

Clare's Diary

23rd February 2011

Wednesday

A day off from Rose duty today means a full day of study for my PhD interview. I spend the first couple of hours trying to figure out exactly what I need to study, the next two trying to find the books and notes. Then finally I knuckle down to it. Mum is wonderful, popping in occasionally with food and snacks!

Thursday

I get another bit of revision done in the morning as well as finishing off my final PhD application. The afternoon I devote to Rose admin so I finally get some letters and cards written that have been weighing on my mind for far too long. I am aware however that they will most likely sit on my car seat for another week before they are actually posted. This evening brings an exciting text from my friend Miriam to say 'turn on the tv', I do and as I channel hop I catch a glimpse of ME on Xpose wearing lots of lovely Newbridge Silverware, exciting!

Friday

I pop into my new found dress haven, Tara's Boutique in Naas where I snag another couple of bargains for my wardrobe before driving to Dublin for lunch with my fab friend Laura. She comes along with me to the Cystic Fibrosis Association of Ireland photoshoot; they are launching their appeal for mini-marathon runners so if anybody out there feels like getting a little fitter and joining me in raising money for such a great cause, now is the time to register. Straight after the photos in Merrion Square I head South to Tralee, popping into Kildare to collect Will McGrath, our 2010 Kildare Escort who keeps me entertained with stories the whole way down to Kerry. We, the 2010 Rose family are having our official reunion this weekend, back at the original scene of the crime. It's so wonderful to see so many friends again and we all have a very late night as the catch up chats lead into a sing song around the guitar!

Saturday

I have a lovely relaxed morning, tuning into RTE's election coverage after a quick run. I have a late lunch in Ardfert before a lovely walk along Banna Beach, one of my favourite places in the world. I get in some extra revision before our group dinner in the Carlton Hotel. The rest of the gang are heading into the town itself but myself, the gorgeous Veronica Hunt, our 2010 Kerry Rose, and my long suffering escort, Donal Gill are going to the Greyhound Track. All the dog tracks across the country are taking part in this evenings proceedings to raise money for Down Syndrome, Ireland. Sure we are only delighted to be there to raise awareness of this organization and the wonderful work they do.

Sunday

I manage to get another run in on Banna Beach before myself and Will hit the road back to Kildare. I have a very early start tomorrow morning so this evening sees me trying to get more revision in before a very early night.

Monday

Yikes. The nerves have crept in overnight but I manage to fend them off so that I arrive in Trinity on time and feeling (almost) like I know my stuff. The Doctorate in Clinical Psychology is notoriously competitive and today 86 applicants are competing for a place at the second round interviews in two weeks time. We start off with a written research task before an essay and then I have a good break before the group interview in the afternoon. I finally finish up at 4.30 before literally running to my car so that I can get out of the city before the traffic hits. On reflection I find it difficult to know how I performed today, I err on the negative side and decide that I am probably unlikely to get another interview. While I am disappointed to think this I know that it is all good experience at the end of the day. Tonight I am Quizmaster at a VSO fundraiser in Galway and the event is great fun and a resounding success.

Tuesday

Yesterday has left me feeling pretty drained I must admit. After dropping my good friend Roisin back home I meet my friend Cathy in Stradbally woods for an evening walk; Spring has finally sprung, the country has been soaked in blue skies and bright sunshine all day today and the flowers are finally poking their noses above ground. The fresh air is a tonic for the mind and soul and I am in bed sound asleep by 9pm!