THE
HORNBY
RAILWAY COLLECTOR

Issue 618
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2026



One word:
Gaydon.
See p14

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The Hornby Railway COLLECTOR

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NOVEMBER 2026

Meccano on the cover !

Indeed, Meccano on the cover, but why, as this is the ***Hornby*** Railway Collectors' Association?

Sadly your editor could not make the October Gaydon event, which I hear described as 'probably the best Gaydon yet'. Thankfully there were some exceptional photographs and video, taken by different members. Some of you will have already seen them on the H.R.C.A. Facebook pages or possibly YouTube. I think I've seen most if not all of them and I can clearly see why some thought it was the best event to-date. But then, here is my dilemma.

As editor I am tasked with putting your 'Collector' together and you would certainly want a fitting cover for such an issue - I would not disagree, but then, you tell me how I am expected to pick one exceptional layout above another to be featured on the cover - and there were plenty to choose from? Frankly, its not a choice I want to make, but thankfully there was another stunning display which oozed the very essence of the company behind Hornby Trains - Meccano, and that was a display put together by Tom and Matthew McCallum and photographed by Andrew Horner, and so to all three goes the honour of the cover, on behalf of all who exhibited or were in any possible way, involved in the putting on of the October Gaydon event. Hearty congratulations to you all.

You will see that once again our Chairman is having to appeal for helping hands and so I feel compelled to endorse what he says in my column, as frankly it is more important than anything else I might want to currently write about.

It is now literally months that the H.R.C.A. has been seeking a new Exhibition Co-ordinator. David Harrison has done a wonderful job bringing the Gaydon event to fruition, and just look at how many attended and appreciated it. I'm sure we all want to see more of it's kind and certainly will want to see a 60th Anniversary event when the time falls due, but where are the people prepared to roll their sleeves up and make these things happen? Without them, we can brace ourselves not to see such events again and after over 50 years of the existence of the H.R.C.A., this would be an absolute crying shame. Our Chairman also highlights the vacancy of Advertising Manager - someone with some time to look into generating more advertisers within our pages - helping to finance each publication. Get in touch with me if this might be you. Furthermore, with the retirement of David Harrison, we also need someone to receive and send out, where necessary, the back copies of the Journal. Then of course, there is the constant ongoing question of who might replace any of the stalwarts who hold the various positions which enable the association to function day-to-day. The first step is to involve yourself in the work of the committee, so you can get a feel for how the association works. There is an A.G.M. coming up - the time is now - will you grasp it?

Finally to close - the next edition is the one I always encourage you to think about. It covers Christmas and the New Year. Let's have some cracking material to peruse over the holiday.

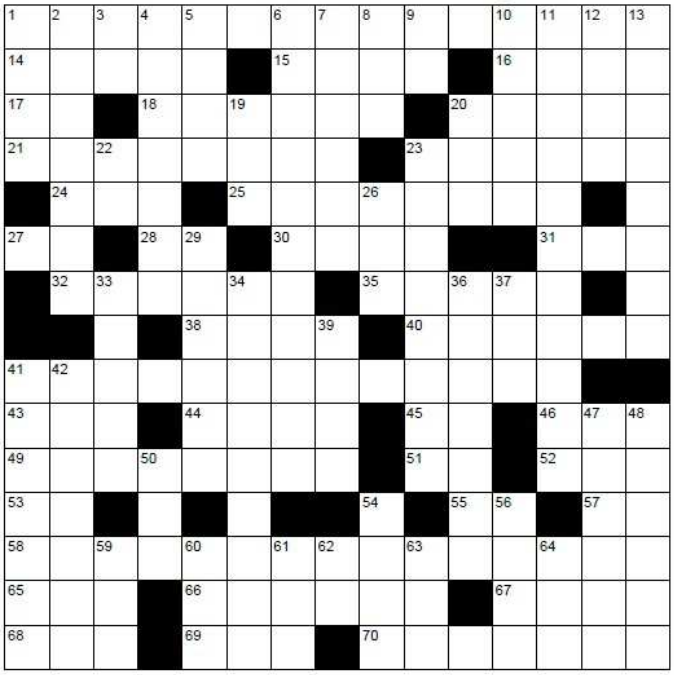
David Upton

COPY DEADLINE
DECEMBER/JANUARY ISSUE
10th NOVEMBER
FOR EVENTS: 3rd NOVEMBER

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NOVEMBER CROSSWORD
Devised by Robert Gorrell (3640)



ACROSS
INITIALS
1a, 13d As Illustrated in the Last Issue (AI)
14 Combine, Unite
15 London North Rail Exit*
16 By Word of Mouth
17 Model Trains*
18 Nov. 7&8 Tractor Show
20 Restaurant in Santiago
21 Office Numbered 1A
23 Using the Cane
24 Cricket Team Bowling
25 Nov 27 Express Passenger Trains run at B...Sth Coast
27 Smallest of the Big Four
28 European Union*
30 Otherwise
31 Our Nearest Star
32 One Who Evades
35 Island State, Sth Pacific
38 Part of a Nerve Cell
40 To Reach High Up
41 East Anglia Event
November 21st (12)
43 Hide Under Here*
44 Refuse to Obey
45 Not So*
46 Fuss About Nothing
49 Oblivious
51 Gran Turismo*
52 Kangaroo (abbr)
53 Not Now*
55 Edison Screw*
57 Near (abbr)
58 Described as Our Result for the Year, in Fact Surplus
65 Make an Error
66 Remarks on the Quiet
67 Miniscule Amount
68 Repetitive Strain Injury*
69 Perfect Score
70 What the Financial A/cs Should Show As a Stand Alone Result (Surplus)

DOWN
1 Ammunition (abbr)
2 ,42 Clarborough Event November 25th Retford
3 Tri-Ang Railways*
4 Set on Fire
5 Fire Engine Equip.Count*
6 HRCA Lady Member – in N Scale and Now O Gauge
7 How Buffers are Built
8 Floating Animal Zoo
9 Light Engine*
10 French Poet, N. Judlin
11 Severn Valley Nov 5th
12 Receive for effort
13 Continuation of 1 across
19 Spider's Home
20 Feline Pet
22 Follow Up*
23 Dishonesty
26 General Social Survey*
29 East African Republic
33 Largest Nebraskan City
34 Skill, Mastery
36 Auction November 5th
37 Of Prime Grade*
39 'No' Votes
41 Follows Lightning
42 see 2 down
47 Small Holey Cakes
48 Cause (Afrikaans)
50 Sth Korean Boy Group
54 Second Hand
56 Expectorate
59 Weekday (abbr)
60 see 20 Down
61 Metal
62 / D
63 Unidentified Space Object*
64 Length Over All*



Meow - I live in Australia

SOLUTION CAN BE FOUND ON p60



Cartoon images enhanced courtesy of AI

HUMOUR PAST. 'M.M.' NOVEMBER 1932



Angry Guest (to Chauffeur): "How is it you've taken so long to find me? Didn't your master describe me to you?"

Chauffeur: "Yes sir, but there were so many fat old gentlemen!"

HUMOUR PAST. 'M.M.' NOVEMBER 1935



The pilot had taken charge of the vessel on coming into the harbour. The night was dark, with driving rain. Suddenly the ship grazed a rock.

The captain raved. "I thought you said you knew every rock in this harbour," he yelled.

"I do," replied the pilot. "That was one of them."



Next Stop, October *Gaydon*

Report by Bill Vyse



To your editor, this photo sums up what events like Gaydon must ultimately be about - presenting Hornby in the best possible light, yes, but in also making it accessible to a much younger audience in the hope that they might catch some of the enthusiasm for the products. In this photo, which has been supplied by Kip Bennett and comes with the consent of the children's parents, Kip's grandchildren take control of his 'Tenbithry' layout.

ARRIVING a bit after noon on the Friday, Rachel and I were greeted by Tom Curran of the British Motor Museum with "You can park a bit nearer, you know", but as we had no layout to unload we left the car where it was and went into the main hall to find a hive of activity. Layouts and trade stands were being set up on well laid out tables, trolleys and boxes of goodies being brought in and a general buzz as exhibits took shape and test running got under way. By the exit time of 5pm it was looking like a good show was in the making and this was confirmed in the morning when those who chose to set up on the Saturday had filled up the spaces.

The main hall featured six O gauge layouts and some Dublo with trade stands around the walls. In the centre of the hall the Bristol and Somerset group had a large clockwork O gauge layout, and the Chiltern Hills group brought three layouts – 'Bowler's Croft' showing Wrenn, 'Nouvion' featuring ACHO and 'Tenbithry', with more curves than Sophia Loren.

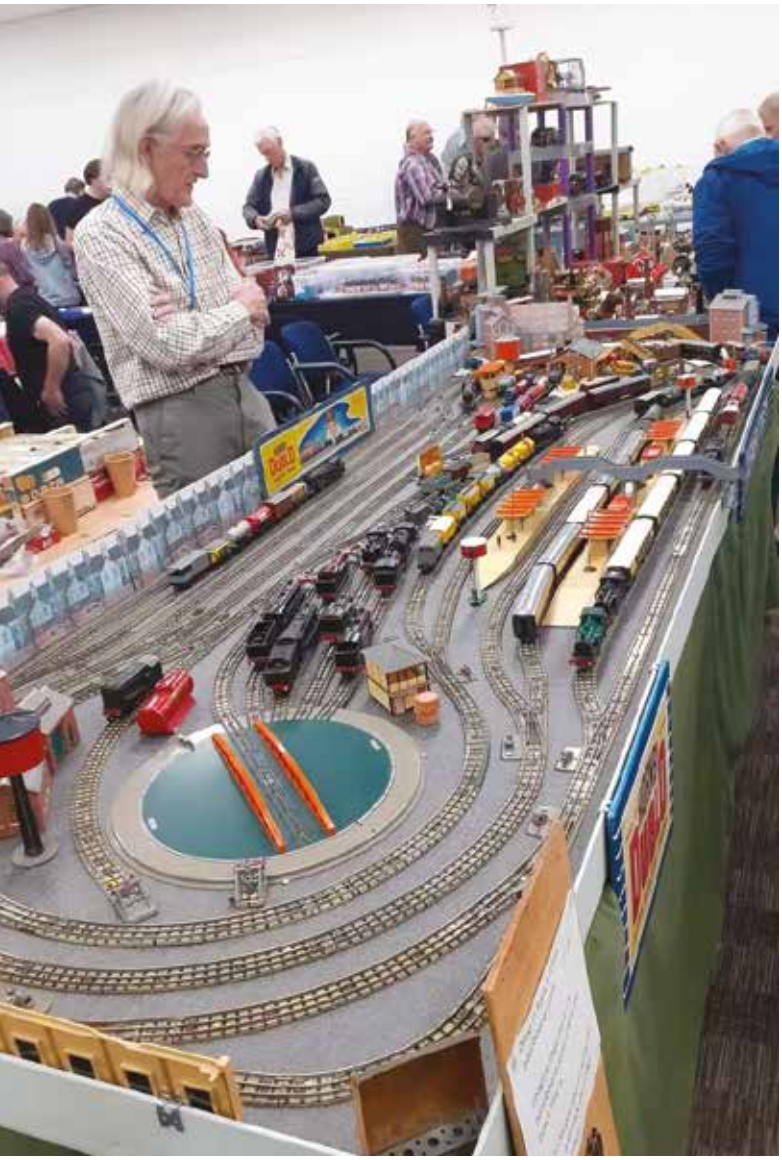
John Bann had a sales table for his Jodel Models, while Peter Schofield's clockwork layout was enhanced by Meccano aeroplanes and a large church made of balsa wood. Adam Heeley chose London as a theme, with Underground, London Transport trams and buses, the Household Cavalry and the Elizabeth Tower prominent, as well as Metropolitan locos of various makes.

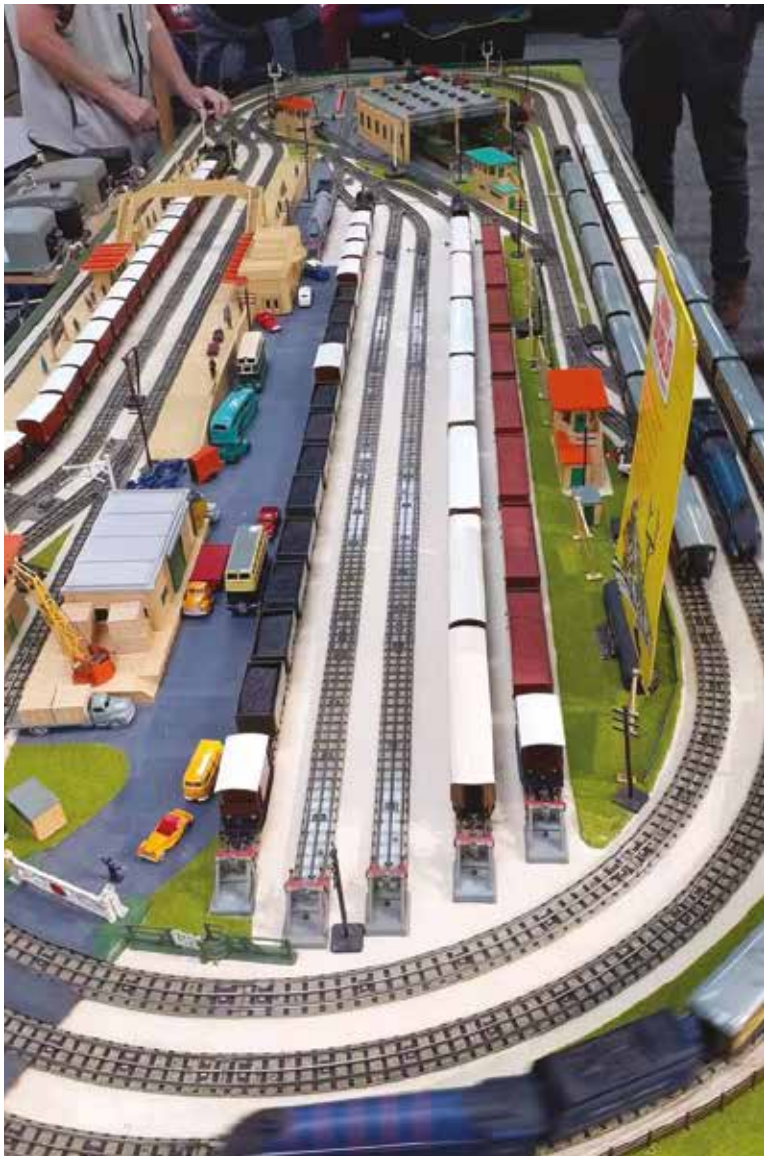
Chris Ness' layout followed the development of L.N.E.R. locos, particularly *"Yorkshire"* and *"The Bramham Moor"*. Andy Walker and family brought their Hornby Solid Steel-tracked "John Pentney Memorial", L.N.E.R.-based O gauge layout, with a line of six viaducts and featuring Bayko and Britains items.

Meanwhile, Stephen Jack's Dublo-dealer style 3-rail layout, included a high level line, and Stephen Sands and helpers showed the latest incarnation of the modular 3-rail Dublo from Somerset. Trading nearby were Richard Taylor with O gauge and live-steam, Matt Gibbs and Suzanne Cuthbert with O and Dublo, Mike



Overview of the Bristol and Somerset layout
Photograph by Andrew Horner





Dublo on the move - left: Kip Bennett and 'Tenbithry', right: Bob Fields layout

Delaney's son manning his stall in his absence and Alan Forster with more O gauge sales plus his range of spares.

Going clockwise around the walls of the hall, Nicholas Oddy and Chris Reeve were trading in O gauge, then Ian, Jane and David Tandy ran 'Templeford', their family end-to-end O gauge layout again featuring Hornby Solid Steel track and Hornby Control System equipment.

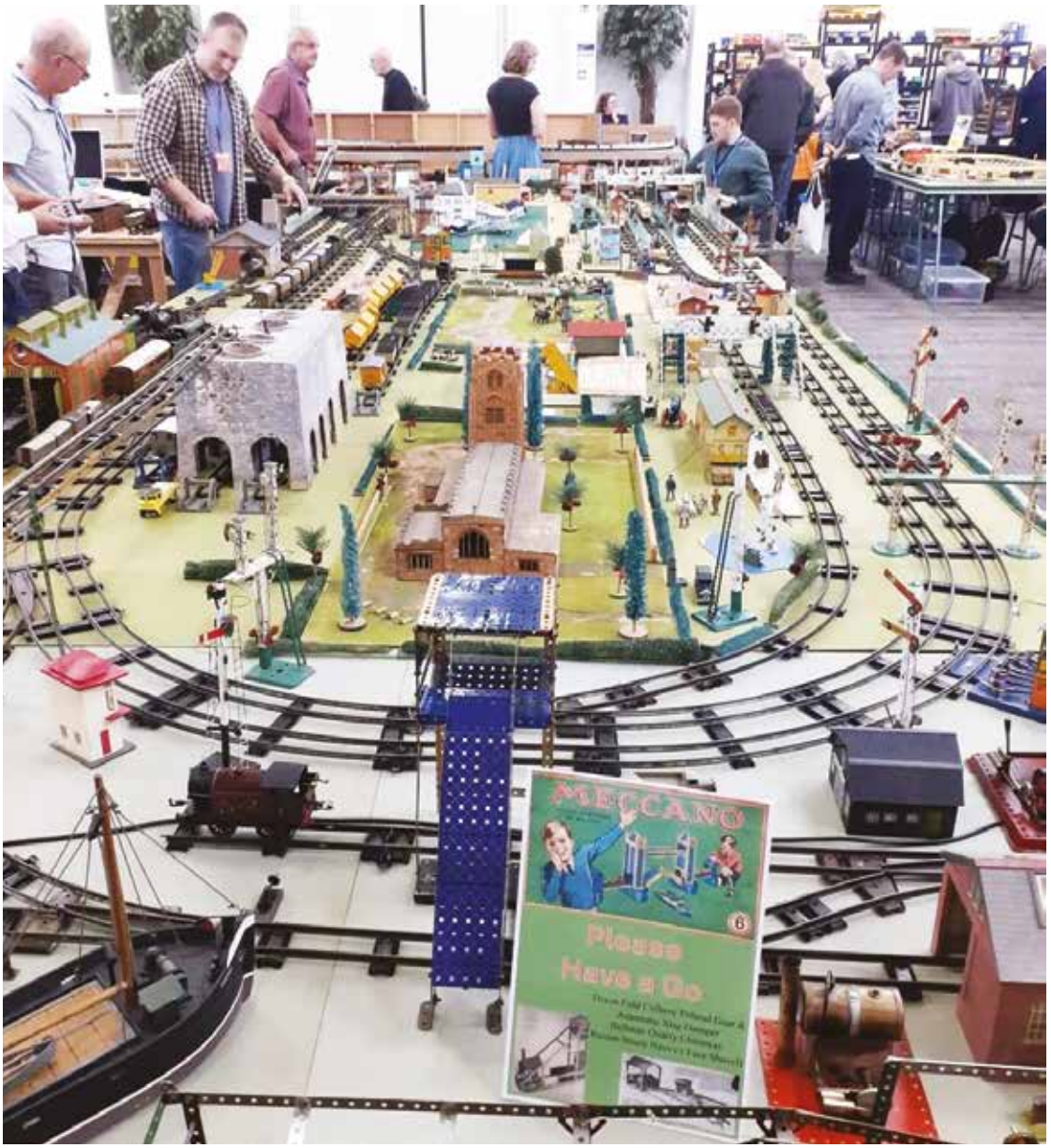
Around the corner were Neil Mansfield, Darren Cooper and Richard Everton presented an almost continuous table of Dublo and Wrenn. John and Elaine Nesbit had their unique Dublo stand, next to whom was Irving Brim selling Bassett-Lowe and more Hornby O gauge. Dixon Upcott majored on Trix with a selection of other makes, while Bob Scott had his



Adam Heeley's O gauge featuring Bayko



Photographs by Peter Schofield



usual variety of Dublo spares. Then came Mark Carne with yet more interesting O gauge, Tony Oakes had French Dinky Toys amongst other goodies, Cliff Maddock also had a good mix of O gauge and Dublo, while Elaine's Trains rewarded a perusal for unusual items.

Continuing the traders - Paul and Adam Draycott's table featured a recreation of the 1957 catalogue picture, with various Neverwazzas on offer, and next to him Chris Malvon (Metropolis Vintage Toys), had Dublo and O gauge sales. David and Amalia Ramsey had a selection of reference books and O gauge available. John and Linda Fitzgerald were selling a variety of Dinky Toys, Britains and other accessories, while Jean Dreyer had a large array of French Hornby for sale.

The Bring-and-Buy tables - with a team headed by Julian Mellor - had a steady day in the foyer; also in that area, John Harrison had a test track and remagnetising service and Andrew Lance was busy scanning documents for the archives. We welcomed Minster Auctions as well as David Lynch showing a sample of his "Mornington Crescent" kits.

In the outer gallery were a number of Dublo layouts, by the welcome desk which was in the charge of Mesdames Kitchen, Poxon and Vyse. Robin Hair and John Trickey's 2-rail layout had developed from when I last saw it. Ray Poxon and David Smith's agricultural 3-rail "The Perfect Table Railway", carried a wide variety of rolling stock, including all the variations of paint schemes for the Deltic found in Michael Foster's book. Mick Stanton and our Vice-Chairman, Andy Clarke, had a mixture of 2-rail and 3-rail Neverwazzas including four Bob Wharrier tanks. Bob Hamilton was trading in Dublo, while Bob Field's 3-rail L.N.E.R. layout 'Gilesfield', featuring a V2 and a streamlined B17 drew much attention.

The Quatt group, the Severn Valley Runners, showed Dublo 2-rail. Other parts of

the Meccano empire were represented by Ken Cowdrey's Dinky Toys, Tom McCullam's Meccano Christmas 1938 display, Robert Palmer's Dublo 2-rail alongside a Bayko-constructed Georgian pile and a white brick hotel. The same theme was used by Andy Harris, who mixed Dublo 2 and 3-rail with a train shed in Meccano-era Bayko and a brewery all in early brown Bayko bar the green doors and windows.

Once again, Gaydon has hosted an excellent show. Our thanks go to David Harrison who masterminded the event. He has now stepped down from the post of Events Co-ordinator, and a replacement is sought. Our thanks go to the staff at Gaydon, led by Tom Curran, and all who helped in any way – manning the welcome desk, assisting on the Bring-and-Buy, being part of teams on either layouts or trade stands and all those, without whose help, the show would not have been possible. We are already planning to return next year.

Bill Vyse (1853)



Overview of Chris Ness' layout. Photograph by Andrew Horner





Photographs by Andrew Horner



TAMAR VALLEY MODEL RAILWAY CLUB GROUP

September 2026

OUR monthly meeting took place on Wednesday 16th September and went well - we had 28 members, 10 visitors and 4 partners.

There was the pre-war O gauge electric operational with French Hornby and modern tinplate stock. There was also a converted Lima 4F that has been remodelled to create a Great Western locomotive. It has also been converted to 3-rail operation from what would have originally been battery.

The club Hornby-Dublo 3-rail layout was undergoing continuous redevelopment, but did have some locomotives running including a Wrenn *"Royal Scot"* also converted to 3-rail operation.

We also had the club's N gauge scenic layout out, which is being remodelled.

As usual, the book and DVD sales were present, and also the ladies served the hot food and delicious homemade cakes. With thanks to Ian Pethers, for the photographs from the meeting and recording notes.

Andy Walker (9727)



Modern tinplate



Wrenn *"Royal Scot"*



Pre-war Serie Hornby