

2010

A Year in Reflection

2011



December 2010

SnowBoys

Writing this at home, in early December, it is hard to recall that this time last year there was a blanket of snow outside. Looking back on the past 12 months, shows it has been a real year of 'boys':

Starting with Mikael and Katrina in Sverige having son Jakob, then in the UK our nephew Matthew (+ Caroline) became proud parents to Harrison. Followed in February by our niece Amanda (+ John) with James.



Also in February, whilst at the Watercress Line for our G-Scale group's Lunch and steam ride, we spotted the small *GoCo EcoRailbus* that was about to trialled on the line.



BBN:Beechingless Barnstaple By Night

Phil has been busy, with LED Layout Lighting being the most



obvious improvement; allowing the Lower Storage Level Approach, *which was rebuilt for more operational flexibility* using Rocoline track, to be seen more easily in its new *more-scenic* guise. Elsewhere: Illuminated platforms appeared at all stations where many buildings also received Lin's detail-painting treatment. With trains then allowed to stop at night, most DMUs now have sound & lighting, including 'doors open' lights.



Just Visiting: 'Brighton ModelWorld' had its usual variety:

As well as traditional model railways, Daleks were back; both life-sized and model . There was a 7m long Lego aircraft carrier, 'USS Intrepid'. In the foyer, was Chitty Chitty Bang Bang - from the film, a 4-6-2 Pacific 'Green Goddess' from the 15" gauge Romney Hythe & Dymchurch Rlwy, and outside was a Brighton Belle



Pullman coach on a low-loader!! Completed by R/C boats, tanks and construction vehicles in action. A 'mini Dortmund' *but no flying planes.*





Then the Eurotrack show in Eastleigh, (Southampton), had its wide range of continental layouts, and the chance to catch up with a number of friends.



Getting More Active

Next was the Basingstoke Show where we assisted on the Scandinavian Railway Society Stand; and despite being in a corner, attracted



interest from many with our 'slide show' and model exhibits. No new members though!



One memorable layout was an n-gauge slate mining layout.

Royal Occasion -The Wedding

Oak Avenue had its own 'Street Party' and we joined in, by revealing, and running



Bruksbanen from the Maxus Van on the drive, for the day. With the TV outside, beneath the tree, all could also gather round and watch the event. With the usual good *Royal-Event-Weather*, many joined in with party games for young and old, (including Bruksbanen), a huge communal buffet, and evening BBQ and Band.

Maxus Preparation for the Summer Trip

The original microwave was brought in to replace the one in the house, which had failed, and a smaller, lower-power model, usable on a 6A (German) site [as well as our 3kW inverter], replaced it. This allowed for a pull out work table beneath and lifting the fridge 50mm (above one's feet).

Learning from the Nord-Kapp trip, the electrics were revised to allow the 450W inverter to be run from either leisure or vehicle battery/engine while driving, thus continuing to keep the 12V systems completely separate, and allowing *night-drive* or *bad weather recharging* in addition to Solar Power.



Satellite and Digital Terrestrial Reception was added along with a lighter and more energy-efficient LED TV. Lin finally completed the covers for the rear sofa-bed.

Hollycombe

Their 2-day Railway Event, the weekend before our summer trip, in June also acted as a test run for the modified Maxus; as we not only had the camping gear on board, but also transported the Scandi-layout and its stock. 2 solid days of running the trains was great fun, and being located in the 'Octagon' in the centre of the fairground meant that we were in the middle of everything. We stayed overnight, enjoying the tranquil rural nature of the site, whilst checking all the systems without a 'mains hookup'.

Up with the Canaries

Lin continues to work in town at Canary Wharf, and project commitments meant that our Holiday was *suddenly* taken earlier than usual, in June.

The Great Escape

Planned to be different from the previous Marathon Trek north, to Nord Kapp, and to start with 'Knuffingham Airport' which had just opened at Miniatur Wunderland...

Our journey this year started on a Saturday! Via Eurotunnel, then north through Belgium into the Netherlands, where we spent our first night on a lakeside campsite which was almost an Island!. Then on to Hamburg, Germany and the camp-site behind Ikea, again. Monday we spent at Miniatur Wunderland, which was very busy partly due to the recent opening of the airport section, and because it was a public holiday - they were offering 10% off to come back later, or free drinks in the hour+-long queue.

Despite having seen all of the publicity, the airport was truly mind-blowing, with all of the detail and eccentricity we have come to expect, and more! Planes were pushed out from the stands, then taxied themselves to the runway for take off with full sound effects!. Planes also landed every few minutes, and working H0 Scale Arrival/Departure screens in the buildings displayed them all, *live!*

There were numerous 'scenes' around the airport - campers in the car park, a car being hit by a lowering barrier, graffiti painters on the roof. and we happily stayed until 8pm (it was not crowded by then). *See for yourself by visiting www.miwula.de for videos!*

A New Ferry Route!

From Hamburg we drove north to Travemunde; a Baltic seaside resort, and easily booked onto that evening's ferry direct to Trelleborg in Sweden, after spending the day enjoying the local produce. Arriving in the early hours, we found a dedicated place to pull off for the night {legal and free outside the UK}, before arriving in nearby Ystad to explore the *Wallander* town - to our surprise we found an H0 scale Wallander film-set scene located in the railway station [which doubled as Wallander's Polis Hus]. Our first few days camping were just metres from the beach - listening to the waves- just like Wallander.

Göteborg



With Ulf+Gunilla we enjoyed a steaming day at a 'wood craft museum', where there were steam-powered saws and other machines in action. There was also an impressive display of tools and techniques, including the longest link-chain carved from solid wood, and many handcrafted scenes of wood and forest craft.



Underground Aircraft

Recently opened to the public (and foreigners) is a new aircraft museum adjacent to what is now Göteborg City Airport. From 'cold war' days; the aircraft hangers were literally carved from solid rock, forming a large underground complex, with a variety of aircraft, helicopters and support vehicles, along with flight simulators and static displays. Many of the aircraft could be 'sat in' and the simulators were *have-a-go* for a small fee. A great place to spend an afternoon for young and old!



We caught up with Mikael+Kristina *and Kayaks*, and gave Jakob a Brio train set to start him off in life 8-). We also called in on Lin's Swedish teacher, Eva, in her Summer Cottage where we helped with new ropes being attached to her sister's flag-pole next door.



Then to a campsite on the shore of Lake Vänern just north of Vänersborg. It was really peaceful but sadly a little too cold for swimming. From here we followed the Göta Kanal



inland to a beautiful camping spot by a lock. We sat beside the van reading and watching the boats, cycles and other visitors passing by.



Sadly we could only stop for two nights as it was fully booked for the weekend's midsommar celebrations.



Midsummer but no Nettles or Murders

We headed back towards Alingsås, where we had planned to experience the midsommar celebrations at nearby Nääs. We watched the pole being set up at the camp site, but due to inclement weather we changed plans and headed south-west to the coast. The weather cleared to be bright and breezy and we managed a paddle in the sea.



We continued to Helsingborg, taking the ferry across to Denmark, then headed south to Rødby where we spotted an ICE-3 train disembarking from our ferry. South west from Puttgarten (Germany), and another free night in a layby, before a rainy Sunday morning. We cooked breakfast in a car park adjacent to what looked like the Russian Mafia running a Stolen Car Sale [No photos taken!] before stopping again at the Delmenhorst Harpstedter steam railway. Here the sun came out, and the temperatures climbed as we headed on into Holland, finding a wonderful campsite with indoor heated pool, where we spent most of the following morning, lazing in the hot sunshine.



In the afternoon we moved on to Lelystad and the road across the meers, where we parked and ate our *kibbling and frites* alongside many campers in the sun watching the water before heading back [still 37C at 19.00hours] via another free overnight at a Belgian service area before our morning Eurotunnel and home.

Summer UK

As a result of the early holiday, we were free to spend the rest of the summer enjoying G-Scale Garden open days, with gardens full of trains, tea, cake and chat. At the end of July we were in Devon again with the L&B Rlwy in steam, and a cream tea at the station cafe.



A new fence on our unattached side, triggered a clear out of shrubbery, cut back of the cherry tree. and rebuild of that side of Lin's Garden Bahn The hammock was relocated over the track and the Station rebuilt at the front of the widened Satellite loop. On the other side, the branchline was doubled with a passing loop, and the 'airfield' elevated to provide a weatherproof sheltered cover for the rearmost track

Over the Sea to the Isle of Wight



August included a 'double' garden open day, one *Swiss-themed*, the other *American West*, with the added attractions of a ferry and tube train ride to get there.

Teddy Bears Picnic



Following two further visits to Hollycombe with our Bruksbanen Shunting Puzzle, we decided that it would be a good place for a picnic with our two great-nephews, therefore we all met up there on a sunny day in August, for the '*Teddy Bear's Picnic*'. It was a great day, and opportunity for *us* to *actually ride* the rides!. Both Harri and James enjoyed the galloping horses, the miniature and narrow gauge trains, swingboats and more!. We even spotted the baby peacocks born earlier in the year.

IBC and Amsterdam via Kent and Sussex

As with the summer, we used the Tunnel, instead of the ferry to Hoek, this time, but also opted for the cheaper overnight schedules.



To make best use of the daytime trips across Sussex and Kent we took a trip on the *Spa Valley Railway* in East Sussex [nearly 30 year's since we rode in a Type3 shunter at Eridge in its early days!]. There was a novel use of Wheelsets to form the framework for platform seating!

Our midweek trip was between Groombridge and Tunbridge Wells where there is a small museum shed and a friend's loco. We spent the evening near Folkestone with a seafront fish and chip supper, before watching the last episode of *Torchwood* on TV [at a UK Service Area where they want £20/night parking] before





boarding our train. A free-overnight in Belgium as we headed north to Amsterdam, arriving at our usual Gaasper Park campsite at lunchtime, where we were welcomed as old-friends and ushered to a sheltered spot where the ground was 'dry' [Summer had been very wet in Holland].



We both visited IBC and Lin also wandered round Amsterdam. We shopped briefly in Bussum, and spent Sunday at the Amsterdam Tram museum.

On the way back to the UK we travelled down the spectacular man-made Dutch coast.



Once off *Le Shuttle* we ate breakfast overlooking Dover harbour, whilst watching the ferries, and then on to Margate for '*The Hornby Experience*' before continuing to



Sheffield Park for a trip on the *Bluebell Line*, and finally returning home that evening.

Autumn West



We camped at a UK campsite (Caravan & Mobile Home type) for the first time, at Blue

Anchor, for the 4 day West Somerset Autumn Gala. At Minehead station we met up with Lin's former colleagues; Gill and Chris from her Whitbread days.

A thoroughly enjoyable weekend finished off with a drive through Lynmouth and up over Exmoor to Westward Ho! where it was warm enough for a swim in the sea!

G-Scale Construction

As part of the improvement work on our LGB stock, some electric locos gained DCC



remote controlled features:
With repaints, the Iron Ore wagons became 'LKAB' livery, and the 'AGJ' acquired 2 coaches

They all featured on the Modular Layout at our Solent Group's year end Wickham Show. To fill a gap we created a white 'snow' board to display our christmas buildings (see card front). The board will be forming part of a new 4-door modular layout 'Malmsbanen' we will complete next year - for which the parts have been in store from before Bruksbanen Mark 1 was built! Bruksbanen is also due to be 'revamped' next year, so as to link to the other modules. Here Harri is seen being keen to take part in the early planning stages of the new layout. On a more seasonal note: Caroline, Lin and Leah engrossed in Origami.



best wishes



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