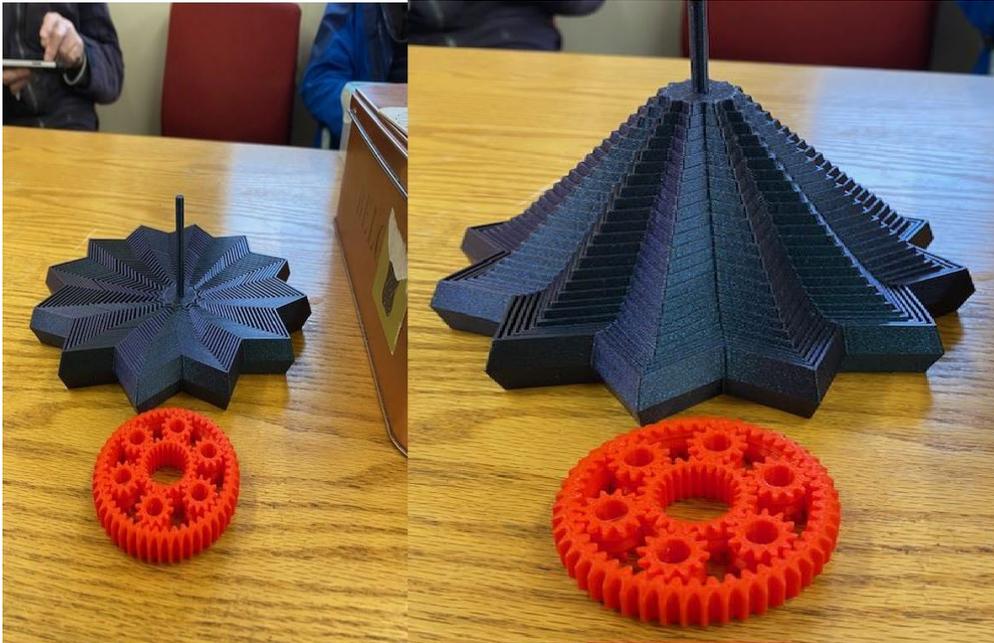


NEWSLETTER – FEBRUARY 2026

Samples of 3D printing by Mike Brown.

A few weeks ago, on a Wednesday morning at our clubhouse, Mike brought a couple of examples of what can be done with a 3D printer.



The photo on the left shows what looks like some kind of flower, with its stalk pointing upwards, along with a gear train. I'm not sure if these are a type of epicyclic gear. No doubt someone will let me know.

On close inspection as can be seen in the right-hand photograph, by lifting what I called the flower's stalk, this item became an inverted umbrella.

As regards the gears, the centre gear meshed perfectly with its six planet gears, with those perfectly meshing with the outer one.

Very clever.

A RAILWAY RELATED STYLE.

Brian Kerens contacted me a while ago regarding a style he had seen whilst walking over the mountains above Dwygyfylchi and was wondering if any of our knowledgeable members knew its history.

I'm aware of this style, it's a shame it can't talk to give us an idea of its origin.



I know men from the Rowen area worked at Penmaenmawr Quarry, I presume some might have worked at Carreg y Dref Quarry, overlooking Conwy Morfa as well. I can only imagine the blacksmiths at one of these locations manufactured this structure to enable these workmen a safer journey to and from their workplace. If this is the case, did they carry these (dismantled obviously) on their homeward journey, or was there a horse and cart involved.

These men were real heroes, imagine waking up about five o'clock in the morning, walking through a rainstorm for an hour and a half in total darkness and reaching work soaked to the skin. There they would change to dry clothes, having been kept in the quarryman's hut overnight. Working outside in mist, rain and snow doing very physical work and at the end of the day walk back home again in total darkness. I honestly don't know which was the worst job. A quarryman or a miner working underground.

LAST MONTH'S LECTURE.

Martin gave a very interesting talk on the construction of wind turbine towers. I was unable to go due to family commitments but everyone who went enjoyed his talk. What a shame, due to political decisions the whole business was transferred from Wales to Scotland.

HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO CONSTRUCT A 5 INCH GAUGE LOCO ?

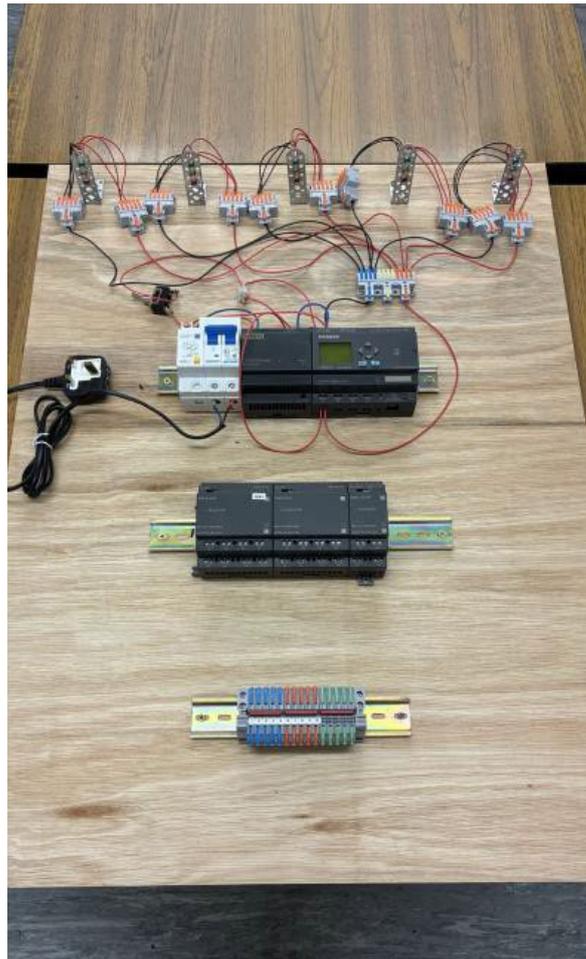
Our vice chairman, Gary decided to build a 5-inch gauge Hunslet in 1976. Due to family commitments this project was sidelined. In 2026, this project was resurrected.

I have seen a photo of the completed chassis. The workmanship is second to none. What do you expect from a time-served toolmaker ?

Gary has a soft spot for UNA, the locomotive that used to be a Pen yr Orsedd loco, now located at the Welsh Slate museum in Llanberis.

I can't wait to see how this locomotive progresses. It should be a cracker.

TRACK SIGNALLING AT WEST SHORE.



Due to an appointment at Ysbyty Gwynedd, I missed what was happening at West Shore today. Gary and Brian have mounted part of the circuitry onto a board. The idea is to prove the system works on a 00gauge layout before installation in our signal box. Phil Roberts is also a member of the MOLD MES and has come up with a few ideas they have used on their track. We shall have to discuss all the pros and cons before making a final design.

Recently, I was asked why railway indication lights (signals) were different from road traffic lights. Road traffic lights have red on top, whilst the railway has red on the bottom. European legislation I presume, no doubt a certain train driver (Mr. W H.) might come up with the answer.

CONGRATULATIONS.

Well done Archie on passing your driving test. Not an easy thing these days. I'm told we'll be seeing a lot more of you in future at West Shore with your Stroudley terrier.

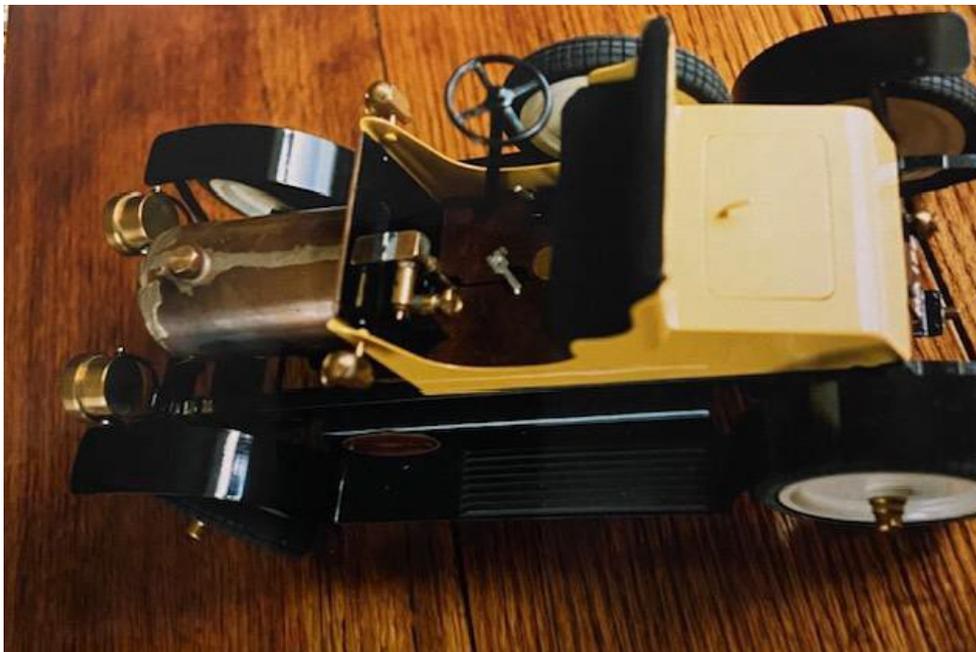
FOR SOMEONE WHO HAS CONSTRUCTED LOCOMOTIVES CLOCKS AND OTHER THINGS. What next ?

Whilst I was reading Model Engineer & Workshop magazine I came across, Camden Miniature Steam Services' advert. My good friend Keith Jones came to mind.

Their bestselling ME book of 2025 is called: Steam Shovels, a model builder's plan book. The book contains fully scaled measured drawings for seven excavators from the golden age of steam- powered shovels. With 204 pages and priced at a reasonable £40:95, this should keep anyone very quiet for quite a while and is highly recommended.

Another model worth considering is LBSC's Stanleyette. Many of you will be saying what's he talking about, I've never heard of it. It's a working model of the Stanley Steamer car.

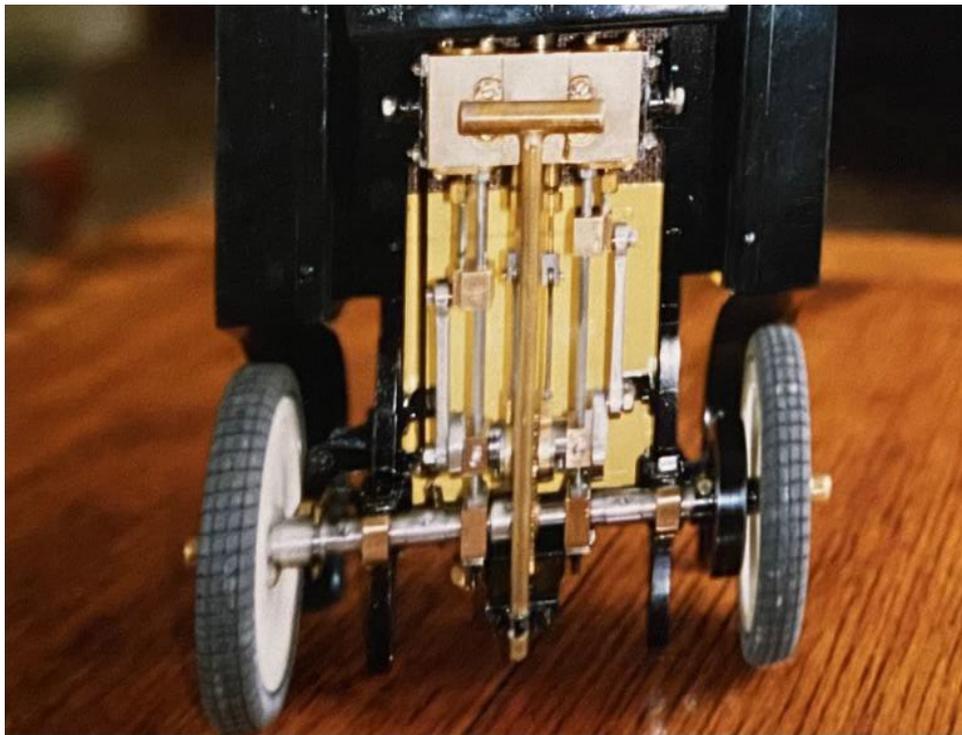
I've only ever seen one. Constructed by a past member called Murray Andrews. Murray lost his eyesight in his mid-sixties and had to give up his workshop activities.



I do have the article that featured this model in ME somewhere at home. If anyone is interested, I'll search for it. It only lasted two issues



Murray's personal number plate.



The car's steam engine shows the exhaust in the centre.

CONGRATULATIONS KEITH.

Last weekend Keith Jones celebrated another milestone in his life. 87 comes to mind! It must be all down to how Tina looks after him. LLONGYFARCHIADAU.

NEXT LECTURE.

Apologies for the short notice as I've been having problems finding volunteers willing to give us a talk. We will be meeting this Wednesday; 4th March 2026, commencing at 10:30.

The topic will be **BRITISH STEAM RAILWAY DISASTERS. 1913- 1967. (FOLLOWED BY A DISCUSSION ON THE CAUSES OF THESE ACCIDENTS)**

Looking forward to seeing you all on Wednesday 4th March.

Kind Regards,

Harold Jones