

2009 for Rosalind and Gerald

- 18 February** Bruxelles visit on Eurostar with IOD group to view European Parliament buildings
- 13 March** Ros day to Bournemouth for Aunty Daphne (Mum's sister) funeral
- 20-23 March** Long weekend in Dorset with cousins Colin and Amanda
- 25 May-9 June** South Africa with Great Rail Journeys and Rovos Rail
- 15-18 June** Ros and schoolfriend Tricia visit Bruges
- 21 June** Day trip in London on 'Duck'
- 12 August** Day trip to Chiswick House with Julia
- Mid August** purchased Peugeot 207 in Neysha Blue
- 4-7 Sept** Long weekend in Cornwall and Devon
- 11-14 Dec** Cambridge to stay with Laurence and Paula and day trip to York with The Railway Touring Company
Roxana and family came for day and said 'Goodbye' as they have returned to New Zealand
- 20-29 Dec** Christmas in Austria with Great Rail Journeys
- 31 Dec-2 Jan** New Year's Eve dance and stay with Julia in Wrabness

Plus visits to Brundall throughout the year, some for Ros to go to Norwich Scottish Dances

Plus regular Scottish dancing and summer garden dances

Visits by Sylvia, Mavis, Roxana and family, Julia, Ray & Pat and cousin Julie

Throughout the year I have tried to keep the garden tidy and attractive and we continue to wage war on the ever-growing conifer hedge!

In the autumn Gerald's Builders Merchants company ceased to trade. He is still waiting for the completion. His brother is carrying on, on his own as Michael Morgan Builders Merchant.



Gerald and I visited the European Parliament in Bruxelles in February

In May Gerald and I flew to Cape Town then took the Rovos Rail luxury train back to Johannesburg. Two days of lovely weather let us go out in the harbour for a ride on a catamaran





The previous day we had gone onto Table Mountain with a magnificent view, then this day we had toured Cape Town on the sightseeing bus. Below shows the luxury dining car where we had super meals on the train, visiting game parks and Boer War towns and museums





After many delays on the way we finally met up for a meal with my cousin Jenny and husband Andrew in Durban. (Some of the overhead wires had been stolen!) They came back to look at the train afterwards. We are hoping to stay with them in 2011 when they can take us around

Gerald samples another glass of champagne after one of our game park rides. We had drinks after every outing on our return to the train. The service was excellent





Gerald proudly sits 'on the footplate' of King Zog which took us the last few miles to Capital Park Pretoria, the home of Rovos Rail

There were many photos taken of the mighty engine as it first came past the train then backed up. Our holiday was a one-off as usually the trip runs from Pretoria to Cape Town

I was able to see parts of South Africa where my father had lived from 1910-1918. His father was General Manager of the Rhodesian Railways





In June Tricia and I spent a few days in Bruges travelling by Eurostar for train and hotel reservation. We really liked this town, visiting as many of the museums as possible, then took a bus ride out of town and came back partway on a paddle boat





Ros at the Chocolate Factory in Bruges where we saw chocolate being poured into moulds for truffles. Around the room were several sculptures all made from chocolate. The museum part contained a complete history and we had some samples!

I had spent a year trying to find this colour and model and finally one came up in August!





Gerald's brother had given him a day trip in/on a 'duck' for a Christmas present which we took in June. It was a very pleasant ride around a little bit of London and then onto the Thames near the Houses of Parliament. We used a voucher for a half-price meal afterwards



Laurence and Paula came to stay at Brundall and we had a good meal at the famous station restaurant at Wymondham in July



Julia came to stay in August and we had a day trip to see Chiswick House. The gardens are being updated so we could not explore them fully

Gerald and I visited friends we had met on our Rovos Rail trip in South Africa. They lived near Bodmin so on Saturday we went to the Ale Festival at the Bodmin Railway along with their daughter's family. That evening we continued on to Newquay to stay at The Headland for two nights. For September there were still plenty of visitors and surfers. We walked a lot in the wind!





It was an early, dark start for Laurence, Paula, Gerald and I on Saturday for our Christmas present trip to York for the day. Called the Christmas White Rose on 12 December the train was steam hauled by LNER A4 Pacific No. 60007 Sir Nigel Gresley

Going there was cold but coming back the heating came through. We had sherry and mince pies. We were all well wrapped up!





Sir Nigel Gresley is one of our favourite engines and it was a pleasure to be drawn from Cambridge to York for the day. We walked round the town, ate lunch on the move then visited the Railway Museum

Roxana, David, Adrian and Becca came to visit on Sunday, to say 'Goodbye' as they were off to New Zealand to live, flying out on New Year's Eve



Gerald in our bedroom at Hotel Jenbacherhof, dressed for our Christmas Day evening meal of turkey or venison. No pud though!



Gerald's photo of the Zillertalbahn engine which took us to Mayrhofen on Christmas Day. It poured with rain so we took refuge in Hotel Neue Post. We had goulash soup to warm us! Walking later the rain turned to snow; again we were higher up at a ski resort





Our last outing in Austria was a 'sleigh' ride at Achensee a lovely skiing resort set on a lake





A June view of the front garden with roses and poppies
The last of the tall hedge still to be done, then we can cut it all ourselves

