

## Charmaine's Diary

19th July 2010

### Monday

Run lots of errands – psychologically I always think that Mondays are a great day to tackle to-do lists.

### Tuesday

Pop downtown in Athy for a quick peak in the sales with Mum. Struggle to write a 3,000 word piece about my year as Rose – it is so difficult to articulate what has been happening since being crowned the Rose of Tralee last August. Spend the evening in Dublin with Seán.

### Wednesday

My aim today is to compile my year in photos and I wish that I had been more organised in gathering photos during the year. Meet an ex-colleague of mine from my management consulting days in London and much of the conversation surrounds the big question that everyone has been asking WHAT NEXT? I am still scratching my head...

### Thursday

Four weeks from today I will be making my way down to Kerry in preparation for the 51st Rose of Tralee Festival. This past year has felt more like 12 weeks than 12 months and I am baffled by how quickly the time has gone! My brother Leon Ross and his girlfriend Marisa who now live in Dubai are home for a few days and I spend some time catching up with them.

### Friday

Drive to Newbridge to Aristohat Hat Hire, a treasure trove of the most amazing hats. I am on the hunt for a hat to wear to the Galway Races next Monday and the owner Angela, helps me choose a dramatic black headpiece.

### Saturday

Meet my friend Nicola in Dublin – I am still minus two ball gowns for Tralee this year and this trip doesn't result in success – yikes! Watch the Kildare vs Monaghan match where the lily whites are victorious – yippee! Try to get a handle on a backlog of questionnaires and articles and come across the oddest question I've been asked yet – what song would you like played at your funeral?!

### Sunday

Mum has invited the extended family to Athy for a get-together and as sous-chef I have a manic morning getting prepared. We all enjoy a lovely day of good food (if I may say so), good company and good stories.