B01 London, Winchester Cathedral, Highclere Castle & Gardens & King Tut (with 2021 updates), Thurs 14Aug2014

Thursday, August 14, 2014 5:57 PM

Lesson0 - always have 20p to use public toilets, Glasgow Central RR was 40p
Lesson1 - have your own ticket Kris!
Lesson2 - check that our bags from hotel made it into the coach luggage compartment before we leave each day
Lesson3 - Glen needs motion sickness patches for riding on the bus - discovered in London bus tour
Lesson 4 - Kris bring the shoulder sling bag purchased for iPad mini to provide space on walking tours
Lesson 5 - Kris put your glasses in the same place each night. In morning, DO NOT STEP out of bed until you find your glasses, no matter how much you need to pee!

Today your glasses were stepped on and bent - Glen eventually fixed, but popped the lens out a couple of times and Kris got nervous. We don't return home until 27Aug, 13 days from now.

The behind the ear patch worked great for motion sickness on our 10hr 23 min nonstop flight SAN-> Heathrow



Geoff is our guide for 12 days. Declan is our driver, except when must taken a day break due to labor

laws. Only Geoff must work continuously for 12 days.



Geoff told us London is NOT laid out on a grid. Had a chance to change in ?? But people of London voted no.

We were met at the hotel by Ari Shapiro and his producer Rich Preston from NPR news division, Ari's just taken charge of the London News Bureau, along with his producer. Both joined us for dinner the 1st night at the Tower Grange hotel, 45 Prescot Street, London E1 8GP, UK +44 20 7959 5000



The troops (44 tour folk) got to pick which restaurant for tonight, of 3 possible, with overview of their menu. Glen & I chose Mediterranean.

Next morning we head out on the bus-past Trafalgar Square and Blue Chicken




CHARLES JAMES NAPIER
GENERAL
BORN
MDCCLXXXII
DIED
MDCCCLIII

And lions



Winchester Cathedral is our first goal today



Winchester Cathedral





Glen really likes the architecture



Honoring Jane Austen



Kris got lost in Winchester after checking out the Winchester Cathedral, where Jane Austin is honored, but got back to the bus in time. The group was a little late getting out of Winchester towards Highclere Castle



Geoff heads out to pick up our tickets for the tour



As we wait in the bus



Got to Highclere Castle a little past 3pm, when we were supposed to be there before 3pm. Traffic was challenging. We have the choice to go to the Exhibit of the Tutankhamen find or castle tour. I got to the gift shop while Glen was still working through the King Tut Exhibit. Glen wanted to see the Highclere Castle tour - 4pm. Bummer, Glen got to the door at 4:02 and missed the tour. He had both of our tickets for the tour and had to find me in the Gift Shop to give me my ticket. Sorry Glen, I will take responsibility of my own ticket from now on.





Love the "winged-ones"



Here's the photo TomK took of group from John Fistere's wordpress blog, see B12. I'm in back row, you can see my raised arms. Glen's seated in middle of 1st row.



Geoff tried to help coordinate while on the bus. Trina Hestor (KPBS) also firmed up BBC reservations. Glen and I have 1:30p tour. We will travel, by cab with Tom & Julie Karlo, to the theater were we have tickets to see "39 Steps" tomorrow, Fri 15aug.

I heard lots of stories about the gardens. We toured them, but Glen's more the horticulturist that me.







Heading back to London for dinner.

Here's my photo of my loot from the Egypt Exhibit at Highclere Castle

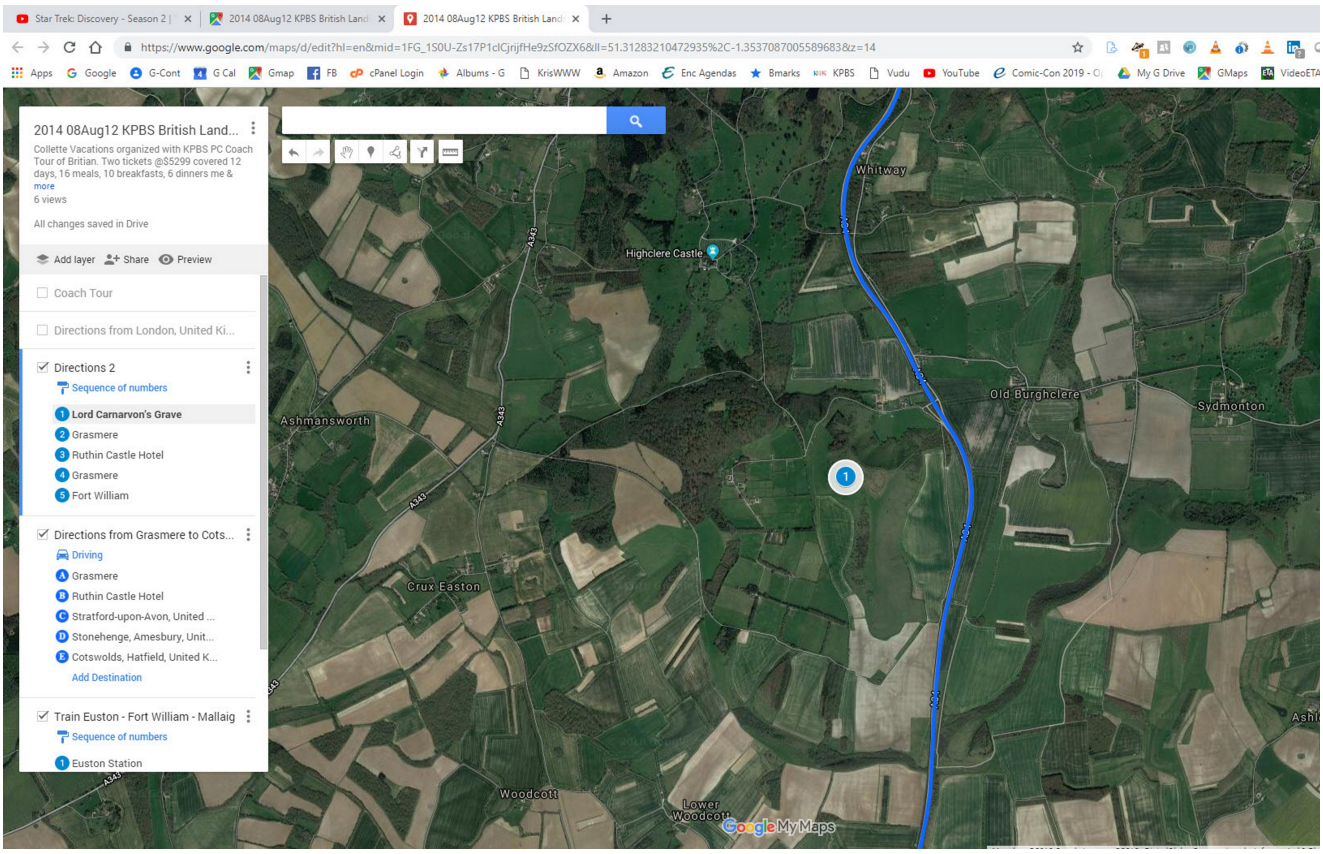


Especially the "proof" that stand up paddling has been around a long time



KPBS had a great doc "Secrets of Highclere Castle", purchased 16dec2018 after watching on Amazon Prime. http://www.pbs.org/program/secrets-highclere-castle/

Also able to find on YouTube and captured a copy with Wondershare. The current Lord of Carnarvon takes us on a tour to his great grandfather's grave - the King Tut Lord, which has a great view of the castle. I captured this image from google maps



In the middle, excellent interview with current Lord Carnarvon on the King Tut find and a walk up to the burial place of his great grandfather. Turned out George Herbert, 5th Earl of Carnarvon, was stung by a mosquito 4 months after the find while still in Egypt and died oferysipelas. Found online details in The Lancet published 07june2003
DOI:https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(03)13576-3
From <https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(03)13576-3/fulltext>

5 months after Egyptologist Howard Carter discovered the tomb of the pharaoh Tutankhamen, his benefactor, George Edward Stanhope Molyneux Herbert, fifth Earl of Carnarvon, aged 57, died. His sudden death within weeks of the tomb's official opening, coupled with the fertile imagination of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, lead to speculations of a curse.

At the time, the cause of the Earl's death was reported as “pneumonia supervening on [facial] erysipelas” (a streptococcal infection of the skin and underlying soft tissue).1

Pneumonia was thought to be only one of various complications, arising from the progressively invasive infection, that eventually resulted in multiorgan failure.

Left a semi-invalid by a near fatal car accident in 1903, the Earl was prone to frequent and severe lung infections; the general belief being that one acute attack of bronchitis could have killed him.1

In such a debilitated state, the Earl's immune system was easily overwhelmed by erysipelas. Thought to stem from an infected mosquito bite on his cheek, he was diagnosed with “erysipelas and streptococcic blood poisoning” on March 17, 1923.2

Carnarvon died early in the morning on April 5; he had had a high fever, severe pain, pneumonia in both lungs, and eventually heart and respiratory failure.2

Fifth Earl of Carnarvon We thank the Earl of Carnarvon, Highclere Castle, for permission to use this

illustration.

Recently, however, the Earl's death has been linked with exposure to toxic mold–namely, aspergillus, which are a group of fungi that produce a mycotoxin when allowed to germinate on certain food products.[3], [4]

Is there any truth in this theory?

For Carnarvon to have been exposed to the mycotoxin, he would have had to have entered the tomb. *The Times* of London reported that he did so on the day of its official opening on Feb 17, 1923—a few weeks before he became sick.[2]

However, Howard Carter noted in his diary that Carnarvon first entered the tomb on Nov 26, 1922.[5]

During his first ingress into the tomb, Carter described an escape of hot air after he broke through the second sealed door and, in one instance, Carnarvon is described as having crawled along the tomb's floor.[5]

Exposure to mycotoxins can cause a form of pneumonia to which immunocompromised individuals are particularly susceptible, and the contact Carnarvon would have had with the toxic mold, by crawling along the floor and inhaling the hot air, certainly would have proved fatal for a semi-invalid extremely vulnerable to lung infections.

However, there is no mention in Carter's diary of Carnarvon being ill until March of 1923, 4 months after his initial entry (as well as successive entries) into the tomb.[5]

Furthermore, of the 25 Westerners who first entered the tomb, Lord Carnarvon was the only one to become ill or die soon after its opening.

That Carnarvon's death had anything to do with Tutankhamen's tomb is, therefore, unlikely.

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