

# Wellington British Railway Modellers



## February 2026

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*Royal Mail Hornby Stamps*

*Gallery: Models from Pendon/ BR Down Under*

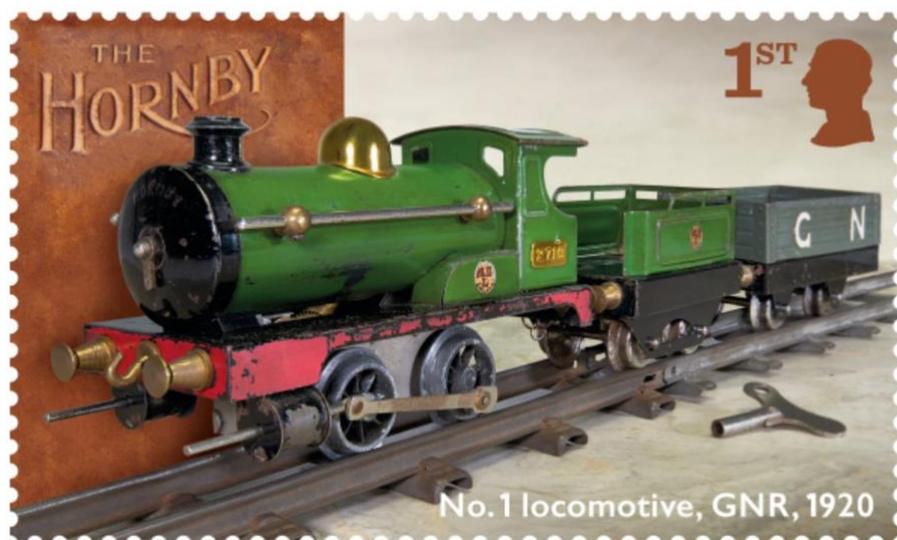
*Snow Ploughs in Scotland*

*Freight Trains Past and Present*

*£3.7 Million for Talylyn*

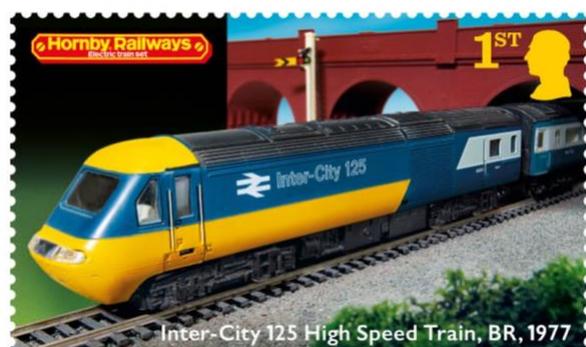
*Feel free to copy this PDF to anyone you think might enjoy it. – Editor*

## Royal Mail Issue Hornby Stamps



*Five of the eight stamps featuring individual models.*

*There is also a four-stamp miniature sheet of classic Hornby marketing illustrations.*



The Royal Mail is issuing a set of eight stamps featuring Hornby model railways. The stamps will be available from 19<sup>th</sup> February. In addition a miniature sheet of four stamps will feature classic Hornby packaging, catalogue, and promotional material. A special set of all twelve stamps will be available from Royal Mail for £21.30 from 19<sup>th</sup> February.

## Gallery

### I. A Pendon Cottage



*Pendon Museum has released these photographs of a work-in-progress cottage model brought in by one of their volunteers for colour matching.*

*It is a 1:76 scale model of 'Blissetts' cottage in Bishopstone, Swindon.*





*Detail we mere mortals can aspire to – the open window and the full depth window sills showing the thickness of the walls.*

*The detail of the thatched roof is bonkers – as are thatched roofs themselves in this day and age.*



## 2. *Goathland*, by Brian Alderson

Graeme Leary kindly forwarded these pictures of the layout created by his friend Brian Alderson, who lives in Australia.





## Freight Trains Past and Present



*BR Britannia 70004, formerly William Shakespeare, at Eastleigh with a banana train from Southampton Docks. Photo by Tony Molyneux on 17<sup>th</sup> August 1966.*



About 1978, 08170 on a York Dringhouses – Foss Islands branch trip working.  
Source: @pacorrie on Twitter 'X'.



A3 60041 Salmon Trout in the early 1960s. Photographer unknown



*Cumbria, England. Nuclear material to or from Sellafield. Photographer unknown.*



*60024 Clitheroe Castle arrives at Westerleigh Oil Terminal with the 05.00 from Robeson Oil Refinery on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2023.*

Source:  
*@NickCar23619332 on Twitter, 'X'.*



*60040 passing through Newport hauling the 10.13 Westerleigh to Robeson empties on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2022.*

Source:  
*@NickCar23619332 on Twitter, 'X'.*

## Snow Ploughs in Scotland

Early in January 2026 there was a weather warning for snow and ice for the north of Scotland. A day later heavy snow closed many lines including:

Aberdeen – Dundee  
Aberdeen – Inverness  
Far North Line  
Kyle of Lochalsh Line

Several class 37s went north on snowplough duties. These were photographed in high quality video which you can view on the YouTube channel **Zander Trains**. Their videos are well worth a look. The following pictures are screen grabs from those videos.



*37219 and 37419 at Muir of Ord.*





*37610 and 37424 making a token exchange at Dingwall, on their way back from Kyle of Lochalsh, proceeding to Inverness.*

## Tries Hard But Must Do Better

Some audio and visual elements in this documentary are supported by AI due to copyright limitations.  
For documentary purposes only.

*Don't say you weren't warned...*



“Illustration” from a YouTube “documentary” about a Canadian railroad disaster. You could tell it was created by AI because it took half an hour to say what could have been said in five minutes. The above illustration also might just have given you a clue. Still, in Scotland recently a combined cowcatcher + rotary snowplough + conventional snowplough could have come in very handy.



*Signal WW6959 at Whitacre Junction, photographed by Andrew Young.*

Why is the stopping point so far ahead of the signal? And what purpose does the chair serve? Your humble editor merely reports this stuff and does not presume to understand it.

## Waterloo Warships



*Waterloo in the BR blue era, with double-headed Warships heading a train for Exeter St Davids, the station seen in the lower picture.*

*Photographers unknown.*

## 08 Converted to Hydrogen Power



*Vanguard Sustainable Transport Solutions has partnered with the Severn Valley Railway to convert a former class 08 diesel shunter to hydrogen power, a process which took five years.*



*On October 1<sup>st</sup> 2014 66301 heads south at Lunds on the Settle and Carlisle with a coal train. A good sample of the scenery we will be reproducing on the new club layout, Garsdale.*

*Source: @Tarka\_Man on Twitter, 'X'.*

## Talylyn Railway Gets £3.7 Million Grant

This year the Talylyn Railway celebrates 75 years in operation as a preserved railway. Another cause for celebration is a grant of £3,700,000 from the UK Heritage Fund. A long way from the opening day on 14 May 1951.



BILL TRUDGER CUTTING TYPE OPENING CEREMONY - 14 MAY 1951



*Dent Head Viaduct on the Settle and Carlisle route.*

*Photographer unknown.*

## Editorial: What are Model Railway Clubs For?

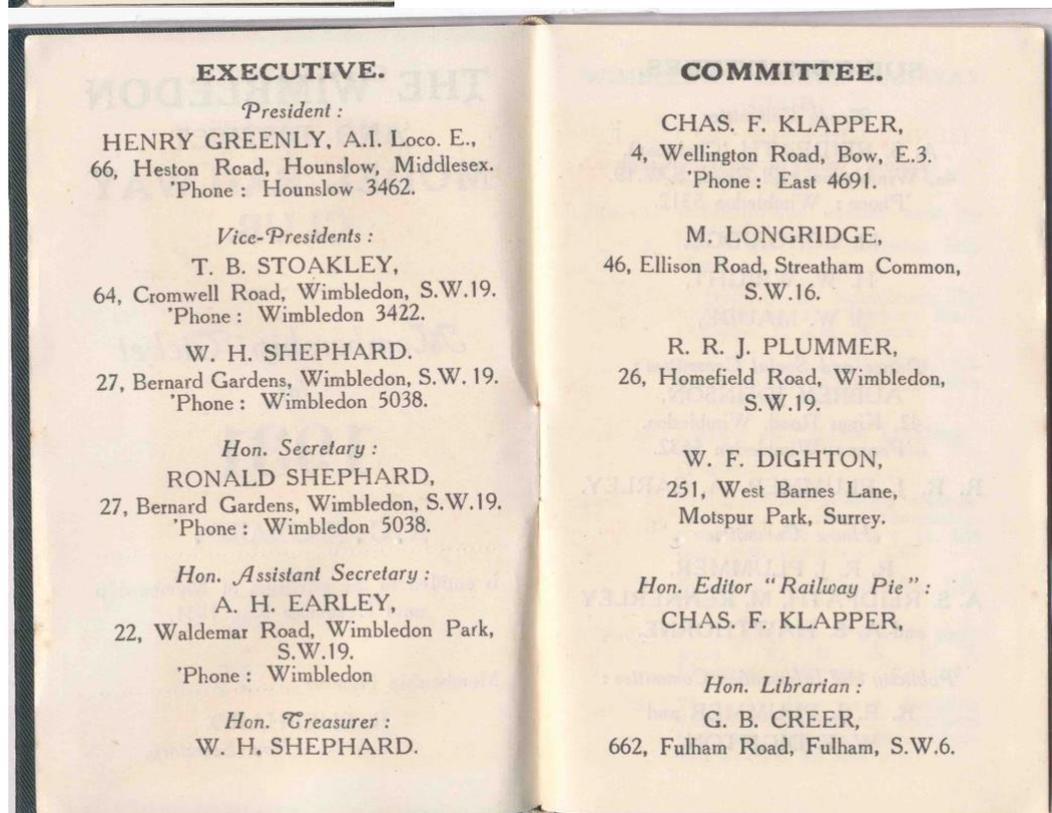
Julian Lermitt

The Pendon Museum recently discovered an interesting relic from the 1930s. It was a membership book from the Wimbledon and District Model Railway Club which had belonged to Pendon founder Roye England. The Wimbledon Club was founded in 1924, is still going strong, and is believed to be the second oldest model railway club in the world.



Among the pioneering British railway modellers on the committee are Henry Greenly, who was responsible for the nonsense that is 00 with its narrow-gauge track; Michael Longridge, an early modeller of GWR prototypes; and Charles Klapper, who worked for the Railway Magazine.

Roye England is Member number 95, implying a total club membership approaching 100.



## SUB-COMMITTEES.

### *Track Committee :*

A. S. REIDPATH (Chairman),  
4a, Wimbledon Hill Road, S.W.19.  
Phone : Wimbledon 5312.

M. LONGRIDGE,

H. W. WRIGHT,

J. W. MAUDE,

### *Dance and Social Committee :*

AUBREY JOHNSON,  
42, Kings Road, Wimbledon.  
Phone : Wimbledon 5632.

R. R. J. PLUMMER, A. EARLEY.

### *House Committee :*

R. R. J. PLUMMER,  
A. S. REIDPATH, M. KENNERLEY  
and A. S. HAWTHORNE.

### *Publicity and Information Committee :*

R. R. J. PLUMMER and  
W. F. DIGHTON.

## WIMBLEDON MODEL RAILWAY CLUB.

### FIXTURE LIST, 1931.

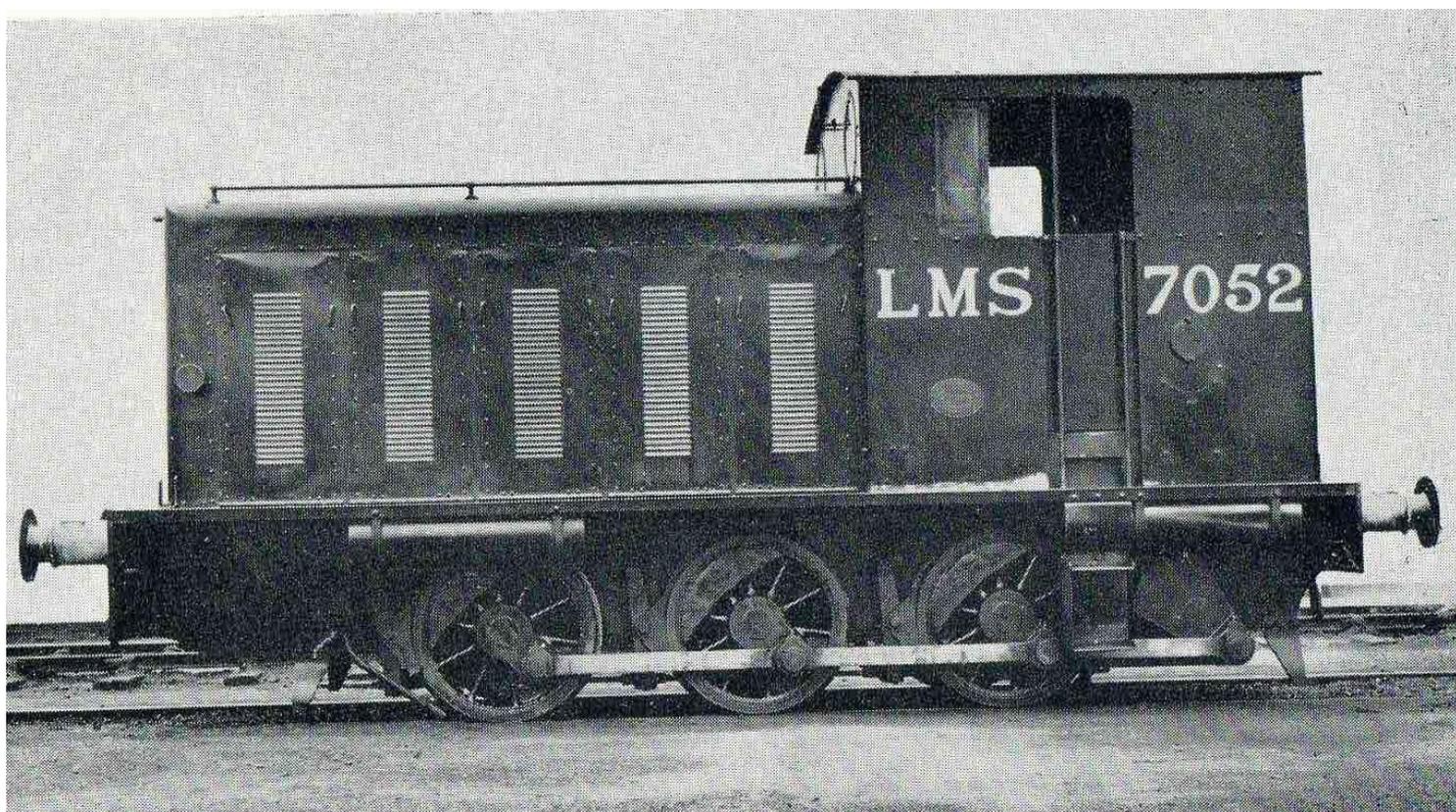
- Jan. 1. Subscriptions should now be paid.  
" 3. Dance at the Wimbledon Hill Hotel.  
" 1-10. "Daily Mail" Schoolboys Exhibition at the Empire Hall, Olympia, 10 a.m.—9 p.m.  
" 12. Annual General Meeting, followed by the "Club's Collection of Lantern Slides."  
" 19. Lecture on "Train Lighting," by Messrs. Stone and Co. (Visitors).  
Feb. 2. Track Night, Monthly Competition and practical demonstrations by the winners in the Club competitions of 1930.  
" 7. Dance at the Wimbledon Hill Hotel.  
Feb. 16. Lecture on "Freak Railways," by Mr. R. R. J. Plummer (Member).  
" 28. Visit to the East Croydon School of Signalling, Southern Railway. Meet at East Croydon Station at 2.45 p.m.

Among the interesting features of this document is the Fixture List – for the whole year in advance! Of course in 1931 many members could not afford a telephone, so a change in plans would mean sending dozens of letters. It made sense to plan well in advance. Note that this model railway club spent twice as much time *dancing* as it did on running trains. "Track Night" was on Monday night, as were the AGM and the two lectures. The visit to the Southern Railway Signalling School, which would have incorporated its own model railway, was on Saturday afternoon. (In 1931 many members would have worked on Saturday morning.)

Following our club's latest AGM was an animated discussion of a proposal that would have increased the space allocated to club layouts from 4.25 rooms to 4.5 rooms (out of 5 available). Running trains, it was asserted, is what model railway clubs do. That ain't necessarily so. If you are a member of a club who has no layout of your own but wants to run trains, then club layouts are of central importance. If you have your own layout, then the club layouts may be much less

important to you. This doesn't stop many members who have their own layouts contributing in a major way to the building and maintenance of our club's layouts, sometimes to the detriment of their own home layouts.

Some members prefer to *make* models: to them running trains may be a secondary interest, or of no interest at all. Such members often use the club's library to inform their modelling. Other members simply prefer to socialise with those who share their interest in model railways. All these varied interests of members have a claim on the club's facilities.



Hunslet 0-6-0 7052 of January 1934. This locomotive had a 150hp Mercedes-Benz engine with an auxiliary petrol engine for starting. After loan to the War Department it was sold to the Admiralty in 1943. Its subsequent career is uncertain. Photographer unknown.

## **Traders in Secondhand Model Railway Equipment**

These traders in model railways are even more important now that the number of model shops is dwindling. If you are aware of other traders who handle models of British railways, please let the editor know.

### **MARCUS LECKY**

<mailto:marcuslecky47@gmail.com>

### **TRAINMANIA©**

*A reminder that Trainmania's new shop is now open in Warkworth.*

022 605 5415

<mailto:lionel@trainmania.co.nz>

<http://www.trainmania.co.nz/>

### **TONY DRAGICEVIC**

027 872 3630

<mailto:tony.dragicevic@gmail.com>

### **JOHN HESLIN**

**Invercargill**

021 188 9049

<mailto:tootroom@gmail.co>

## **Next Totem**

The March 2026 edition of *The Totem* will be published on 20<sup>th</sup> March. If there is anything you would like to contribute to the editor, Julian Lermitt, email:

<mailto:kiwiscrooge@xtra.co.nz>

## **Events of Interest**

**2026**

### **March 2026**

**4** Gold card group meet at clubrooms. (Everyone else welcome.) Bring lunch and a project to work on.

**18** Monthly club meeting in clubrooms.

**28-29** Bulls 2026 Model Railway Show, Bulls Scout and Guide Hall, 30 Wilson Street, Bulls.

### **April 2026**

**11-12** Hamilton Model Railroaders Club Model Railway Exhibition, Te Awamutu Events Centre, 3 Selwyn Lane, Te Awamutu.

### **May 2026**

**2-3** Dunedin Model Train Show, 12 Wickliffe Street, Mosgiel, Dunedin.

## June 2026

13-14 Hastings Model Railway Club Show, Hastings Sports Centre, 503 Railway Road, Hastings.

*The above events are those which in the editor's judgement will go ahead, in the absence of interruptions outside the control of the organisers.*

*Events of Interest is compiled from a number of sources, the principal ones being the What's On page of the New Zealand Model Railway Guild website: <http://nzmrg.org.nz> and the Model Train Shows website <http://trainshows.co.nz/>. Information is published in good faith but no responsibility can be accepted. Always check with organisers before travelling long distances.*

## Club Officers

Chair: Roger Simmons email <mailto:rogersimmonsnz@gmail.com>

Deputy Chair: Jacob Borich email <mailto:jacob.borich@gmail.com>

Treasurer: John MacDonald email <mailto:treasurerwbrm@gmail.com>

Secretary: Martin Curwen email <mailto:secretarywbrm@gmail.com>



*A3 2580 Shotover at Kings Cross.      Photographer: George R. Giggs*