

Clare's Diary

24 November 2010

Wednesday

I force myself to spend a few hours working on my PhD application as it is due in next week and every time I think about it I feel a little bit ill. Instead of burying my head deep in the sand like I so often do I tackle it straight on and feel much better as a result!

Thursday

Tonight I attend the Athy Lion's Club Dream Auction. The Lion's Club provides huge support to a number of charities, local and national so I am delighted to be supporting such a worthy cause. The committee are really pleased with the turnout and each of the 250 odd items are sold including myself. I agreed to be auctioned off as a dinner date and am thrilled when the Lion's Club offer to give me some money towards the charity of my choice as a thank you. Eventually I am sold for the grand total of €1400!

Friday

Santa and I arrive together on a sleigh to open Santa's Trail at the Clanard Court Hotel in Athy. It is lovely to meet some of the children and families with whom the Jack and Jill Foundation work and there are some lucky kids from local schools who have won this much coveted prize to meet Santa Claus first. You can feel the excitement in the air as my mum and I wander through this winter wonderland meeting the Lazy Elf as well as his hard working colleagues, Mrs. Claus and some donkeys, alpaca's and reindeer on the farm. My boyfriend James lands in the airport late this evening and I am collecting a friend early in the morning so I decide to stay in the Carlton Dublin Airport Hotel. On the way I see a little stray kitten in the car park and spend another hour trying to find an open petrol station where I buy out their entire stock of cat food to feed her.

Saturday

It is bitterly cold today and it has snowed over night. My friend Ciara is delayed because of the weather so I get to enjoy a lovely lazy breakfast in the Carlton before collecting her. Afterwards we drop into James' sister and her family, to see their brand new baby Alex. We enjoy a little cuddle with him before leaving to meet my parents and brother for dinner at our regular table in La Scala in Athy.

Sunday

Everything is white again this morning and I stop at my bedroom window for a moment as with the sun shining over it, our garden looks picture perfect. However the second I step outside and feel how cold it actually is I wish it was Summertime again brrrrrrrrrr! I can't help feel bad for the kitten which I fed on Friday night and I resolve to bring a basket with me later when I am dropping James to the airport and see if I can catch him. Team Cat Rescue springs into action as we pull into the car park and we quickly spot the object of our mission. The poor thing is so hungry it is easy to get him into the carrier. I have decided that, given the week that's in it and the arrival of the IMF, I will call the cat Claus. Mum

becomes my collaborator as we hide Claus from my father whom I fear may disown me when he realises we have now got yet another pet. I eventually decide to leave him a note after he has gone to sleep!!!!

Monday

I bring Claus to the vet as he is in pretty poor condition. I find out he is actually a she so I rechristen her Holly seeing as it is almost Christmas! The vet declares her to be healthy aside from being on the point of starvation and after eating her weight in cat food she is fast asleep in our utility room.

Tuesday

Tonight my family and I are due to travel to Leinster House on the very generous invitation of Senator Mark Daly. Mark has kindly offered to give us a historical tour of the building which given my grandfather's involvement in the War of Independence we are all hugely interested in. However, come evening time the blizzard arrives, we set out but admit defeat when it takes us an hour to travel 30 kilometres. We turn back and find ourselves struggling to get up a steep hill in the ice and snow. My high heels have never seen such action as I get out and help push the car up the incline. An adventure indeed!