

5 Oct. '96

Dear Frances,

Your birthday present of the Map was a very clever thought. It is very nice indeed to know exactly where you are, & I think you are much closer to your church, also I'm now able to see exactly where I used to go on the bicycle! & on foot. I used to get up onto the Great Northern Bypass & down to Marston & there was my last walk of all just before we left for the Border when I went to New Marston & the back through the University Grounds. You are not far from the Canal.

Sandy sent me a sketch of your premises & I also had a lovely letter from Clare describing her visit to you when you first moved in, so I have a pretty good idea, & I gather you are much happier. I feel sure the pain you've been having in your legs will be much better now that all the cleaning out has been done.

I imagine that Clare had come to Oxford to see how Timothy is getting on — I do hope he's not been having



I bought a nice apple pie & whipping cream to celebrate my birthday, the actual day was Thursday, by which time I'd forgotten that our nice cleaning lady, Sylvia, was to come. So she arrived while we were having breakfast, I thought that was an unexpected birthday bonus, as we always feel so spic & span after she's been.

I wonder if you saw anything of the Eclipse of the Moon? I went to the Dallas Road waterfront in the evening & found thousands & thousands had ~~heard~~ the same idea. There were cars everywhere & a lot of people - whole families - & enthusiasts with telescopes & tripods. It was a very special sight as it was such a huge Harvest Moon.

Sandy has already got the Ardnamurchan booklet & when I talked to him he was already putting some information together to send to Mrs. MacMillan. I agree,

that book is now going to its rightful home.

Today Maurice made the supper & Maurice & I took off in the afternoon to walk on a new cycling/walking route that has just recently been opened up. It used to be a rail line which had a long trestle spanning a stretch of water & for a long time was disused & in a bad state of disrepair. Now the powers that be have reclaimed it & it is a wonderful addition for walkers & cyclists all through the urban parks of Victoria. Oxford was way ahead of Victoria, by creating those beautiful cycling lanes years ago.

I learn from Mary Gwendolyn that Edward & Pamela now have a grandson which must please them very much. Her letter was full of the doing of all the family, all doing well & Caroline & Andrew? have got super jobs again. Jobs here are falling



apart everywhere as people  
get laid off & we thank our  
stars we aren't in the job  
market.

I think I heard via Sandy  
that David Weddell (from  
Australia) was back in the U.K.  
I hope he is finding work  
there & getting himself going.

And now I must be off  
bed.

Much love to I am  
Maurice is doing very well  
on the present regime.

Our lady doctor says he  
has Cardiac Asthma - that  
is her diagnosis & she seems  
to have got it straight. I am  
most relieved.