

Clare's Diary

29 September 2010

Wednesday

My last day at work today. Suitably celebrated by eating lots of cake and biscuits.

Thursday

An early start as I embark on my new Rose life, trekking to the airport to catch a flight to Kerry! The Carlton Hotel Tralee are, as usual, very hospitable and I am flooded with great memories of the festival as I check in. In the afternoon I do a photoshoot for the Irish Society for Autism's Rose Week. The evening brings a visit to Tralee Rotary Club where I meet a number of fantastic people involved with the Pat Healy Orphanage; a charity doing a huge amount of humanitarian work in India. The Rotary club is hosting a Gala Ball in aid of the charity on November 19th and I am delighted to help launch the event as it is something that is so close to my own heart.

Friday

First on the 'to-do' list is a visit to Caherleaheen School where I have great fun meeting the children. They have some fantastic questions for me including whether I can make laws and was I scared on the television. Next, we visit St. Ita's and St. Joseph's; a local secondary school for children with learning disabilities. I get to see some of the wonderful work that is being done in preparation for Junior and Leaving Certificate exams next year including the art projects, all of which in my opinion deserve A's! After lunch, it is finally time to collect my car! We drive to Adam's Garage in Tralee; they are the generous sponsors of my lovely Renault this year and I am hugely grateful to them. I am sure Mum and Dad's taxi service will be delighted that it can now cease business! The first jaunt in my Renault is to visit my Rosebud, Amy, who has been ill this week. It will be the first time I see her since Tralee and I can't wait.

Saturday

A morning meeting with the Cystic Fibrosis Association of Ireland (CFAI) for whom I will be an ambassador over the coming year. This fantastic charity does so much to increase awareness of the disease and improve the lives of patients living with it. I learn a lot more about CF during the meeting and I am excited at all the ways in which I may be able to help advance the work the organisation does. James and I attend a wonderful tea party and fashion show in the Malton Hotel Killarney. The event is hosted by Killarney Rotary Club and raises valuable funds for the Southwest Counselling Centre and the Kenyan Education Project.

Sunday

I have a conundrum. In order to fit my new clothes into my teenage bedroom I need to handover A LOT of things which I treasured in my childhood. Everything from teddy bears to candlesticks go into a designated charity bag. A hard task it is and several times I have to stop myself from pulling things back out! We have a wonderful Indian meal in Jaipore, Newbridge, and we almost roll home rather than drive, we are so full!

Monday

Today, Mum and I go to Newbridge Silverware where we receive a royal welcome. We are met by CEO William Doyle, Director of Sales Oonagh Doyle, and Marketing Manager Phil Donnelly. For those readers who have not yet visited the showrooms, my only advice is to go; it is fabulous. Upstairs there is a Style Icon Museum which houses some amazing articles of clothing from stars such as Audrey Hepburn and Michael Jackson. Downstairs they sell everything from gorgeous leather handbags to stunning Hollywood style jewellery and of course their world famous cutlery collections. I leave with a boot-full of gorgeous things which I will be delighted to wear forever more!

Tuesday

I drive to Galway today in my lovely new car listening to the radio and breathing in the new car smell....ahhhhhhhh. Again I take advantage of the Carlton's wonderful hospitality, staying in their newest hotel in Galway. I meet one of my best friends Miriam and we have a good old natter over dinner.