

Bricktastic

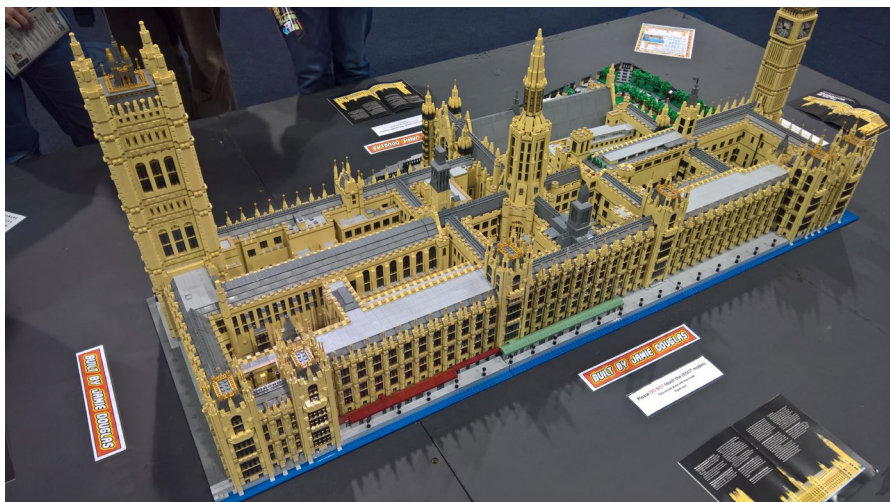
By Eduard Petrač



It's always difficult to choose from among the many AFOL-driven events which one to visit and make plans for. Checking out the community and reaching out to them always helps. This time, after hearing only great things, our choice fell upon 'Bricktastic' in Manchester, UK.

The event took place in a building with architectural and historic value – Manchester Central – the former Manchester Central Railway Station. It was a special feeling going through the parking lot, which was once used as a train platform; and in some parts of the venue you could sense the history in the walls themselves.

This was the third edition of Bricktastic and it's proving with the years to be a perfect event for every LEGO-loving family or enthusiast. As organisers, 'Fairy Bricks' presented a feast for our senses. We were able to enjoy some of the show stoppers – Jamie Douglas premiered his 'Palace of Westminster' which is absolutely amazing! Brick to the Past created a huge display representing 'The Jacobite Risings'. The space crew made a 'Moonbase Display', and we also appreciated the great looking Steampunk machinery by Rod Gillies, the 'Wacky Racers' by Martin Redfern, and some more great space stuff by Luc Byard. With so much variety in themes it was pretty difficult to determine which had the biggest crowd.







Also, Bright Bricks presented some of their great displays, including 'The Flying Scotsman' and a range of animals. There were quite a few brick pits where anyone could let their imagination take a hold for a few hours. There was also a special room for Mindstorms® where everyone could learn a bit about programming and making the robots 'go'

With quite a few retailers present there was a chance of getting hold of some retired LEGO® sets, custom LEGO® minifigures, accessories of all sorts, and other LEGO® merchandise.

One of the attractions was a huge mosaic being built by the public. It was quite a thrill to see it coming to life with all the little hands working on small modules to collectively create something huge.

We musn't forget to mention that all the money raised at the event went to the charity 'Fairy Bricks' who give LEGO® to children in hospitals. Of course, each child that attended the event received a small LEGO® gift.

The AFOL evening was a time of fun and games with the traditional Bingo and quiz conducted by Rod Gillies. It was also a chance to enjoy a proper English curry and refreshments from the hotel bar. What I've noticed and experienced during Bricktastic is that the public is more willing to engage with the exhibitors about their displays. Possibly the absence of a language barrier helped, but still, noticing this with most of the exhibitors it felt more rewarding to be able to explain our ideas and displays. And what is really amazing is the chance to be a part of an event that brings a happy face to more than just the public, by also helping children in hospitals.

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