

The newsletter of the Brickish Association

BRICK ISSUE

Issue 17

March 2009

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**Classic Space
special feature**

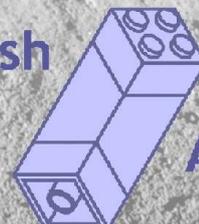
30 years in Space

exclusive
TRANQUILITY BASE

plus
**NEW YEAR PARTY
BUILDING FOR A CAUSE**



The Brickish



Association

www.brickish.org

Chairman's report

Simon Bennett (chairman@brickish.org)

Hello again everyone. As most of you will know this is my last Brick Issue as Chairman of the BA.

It's been an amazing four years. I'd like to say thanks to all of you who have taken the Association to new heights, by joining up and joining in over those years. After April I'm hoping I'll have a little more time for building! Particularly since yet more excellent new sets have been unveiled since Christmas, most impressive for me being the new 10194 *Emerald Night* loco and carriage set and the new board games which will be launched in Germany and the UK later this year.

As always the agenda for the upcoming AGM is included here and we do have a race on for two positions, Chair and Vice-chair.



Actually dealing with a proper contest at the AGM will be a new experience for me and I wish all the candidates the best of luck. The serious business of the AGM meeting itself, as always, should only be an hour or so of the full programme, which again this year includes Sunday and I know will involve fun activities and some highly impressive models. I hope to see you at the AGM, or at another event later in the year, but if you can't get along to those, I hope you enjoy this BI, and everything going on in the forums.

Play on

Simon

Editor's letter

Martin Long (newsletter@brickish.org)

"Hey, what's Martin's name doing on this letter?" I hear you ask. Well, it's a long story and one that ended up with me driving this particular edition of the Brick Issue to press in time to ensure everyone gets details of the AGM and its agenda. Will I continue as editor? That remains to be seen, but do let me have your thoughts on this edition! In the meantime, enjoy reading it and I look forward to seeing lots of you in Sheffield at the beginning of April. What I'm hearing suggests it's shaping up to be a great weekend.

Events

4-5 April: 7th Brickish AGM 2009, Sheffield

The Annual General Meeting will be held in Sheffield, South Yorkshire with displays and activities all weekend.

9-10 May: LEGO trains at Glenrothes, Scotland

A LEGO layout at this friendly local show where the children can operate the trains. Everyone is welcome to come along, bring a train, a building or just watch.

17 May: Merrist Wood Summer Show, Guildford

Brickish members will return for the fifth year running to the Merrist Wood Summer Show. The event is open from 11am to 5pm (admission charges apply). Our display will be in the Harris Centre.

30 May: 6th Petersfield LEGO Show

The sixth annual Petersfield LEGO show. There will be displays from various themes both big and small, individual and collaborative; and a number of sellers with everything from individual bricks to MISB sets. Open to the public for part of the event; entry is free.

13 June: Alresford Festival of Toy Trains

Classic toy trains of all types from all eras.

27 June: Museum of Science and Industry

A new venue in Manchester for a multi-themed display by Brickish members.

5 July: Miniature Steam and Model Day

Our third year at the historic Twyford Waterworks.

Membership and renewals

Annual subscriptions for the forthcoming year are due during April and the subscription rate has been reviewed by the Committee. Further details will be available at the AGM on 4 April, after which all members will be notified of the revised charges.

Please do not send renewal cheques until after the rates have been agreed and communicated to all members.

Do we have your current address?

Administration of all members' address details is now performed centrally by members themselves using the online facility within 'My Profile' on the web site.

If you have not verified your personal details recently, please check they are still correct as copies of the Brick Issue and other mail correspondence will be posted to the addresses held in the online database.

The New Year Party

Event report

Fun at LEGOLAND

Andrew Summersgill (aka Doctor Sinister)

I can't quite recall if it was global warming or temporal interference by the Daleks in some diabolical scheme which caused the 2008 Christmas party to slip forward in time to January this year, but whatever the reason, it didn't seem to stop hordes of BA members descending on St Leonard's Mansion at LEGOLAND Windsor for their annual bash.

I attended with my LEGO Doctor Sinister counterpart, despite being squeezed into the tiniest car imaginable as a result of my own SinisterMobile having been written off earlier in the week. That's what you get when you give the Chauffeur the day off. Despite this turn of events, I was still able to bring some stuff for display, notably Jek Tranter, my futuristic P.I. and his ship *The Ladybird* and a LEGO vignette of my earlier car-crash experience. However my own MOCs were nothing compared to the likes of Ralph Savelsberg's magnificent fire engines, Ed Diment's Concorde and the 6x scale minifigs entered by members for the competition, plus lots of other great stuff including some magnificent spacecraft and robots courtesy of Peter Reid and a lovely well by Yvonne Doyle.



Ed also honoured me by bringing his own version of *The Ladybird* which was about 80% larger and featured a complete interior. As usual, I am humbled by the skill on display by all present and I've probably forgotten some other really cool stuff.

After a talk about developments around the theme park by Guy Bagley, LLW's Chief Modelmaker, it was time to go shopping and in this respect perhaps it's just as well I didn't have a larger car as I just about filled the tiny boot of the one I had with hundreds and hundreds of lovely green bricks. Enough to secure vouchers for three free annual passes anyway. I'm probably not allowed to talk about the other place we went to.

Following the consumption of vast amounts of food, it was time for the *Make and Take* – featuring a green Miniland-scale skier. More of that lovely green...so much green I had to take some of my special pills to calm down.



The subsequent tour around Miniland was certainly memorable as we stomped over the exhibits (with permission of course!), posing our skiers in weird locations and flouting the law by walking along the railway track (it's OK, the train was up on blocks, someone having apparently made off with the wheels). The highlight for me was standing in the Thames next to the Palace of Westminster clock tower (aka Big Ben). However great caution was advisable as the freezing weather had coated the entire Miniland world in frost and ice and some areas which had not been completely drained of water were quite treacherous. Still, my LEGO alter-ego had great fun posing for pictures in a "28 Days Later" kind of style on Westminster Bridge. Fortunately there were no infected Zombie-types

to harass him – well, unless you include us LEGO-hungry BA members of course.



In fact, strolling around the deserted theme park was quite reminiscent of many "last man on Earth" type films, with areas usually occupied by screaming children and equally screaming adults empty, cold and quiet.

Later it was back to the warmth of the Mansion and a highly enjoyable auction hosted by Michael LeCount who kept us all entertained with his amusing descriptions, cajoling and sometimes outright lies to get us to buy even more LEGO. I walked away with an old Galaxy Explorer set which I was happy with, having lost my original one some 25+ years ago in an incident I refer to as "The Great Catastrophe".

And so it was time to pack up and depart. After a very busy day, full of fun and laughs, driving home with a bootful of clanking LEGO bricks has never been quite so satisfying.



30 years of Classic Space

Thirty years of Space

James Shields

The year was 1979, and I had just had my ninth birthday party. It was a slightly unfortunate event, for while enjoyable, that year my birthday fell very close to Easter so somebody had the bright idea that Easter Sunday would be a good day to hold a party. You can guess what I received in abundance. I don't think I got any LEGO for my birthday – my parents thought I was too old for LEGO by then, and felt I should pursue sensible hobbies like trains, and the party took place around my large HO scale layout.

So my LEGO-less birthday out of the way, on a trip to a toy shop soon after, I managed to get hold of that year's LEGO catalogue. My attention was quickly drawn to the page entitled LEGOLAND Space, and was thrilled by everything it contained. Unfortunately none of the sets had reached Irish shops yet - I'd have to wait for the summer for that - so I contented myself by going home and making my own versions of the models from the parts I had. This required a certain suspension of disbelief as I only had a couple of minifigs and they were distinctly un-spacey.

I first got my hands on set 885, a single-seater speeder. Even though the set only contained about twelve parts, it was one of the best sets I ever got. I must have made a hundred different ships out of it, with the help of the rest of my LEGO collection. That little red spaceman went on many different adventures, exploring alien worlds build in blue and red and white (but very little green). He was soon joined by a couple of others, though I never got the big sets I would have liked because my parents still thought I was too old.

Over the next few years the LEGO space range diversified. First we got yellow, blue and black spacemen, then Futuron, Blacktron and many other lines. But for me that little red spaceman will always hold the fondest memories. Happy birthday LEGOLAND Space!

Neo-Classic Space

James Shields

It's not every day that you set up a website by accident, but that's more or less what happened with Neo-Classic Space.

It all started with Peter Reid's *Blue Canary* (and the many ships that followed it) and a few of us deciding we'd like to do a big classic space display at events. Fast forward to Stuart and Naomi's housefest, where we first attempted to put some of it together. Pete built a huge runway, Stuart added a giant landing pad and several people added new and interesting ships.



Fast forward to STEAM, where the display really took off. I scaled up the old spacey baseplate, building a version twice the size using hundreds of slopes and tiles, and adding a little moonbase. The whole display looked really impressive.

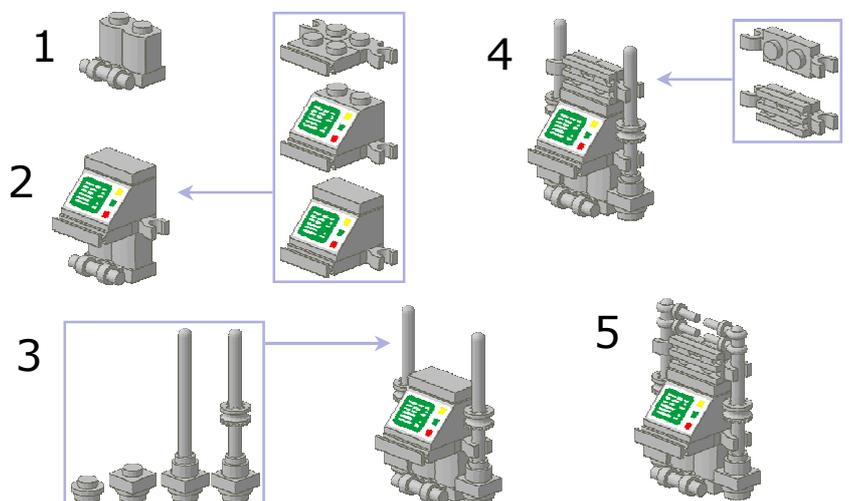
One of the conventions we established was giving our ships LL numbers. This was simply a continuation of the original sets, LL918 through LL928. Pete's remodelled Galaxy Explorer became LL-497, after the US set number of the original. As the number of ships

5 Minute Model

Peter Reid and James Shields



Computer Terminal



grew, it became more difficult to check if a number was available. Someone proposed using a Flickr group, while someone else suggested a website.

This got me thinking. I checked, and the domain name neoclassicspace.com was available, which I thought sounded pretty cool (I'm easily amused), so I registered it. In an evening I had a quick website thrown together, with a blog, a registry of ships and a gallery. We started adding more ships, even trying to bring in work that people outside our little group had done. Pretty soon we had something we thought might be worth sharing with the world.

So the question of how to launch it on the world was mooted. A number of ideas were tossed around, then it occurred to me that since LEGOLAND Space first appeared in 1979, 2009 would be the thirtieth anniversary. I checked with Phil Traviss, archivist extraordinaire, when exactly in 1979 LEGOLAND Space would have first come out. He sent me back scans of the LEGO club magazine where it had been announced. Officially Easter, but back then the new sets always appeared in March.

It seemed a perfect match: launch the new site and celebrate the old sets. And what better way to do it than by getting a bunch of fantastic builders to build great new models celebrating Classic Space. Better still, to do it by presenting a new model every day in March. That's one for every year of the LEGO Space era and maybe something special for the end.

We had what seemed like loads of time, so I set about emailing all my favourite AFOLs, inviting them to take part. I must have sent over a hundred emails to builders of all types around the world. The time evaporated worrying quickly, but responses gradually trickled in,

and lots of people were just as excited as I was about the project. Unsurprisingly, the best response came from space builders, but I also asked a number of AFOLs who don't usually build space models to give it a go and see what they could come up with. Before too long, we had our thirty builders. Well, we actually had a little bit more than that, because something always happens and not everyone makes it to the finish line.

So with a couple of months to go, we had a fairly strong plan, and a big team on board. At this stage it was like herding cats. Some people were very good and kept in regular contact, while others kept me waiting. Still, as photographs started to arrive in my inbox, the results were always well worth the wait.

By the time you read this, it should be well into the month of March, and you should be able to see for yourself how it's going. Hopefully you won't see an empty website!

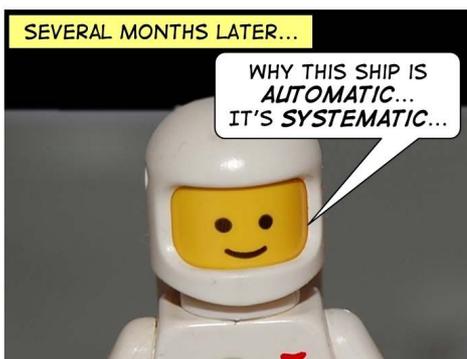
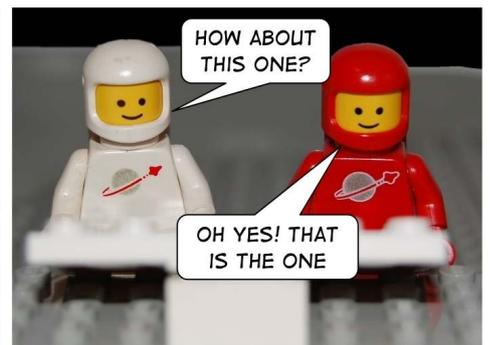
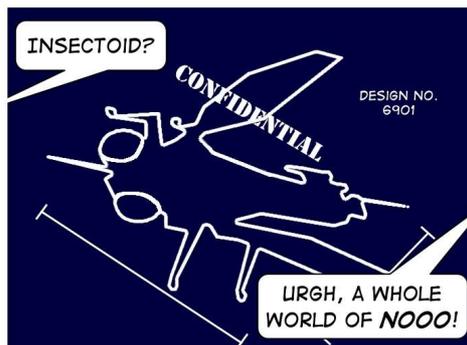
www.neoclassicspace.com



TRANQUILITY BASE

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF CLASSIC SPACE

FEB '09
BY LOUISE DADE



Forthcoming events

The Annual General Meeting

Michael LeCount (treasurer@brickish.org)

The 2009 AGM comes to Sheffield for the second time on the weekend of 4/5 April. As last year, the event will be held in Wadsley Parish Hall, Worrall Road, Sheffield, S6 4BB.

The venue offers a main hall and a smaller meeting room, as well as excellent catering facilities. It is also easily accessible by both road and public transport, being just a tram ride from Sheffield Station.



There are plenty of options for accommodation, The Garrison being a firm favourite (but probably fully booked by the time you read this). Many other hotels (e.g. Travelodge, IBIS) in the city centre are easily accessible by car or public transport.

Saturday will be the familiar format of competitions, discussions, displays, the auction and the formal Annual General Meeting itself. The evening will begin with a meal and then continue with informal chat until after dark. Sunday will be set aside mainly for buying, selling and swapping LEGO, as well as a few more fun activities. Unlike previous years though, you may be pestered to actually take part!

Competitions

#1: To design a model or scene built on or fitting onto a 32x32 baseplate. Any 32x32 LEGO baseplate is acceptable so it doesn't have to be one of the standard flat examples. A Classic Space crater plate or other raised one is equally acceptable. You are also free to go as high as you like, as long as it is free-standing, fits into the hall (about 20ft to the roof!) and no part of your creation overhangs the baseplate. Other wise, let your imagination run wild.

#2: To create a 6x model of an element which currently does not or never has been produced by LEGO, but one that you feel they should produce, e.g. a 1x3 tile.

All attendees at this year's AGM will get a voting slip and the opportunity to vote for their favourite entry in each category. In the event of a tie, the committee will make the final decision.



Should I come along?

Definitely! The AGM is a big event in the BA calendar, and one not to be missed. It's a great opportunity to get together and meet up with many other members from around the country.

I look forward to seeing many of you there!

Merrist Wood 2009

David Tabner

Sunday 17 May will be the fifth display by members of the Brickish Association at the Merrist Wood Summer Show.

This is a large annual event which not only showcases Merrist Wood College but also provides a great display opportunity for many local groups; from model railway to vintage car clubs.

I have organised our display from the start. Having spent my primary school years living in the village next to the college, I enjoyed the shows each year. I had been looking for alternative venues for LEGO displays (rather than wholly LEGO themed events) and had the idea of giving it a go at Merrist Wood. It has worked

well, and been enjoyed by those who displayed there. It is only a single day from 11am to 5pm - and a Sunday in mid-May when the weather has tended to be very nice.



Our LEGO display has always been a balance of many themes; trains, town, castle, space and pirates.

We have also had the same venue each year - a science lab in the Harris Centre. This space has

proved ideal for our needs, being sizable but not massive, with many workbenches that can be arranged to suit our models.

Each year has been different. Different models and displayers, and some variation in the themes too. From the Caribbean port in 2005 to HMS Edinburgh in 2007, we have kept the displays new and interesting. This year will be no different in being different.

I hope that those of you who live not too far away will be able to come and display with me. You will not only have the opportunity to show off your creations, but to also meet other AFOLs, take time out from the display and see the rest of the large event - all without having to pay the entrance fee! Families are welcome too - it is a family event after all!

Building for a cause

Drogheda Animal Rescue Centre

James Shields

My mother does some work with Drogheda Animal Rescue (www.dar.ie), a local charity that looks after abandoned and mistreated animals. They have been working from temporary premises for years, but have had ambitions to build a permanent residence.

Before starting on the real model, I thought it would be very helpful to be able to send the "client" pictures of what it was going to look like at an early stage.

I aimed to build roughly to minifig scale, though rather than choosing a precise scale, I chose to use the new 1x2x2 windows for the centre's window panes, and scaled everything else accordingly.

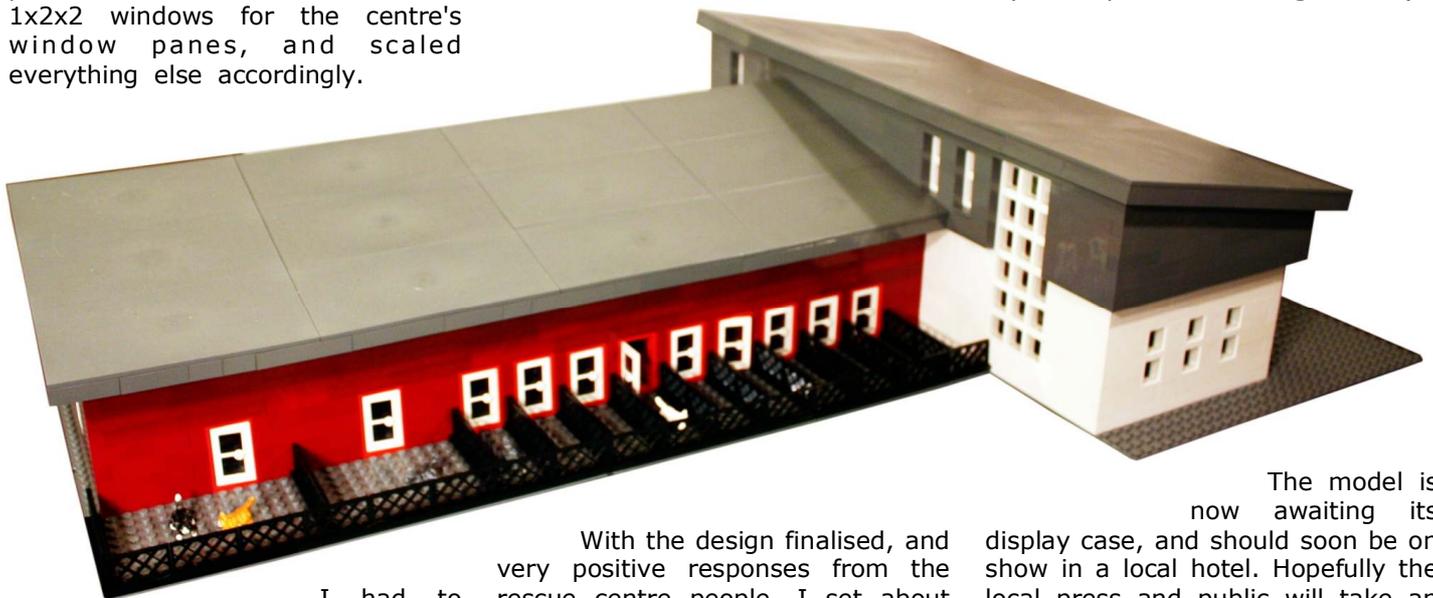
After some discussion we decided that dark red would look best, and as luck would have it, I had a bag of 1x10 dark red bricks from a surplus stock sale.

The roof was another interesting part of the build. I was considering using the big 6x8 slopes, but they're not easy to join smoothly, and hard to get in quantity. I then switched to using 8x16 flat roof tiles, filling in any gaps with smaller tiles, and putting the whole thing on a sloping support. Some Brickish members very kindly helped me out with some tiles, and the scheme seemed viable.

interior, but that had to be simplified considerably to save bricks. At the end of the week, it was almost complete, just needing a few extra parts from Bricklink.

I dropped it out to my Mum's place and she was very impressed. She had some of the building committee call in over the next few days, and they all thought it looked fabulous.

For the final detail, my Mum felt that all white cats and grey/brown dogs didn't look representative, so I brought out my miniature paints. She painted the cats and dogs more realistic colours (I couldn't bring myself to perform the illegal move).



I had to make a few compromises - the plans showed double doors, but there was no way that they would fit using minifig scale doors, so they got reduced to single doors. I also decided to use old 1x3x4 doors for the animal pens in order to save space.

The colour choices were another decision point. The admin part of the building will be rendered in white, so it made sense to stick with that, but the walls of the kennel area are to be a reddish shade that doesn't quite match any standard LEGO colour. Sand red was probably the closest, but it would be impossible to get the sort of quantities required.

With the design finalised, and very positive responses from the rescue centre people, I set about getting all the bricks I'd need. Fortunately I was able to get most of them from Bricklink sellers within the Brickish Association who were coming to the Christmas/New Year party, so I came away with a big stock of bricks just for that purpose.

For the next week or so, my kitchen table was overtaken by the project, with the model in the middle, surrounded by bags and tubs of bricks. Of course, I hit one or two snags. For one thing, my stock of dark red had very few 1x1s, and there are no 1x3s, so I had to find a way to build the kennels almost entirely from even length bricks. My original design had a fairly extensive

The model is now awaiting its display case, and should soon be on show in a local hotel. Hopefully the local press and public will take an interest, and I'll have more to report for next issue.

If you'd like to know more about Drogheda Animal Rescue, or to send them a donation, do visit their website: www.dar.ie.



The back page

Wordsearch Martin Long

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ladder
magnet
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Plant
plate
propeller
rock

shield
slope
stairs
support
tile
track
tree
wedge
window
windscreen

Just for laughs Phil Traviss



"LEGOLAND Windsor would like to apologise for the delay, which is due to AFOLs on the track."

You know you're an AFOL when:

- your monthly LEGO budget is more than for food
- you spend Sundays taking pictures of your work to show to people hundreds of miles away
- your house has more storage for LEGO bricks than anything else (such as your clothes)
- you build whilst you're dreaming
- you refer to plastic sorting bins by brand name
- your mother-in-law buys you more LEGO than she does for her grandchildren
- you invite fellow AFOLs over to your house for non-LEGO events and people refer to them as your "LEGO friends"
- you find yourself making measurements in studs instead of inches or centimetres
- inspiration strikes and you end up building half the day in your pyjamas and one sock

Name that set



No cheating! Without resorting to Brickset, can you name this 2005 set? If you know the set number, make a note to yourself to get out more!

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