain. There was no way of stopping the water on my lens, on reflection it adds to the drama.









Previous page: Sunset over Ambleside from our Airbnb (used on both trips)

Left: Sun light pours from a gap in the clouds, looking down on Borrowdale Fells.

Above: A lone tree in a sea of trees, Ennerdale Fell.







This Page: After a delightful morning 'footering' about with Glyn, for coffee and a big photoshoot exercise at Stonethwaite Fell, I walked (staggered ?) to the top and over Greenup Edge. Wandering down the other side, it dawned on me the sun was going down and I had a couple of hours walking left to do, but only an hour of daylight. I still could not stop myself from taking this photo looking towards Wythburn Fells.

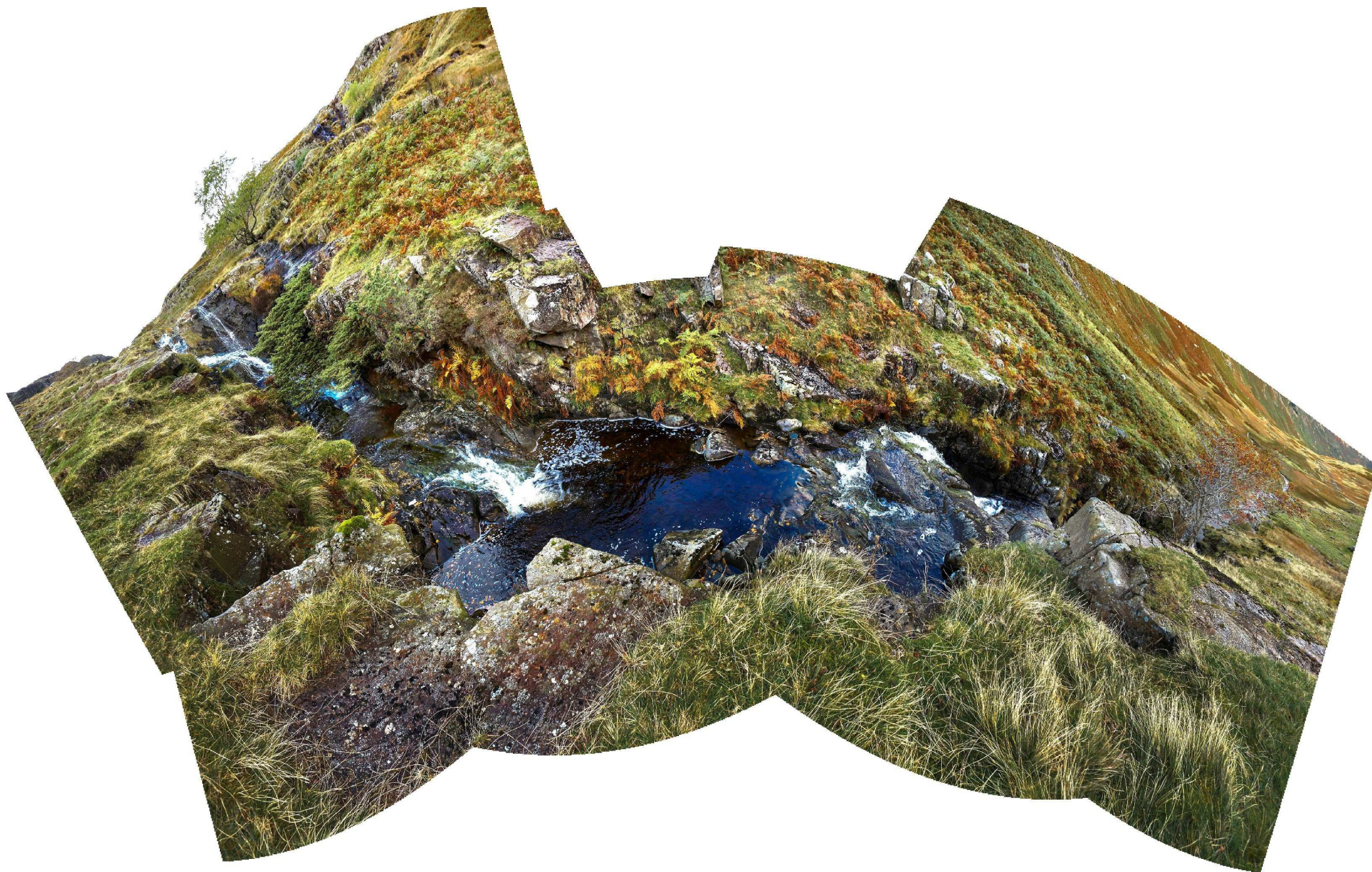
I survived the experience and reminded myself (again!) about the virtues of an early start.

Next Page: Black Sail Hut, looking towards Great Gable. Tempted though I was to go up Great Gable, to even the score, I resisted. (long story, best for a verbal retelling) I knew Glyn was waiting for me in the café at Honister Pass and so I turned and panted up the hill on the left.









Left: Struggling up Hardknott Pass with Hardknott Roman fort behind.

Above: Far Easedale Gill.

Next Page: Looking down on Grasmere.







Bordeaux and Brittany

Photos of a 10 day trip to Bordeaux in 2016 and from a holiday in Brittany the previous year.

Left: Cathedral Saint-André, Bordeaux.

Right: Waiting for the new exhibition, CAPC musée d'art.... wonder what's under the sheets?

Over: Place de la Bourse, Bordeaux from the reflecting mirror.



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La contrainte économique fait partie
de la solution, pas du problème.
Repensons les règles de l'économie
urbaine pour ouvrir des alternatives
à un monde souvent favorisé par
le rente et la spéculation.
Economic parameters are part of
the solution, not the problem.
We must rethink the rules of

urban economics to create alternatives
against the rent and speculation.









Bottom Left: Saint-Émilion

Top Left: Part of a wine art installation at ESARC Evolution Bordeaux.

This Page: OK the food section has gone, but I love French small town and village cooking, simple, inexpensive and delicious.





Left: A storm blows over the beach near Lacanau Océan

Above: Evening by the river, Bordeaux.

Next Page: On the promenade Arcachon





Accès à la sculpture
INTERDIT
en embarcation
et à la nage
Bienvenue
WIFI
FACILE

GR 6 →



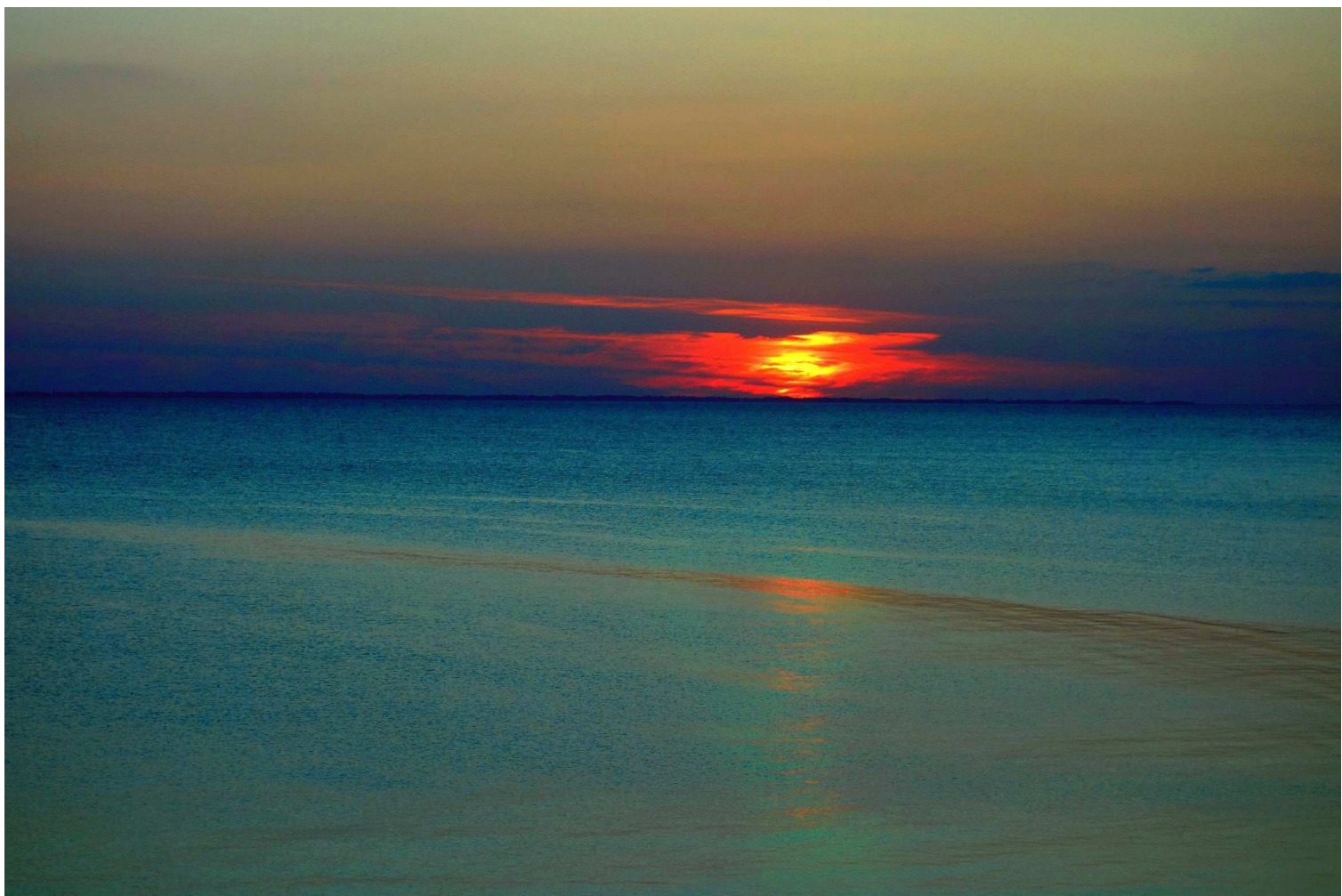


Above and Right: On the end of the peninsular opposite Etel, Brittany.



Above: OK It's not France, but going to France...on the Ferry at Portsmouth.

Right: Sunset Gulf of Morbihan ...I cannot be more exact than that.



Devon and Pembrokeshire

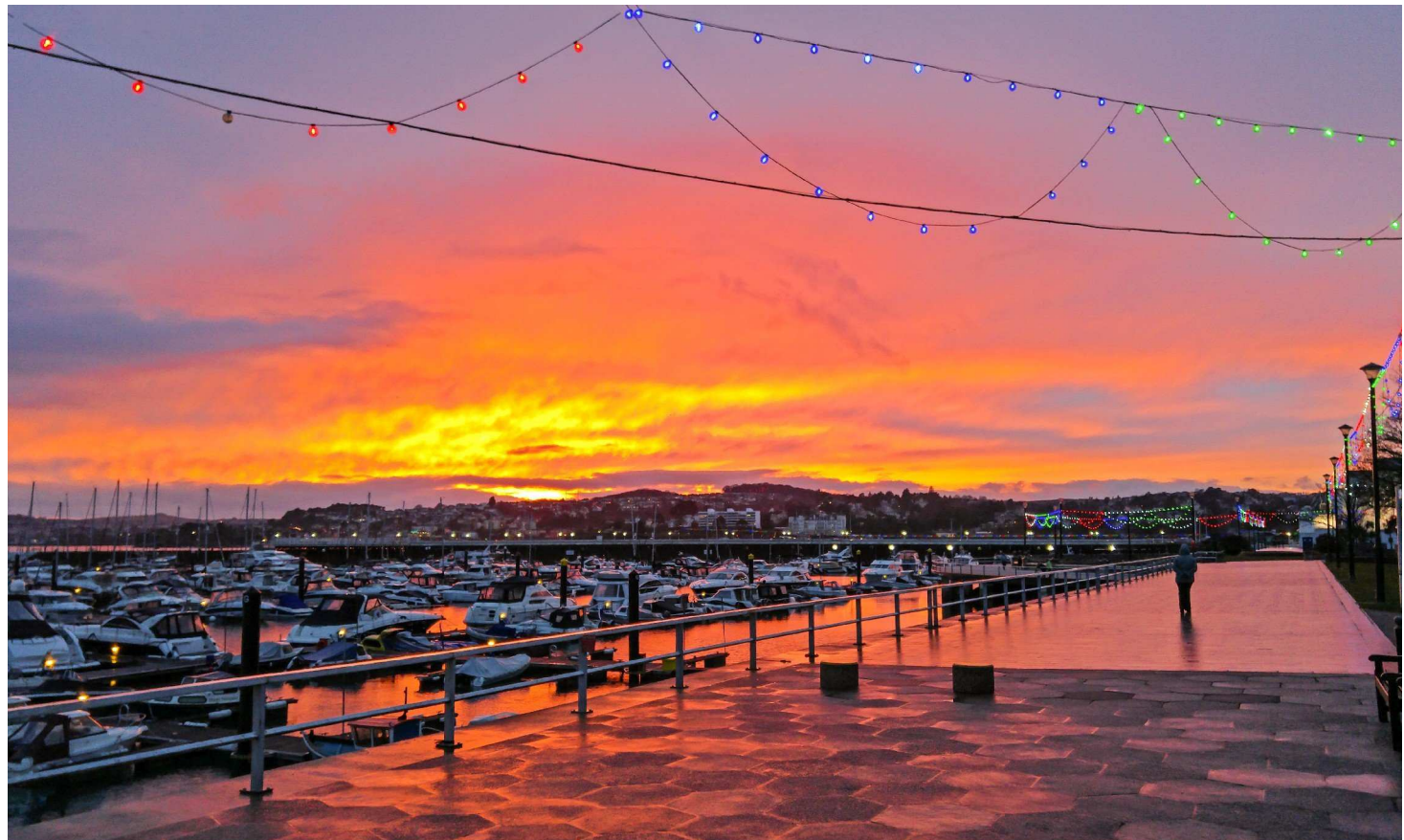
Ian and Mary kindly let us use their house in Torbay when they are away on holiday. So we enjoy a nostalgic visit to an area Joy grew up in and where we both lived for a number years.

We have both wanted to return to Pembrokeshire, great coastline...but little else.

On this page: Phone camera pictures of the sunset in Torquay. Both pictures taken within 5 minutes of each other.

Right Page: Phone picture of the storm breakers and a wet idiot, Torquay Harbour New Year's day.

Next Two Pages: Phone Camera at Brixham and Paington.















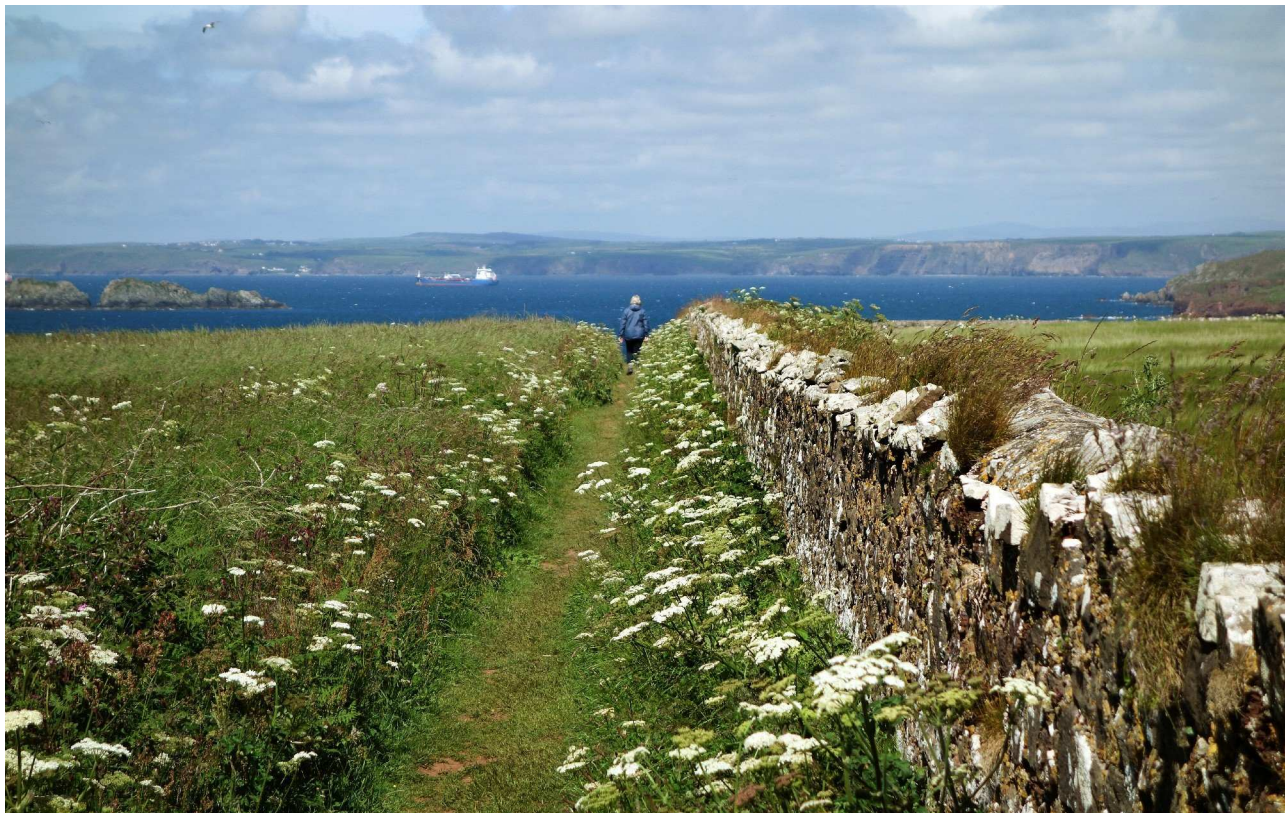
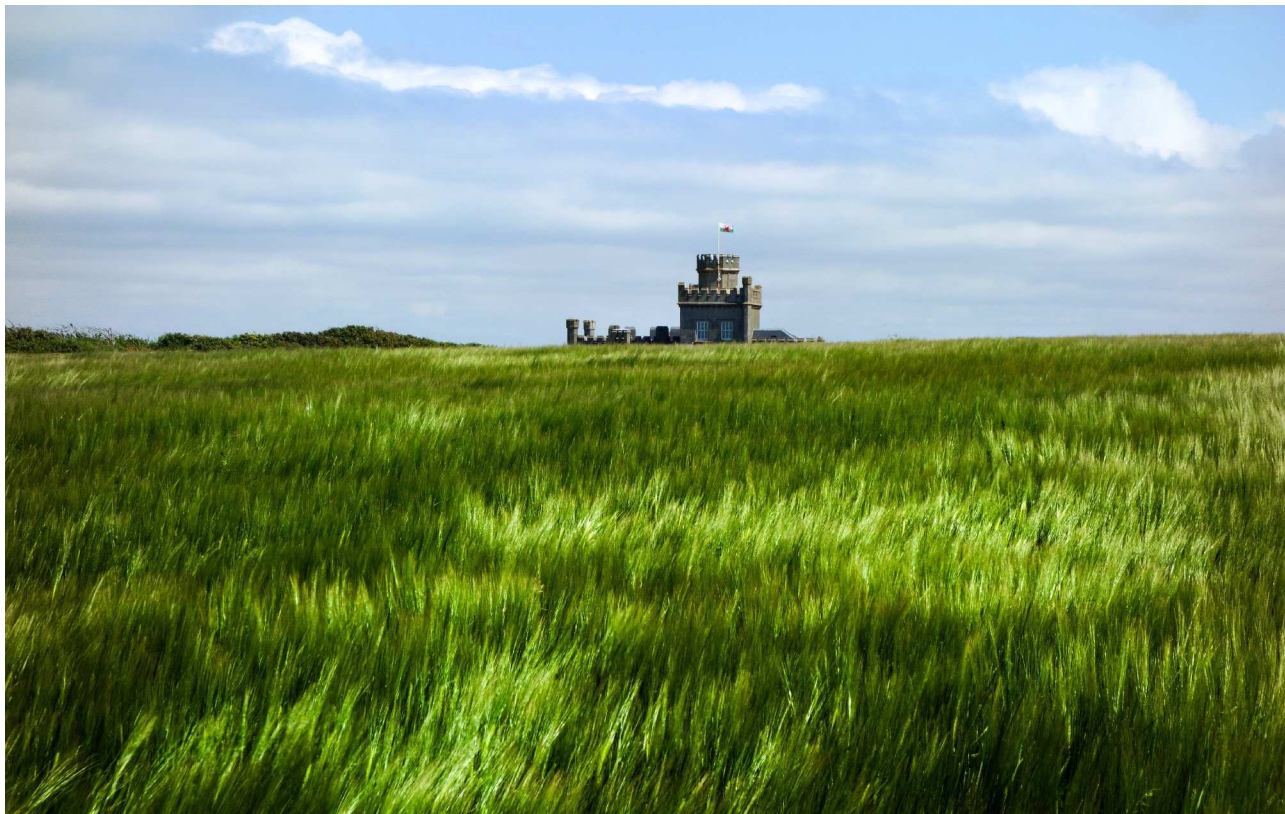


Left: Mumbles Pier

Right: Dartmoor, near the source of the River Plym.

Next Page left: Walking on Pembrokeshire coastal footpath.

Next Page Right: St David's Cathedral, Pembrokeshire







Puffins on Skomer Island and Dale Roads, Pembrokeshire

Over: Marloes Sands, Pembrokeshire







Family & Friends

To end the book a few pictures of family and friends.



My Facebook Post for Jim's 80th Birthday

I have known Jimmy Walker for over 30 years when we both worked for Kodak. We have walked together for the past 25 years... the first 14 years every two months, the last 11 years every month. On top of that he has joined me for 4 days on a lot of my long distant walks in France, Spain and Switzerland. We have walked together on some of the UK long distance paths, The Highland Way, Cumbrian Way, The Thames path and a lot of other walks in Skye, Lake District, Peak District, Dartmoor, etc. etc.

Because we chat most of the time we have made some of the most spectacular navigational errors, missing Great Gable on two separate occasions. I have also experienced some of the most impressive hangovers in my life caused by this manRusty Nails in the Kingshouse hotel, Glencoe, comes to mind, not to mention nearly being asked to leave the Bridge of Orchy hotel....Jim's fault not mine.

I have worked out we have walked well over 3,000 miles together. Until a few years ago we used to walk at least 12 miles on each trip...these days we tend to walk there and bus back.... But we usually manage 8 or so miles.

Jim is one of the best conversationalists I know (in other words he has the good grace to listen to me), a sunny optimist by nature, has been a consistent, pal, mentor and friend. In a few weeks' time he celebrates his 80th birthday.

Out for our monthly walk in London today I said wanted to buy him lunch anywhere he wanted. The Savoy grill was mentioned...I was up for it, but as it was Jim's birthday it was his decision.

So above is a picture of Jim at his restaurant of choice, a place he has consistently requested to go for meals, but I have resisted..... McDonald's..... not just any McDonald's....Camden Town McDonald's.

.....We have agreed he is taking me to the Sayoy Grill for my 80th birthday.
Happy Birthday Jim

With Glyn walking in the Lake District



I am constantly impressed how Rob blags a cake from his mother every year. I have to admit it's a class act.

All pictures until the end of the book taken on a phone. Except J on garden seat and I and A over a gate.





