



The Ramble

561 of 2nd March 2026



Monday 2nd March	[561]
Monday 9th March	[562]
Monday 16th March	[563]
Monday 23rd March	[564]
Monday 30th March	[565]
Monday 6th April	Easter Monday - No Ramble
Monday 13th April	[566]
Monday 20th April	[567]
Monday 27th April	[568]
Monday 4th May	[569] May Day Bank Holiday
Monday 11th May	[570]
Monday 18th May	No Ramble as at SVR Diesel Gala
Monday 25th May	[571] Spring Bank Holiday

Dave Newman

Dave Newman sadly died on 12th February 2026 after a period of illness. Dave was one of those UK Enthusiasts who discovered European Bashing long before a lot of us did and basically rode behind most HLE 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 18 old, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 25, 26, 27, 28 old, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 62 and a lot of other stuff as well.



His funeral is at 2pm on Friday 27 March at Easthampstead Park Cemetery and Crematorium, South Road, Bracknell, Wokingham RG40 3DW.
The wake is at the Egham United Services Club, 111 Springrise, TW20 9PE.
All those who enjoyed his company on the bash are welcome.

Bernard Dallons

Bernard was a top Belgian photographer who has recently passed away.



For The Diary 2026

If you know of an event, let me know and I will put it here.

Good Friday is on Friday 3rd April
Easter Monday is on Monday 6th April

Chemin De Fer De La Baie De Somme - Fête de la Vapeur - 25th and 26th April

<https://www.chemindefer-baiedesomme.fr/en/steam-festival-2026>

The link to both diesel hauled charters is here. One on Saturday and one on Sunday.

<https://chemindefer-baiedesomme.fr/fr/fete-de-la-vapeur-2026/trains-speciaux>

Train à Vapeur d'Auvergne Railtour on Saturday 2nd May

www.trainvapeur-auvergne.com/produit/train-de-chenonceau

Tour from Clermont-Ferrand to Chenonceau with a BB67400.

Stoomtrein Maldegem-Eeklo - Stoomtreinfestival - 2nd and 3rd May

<https://stoomtreinmaldegem.be/nl/evenementen-2026/2-3-mei-2026-stoomtreinfestival/>

May Day is on Monday 4th May

UK Walk Up Fares



The Man in Seat 61 - seat61.com

1h · 🌐



DON'T BUY WALK-UP TRAIN TICKETS IN ADVANCE!

On 1 April, the government is quietly changing the National Rail Conditions of Travel. Off-Peak & Anytime tickets become non-refundable after 23:59 the day BEFORE you travel.

If you wake up & find your event cancelled or your AirBnB burnt down, NO REFUNDS, even on £100+ tickets.

Advice to passengers is simple: NEVER buy Super-Off-Peak, Off-Peak or Anytime tickets in advance. ALWAYS buy on the day, 5 minutes before you board the train. If you buy in advance, any on-the-day change of plan could lose you £100s on a long journey. Even with a flexible ticket.

Need to reserve? For inter-city trips, there are ways to make a reservation BEFORE you buy a ticket, find them and use them. Then buy the ticket ON THE DAY at the station, from the ticket office or on your phone. Don't hand over money in advance, it's not worth the risk.

This actually makes fares MORE complex. You assume Off-Peak or Anytime fares are flexible so can cope with any eventuality. That's why you pay extra over non-refundable train-specific Advance fares. But counter-intuitively, if you have to cancel on the day, non-refundable Advance tickets can be moved to a future date, O-P & A tickets can't so you lose your money. What a mess!

There's already an admin fee on refunds which means short hops (on which checking every ticket is impossible) are in effect non-refundable. But if train operators can't check a ticket on a 200-mile journey they don't deserve to keep the money. Simply making all tickets non-refundable is very lazy revenue protection...

Would we have approved this NRCofC change back in 2007 when I headed the fares & ticketing team at DfT? But it's the government's money now, not the train operators. Govt approving a reduction in consumer protection for its own financial benefit. The government is marking its own homework.

If you thought nationalisation would make everything warm and cuddly, think again. Yes, keeping your money under all circumstances helps prevent fraudulent refund claims. But at the cost of honest passengers being caught out and losing all their money. Maybe just drive next time?



Fare dodgers targeted as train ticket refund rules are tightened



IANVISITS.CO.UK

Fare dodgers targeted as train ticket refund rules are tightened



Belgische Nachrichten Nouvelles belges Belgisch Nieuws

HLE 13

I showed this photograph by Dorian Kastrati in Ramble 560 taken on Saturday 7th February at Salzinnes Works with the comment "The empty shell of 1330 needs putting out of it's misery." It went to Keyser & Fils on Wednesday 11th February 2025.



HLE 13

After the Revision Dates on 1313, 1319 & 1323# [# In Salzinnes Works].

1323 at Salzinnes Works for an Intermediate Revision. Back in mid March.

1333 is at Salzinnes for repair after a collision with a truck in France on 27/02/25.



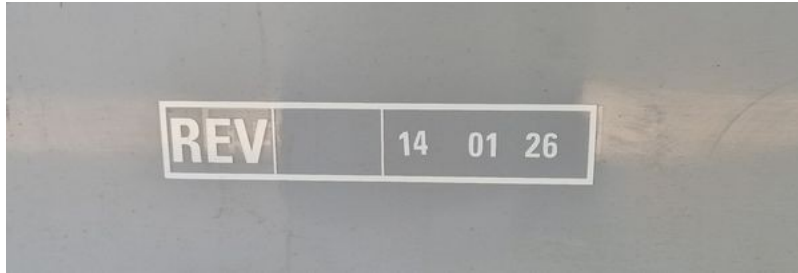
HLE 18/19

Interested in the Intermediate Revision dates on
1841, 1843#, 1847# & 1924# [# In Salzinnes Works].

Some of the locomotives listed as being at Salzinnes for ETCS works are due off shortly.

- 1803 is in Salzinnes for ETCS works.
- 1812 is in Salzinnes for ETCS works.
- 1824 is back in service after ETCS works.
- 1841 is back in service after a RI2 Revision at Salzinnes Works.
- 1843 is at Salzinnes Works for a RI2 Revision. Back in service early March.
- 1847 is at Salzinnes Works for a RI2 Revision. Back in service early March.
- 1857 is in Salzinnes for ETCS works.
- 1871 is in Salzinnes for ETCS works.
- 1877 is in Salzinnes for ETCS works.
- 1878 is in Salzinnes for ETCS works.
- 1884 is back in service after ETCS works.
- 1886 is in Salzinnes for ETCS works.
- 1887 is in Salzinnes for ETCS works.
- 1888 is in Salzinnes for ETCS works.
- 1890 is back in service after accident repairs at Salzinnes Works.
- 1891 is in Salzinnes for ETCS works.
- 1924 is at Salzinnes Works for a RI2 Revision. Back in service late February.

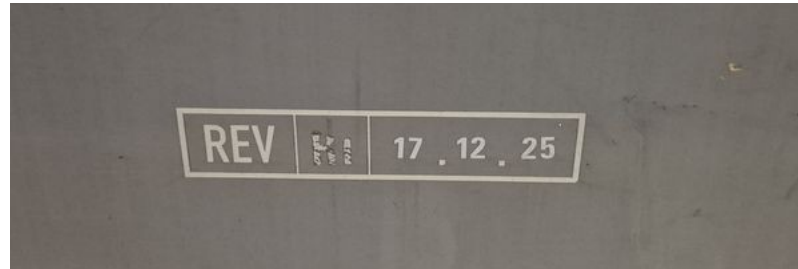
1806



1823



1920



HLE 21

HLE 21 has been away for cosmetic restoration and has been put back into its original livery. 2160 was the last totally built and equipped locomotive in Belgium.



After a two month restoration, 2160 is ready for its second life as a museum locomotive. 2160 has been preserved by Train World Heritage and has been brought back to its original state when it was handed over by BN in the late 1980s.

A nice achievement by the Train World Heritage team! A locomotive they can certainly be proud of!

2160 was on display at Train World in Schaerbeek for one day for the M4 Farewell Railtour. Photograph by Maarten Schoubben.

HLE 27

There were a number of HLE 27s recorded at Antwerpen Noord on 14th January 2026. They were not there on Saturday 21st February.

The five at Mechelen are visible from the passing trains on Line 25 and using Platforms 11 & 12 at Mechelen Station.

2759 is visible at Schaarbeek and sits with 2132 and 2114 alongside Line 25.

John reported that 2731 + 2707 were shunted into the Port of Bruxelles on 11/02 for scrapping/onward transport to scrap.

This video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1AYKfj2WNAA> is them crossing over the Vilvoordselaan / Avenue de Vilvoorde near the premises of Derichebourg Belgium where they were scrapped in the week beginning Monday 23rd February.

2730 was used on the Farewell to the M4 Raitour on Saturday 28th February 2026. Both the locomotive and stock was covered in graffiti. Photograph by Jon Piesing.



John Mulrine took this photograph at Charleroi Quest and said the train consist was 81-78 052-4, 19-78 006-7, 19-78 036-4, 89-90-003-0, 20-78 277-1, 20-78 418-1, 20-78 037-9 & 20-78 276-3



These are from Bruno Mailfait

Gent St. Pieters on the way out



Taking in the bracing air at De Panne



Can you imagine any other company sending a farewell train out looking like this?

Schaarbeek - The End



HLE 28/29/186

Interested in the Revision dates on 186 256, 186 348, 186 350, 186 445, 186 446# 186 447, 186 451 & 186 454#.

186 258



186 001 / 2851 has started work for B-Transport on 17th February.
186 002 / 2852 has started work for B-Transport on 17th February.
186 446 is being Revised at Rose Mobility, Kassel
186 447 is working for Lineas. May have been Revised.
186 451 is back working for Lineas after Revision at Talbot, Aachen
186 454 is being Revised at Talbot, Aachen

Whilst I was over in Belgium I saw all the B-Transport HLE 28s either working or at Antwerpen Noord. With the entry into service of 2851 & 2852 I expect one or more of the Alpha Trains TRAXX to make their way to Brugge Works for ETCS upgrades in the near future.

2851 and 2852 were out on test on Saturday 14th February and see here at Antwerpen Centraal.



HLD 55

5509 was officially withdrawn on 6th October 2025. It was inside at Antwerpen Noord on Saturday 21st February 2026 I assume for component recovery.

HLD 62

I have been sent information that the following were moved from Salzinnes for scrap. I am awaiting confirmation on where they were moved to, with Keyser & Fils in Courcelles the favourite.

“On a mitraillé plusieurs locomotive” EN - mitraillé is a slang word for scrap and in English we might literally use the word shrapnel.

HLD 6203	13th January 2026
HLD 6247	23rd January 2026
HLD 6292	5th February 2026
HLD 6311	9th February 2026

I have seen no photographs of these movements, however this is nothing new.



The above photograph is by Fabrice Henneghien and is full of detail. Firstly is the long job ongoing with 6305 in the background. This locomotive may be out next month but I am not holding my breath.

6306 is owned by TrainWorld Heritage or whatever they are called this week. Quite a few depots have a heritage locomotive where technicians work on the locomotives when there is some spare time or the word comes from on high that a locomotive is needed.

GM Engines do not have an engine block like other engines but instead have a crank case where power assemblies fit into. The Power assemblies have the pistons in and can be changed out on an individual basis. The Power Assemblies are laid on the pallets in front of 6306.

HLR 77/78

7736 was in the secret room at Antwerpen Noord on Saturday 21st February having its DB stickers removed.

The other DB stickered loco was 7737 and that was sat outside.



- 7701 is at Salzinnes for repairs to collision damage after a shunting accident with 7705.
- 7705 is under repair at Salzinnes Works after a shunting accident with 7701.
- 7728 is in Salzinnes Works for the fitting of ETCS and repainting into Infrabel Blue.
- 7729 is in Salzinnes Works for the fitting of ETCS and repainting into Infrabel Blue.
- 7730 is back in service after fitting with ETCS and repainting into Infrabel Blue.
- 7731 is in Salzinnes Works for the fitting of ETCS and repainting into Infrabel Blue.
- 7742 is back in service after fitting with ETCS.
- 7746 is at Salzinnes Works for ETCS fitting.
- 7750 is at Salzinnes Works for ETCS fitting.
- 7756 is back in service after fitting with ETCS.
- 7757 is at Salzinnes Works for ETCS fitting.
- 7782 is at Salzinnes for Revision.
- 7808 is out of service due to theft of the radiator by the Metal Fairies.
- 7809 is at Salzinnes for Revision.
- 7814 is back in service after after fitting with ETCS.
- 7821 is back in service after after fitting with ETCS.
- 7845 is at Brouwer Technologie BV Roosendaal for installation of ETCS.
- 7848 is out of service due to theft of the radiator by the Metal Fairies.
- 7853 is back in service after after fitting with ETCS.

AR/MW 41

4102, 4166, 4175 & 4182 were officially withdrawn on 6th October 2025.

I have received information that 4131 was removed from Salzinnes for scrap on 19th January 2026.

These are the periods in 2026 that Infrabel will work in Hasselt station:

28th February to 2nd March

20th March to 23rd March

28th March - 27th April

1st May - 4th May

8th May - 11th May

During the longest period (28th March - 27th April) all the 41's from Hasselt will be placed in park (NCOM status) in Bundel E in Hasselt. They cannot move anywhere as the only way out is via the station and that is where the blockade is. Every two days the engines will be started to keep them active.

In the near future some will go to Charleroi or Melle and all the AR/MW41 will leave Hasselt by the end of September 2026. Over the whole fleet, the 14 MW41's with the most hours / poorest condition will stop running and will be sold or scrapped.

En Lignes / Op de Baan



PFT - TSP : Le Chemin de Fer du Bocq & Retrotrain
Group expert All-star contributor · 22 February at 17:00 · 🌐

📣 Important information - Magazine "En Lignes"

From 2026, we will end the distribution of our magazine "En Lignes" via the AMPs (selling in bookstores).

This decision is based on a clear conclusion: almost 70% of the deposited copies remain unsold and are directly destroyed. ♻️

This method of operation is neither in line with responsible management of the association's means nor with our willingness to limit waste.

👍 Good news: "En Lignes" remains of course available

- 📍 at the Retrotrain shop
- 🛒 to the unit via our online store: €15 shipping fee included
- 📄 via the subscription offered on our website

🔗 Shop online: <https://www.pfttsp.be/boutique/>

⚙️ See original · Rate this translation

👍 🤔 11

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<https://www.pfttsp.be/boutique/>

M4

It looks as if the M4 coaches were stripped on the Monnoyer Quay in the Port of Brussels and then pushed into the premises of Derichebourg to be reduced to scrap metal.

This was 52184 and photograph by Maarten Schoubben on 24th February 2026.



This is 58045



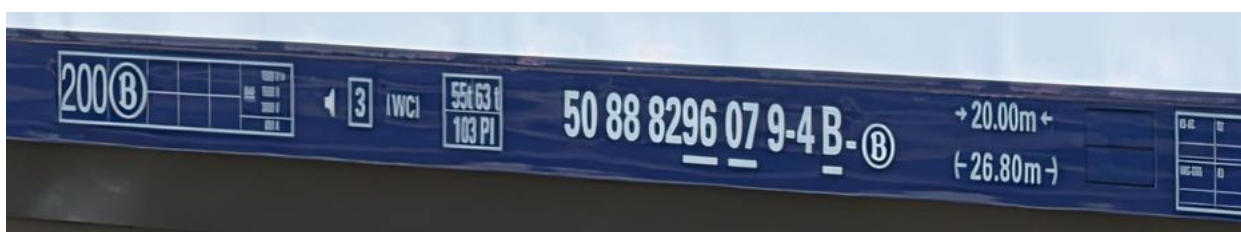
M7

79079 appeared at Schaarbeek on Thursday! Brugge can build around 2½ M7s per week. I have been counting on them building 1½ per week as there is other work going on and 1½ was fitting in with what was entering service. 1½ per week gives six M7s per four week month. It looks as if Brugge is building 2½ M7s per week so 10 per month.

Here is 79079 at Schaarbeek on Thursday 26th February 2026.
Photographs by Nathan Van Riet.



In the consist were a HLE 18, 79057, 79078, 79074, 79079 and a M7 BMx. The M7 BD Multies will be going to Melle this week.



Line 50A & 50D - Gent to Brugge

Gent to Brugge Line 50D [the new outside track]

- 63.6 end of the current Landegem Loop and Line 50D joins Line 50A
- 63.7 New Line 50D track starts and the wires are up.
- 70.6 New Line 50D track stops.
- 70.7 Aalter Loop starts.

Aalter Station

- 72.6 Aalter Loop stops
- 72.6 Only the wires up
- 73.6 Line 50D track starts and the wires are up.

Maria-Aalter Station

Beernem Station

- 85.6 Stuyvenberg crossover from Line 50A comes in and Line 50D is in use through Oostkamp to Brugge.

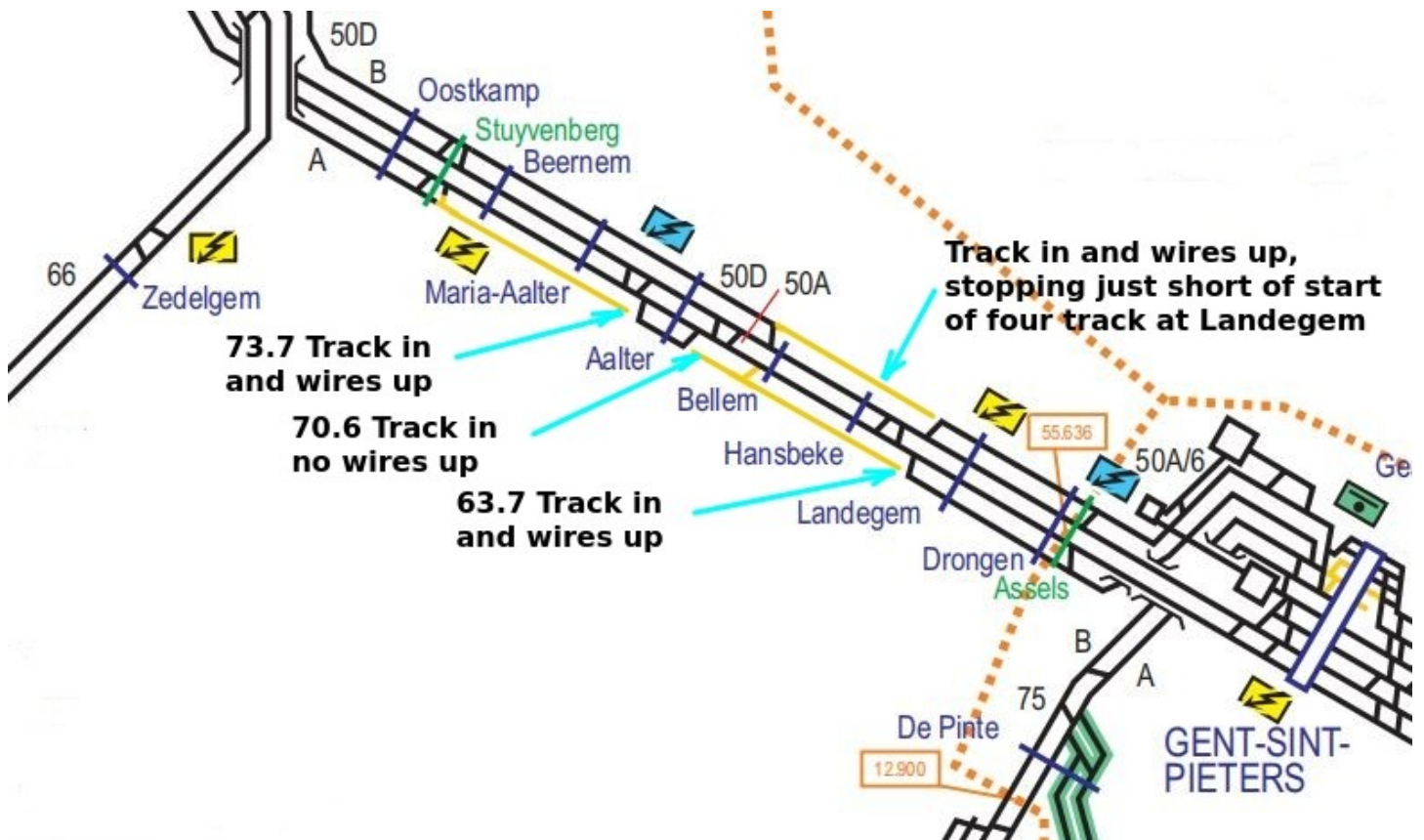
Brugge to Gent - Line 50D [the new outside track]

In use from Oostkamp through Aalter Station to 69.3 where Line 50D joins into Line 50A.

Wires and track in until 63.6 where the crossover comes in from Line 50A and the Landegem Loop starts at 63.5.

I did this plan last November and very little has changed. The new crossovers at Assels are in but not wired up. The current connecting points at Landegem Loop 63.7 are to be taken out completely and the movement from 50A to 50D will take place at Assels and not Landegem.

When the tracks around Aalter are connected up in the Brugge direction the current crossover lines for the Aalter Station Loop will come out and be plain lined in the similar way that they are in the Gent direction.



CFL DOSTO

This does not surprise me as CFL have been reducing the number of locomotive hauled trains for a while now.

With the reduction in stock this could lead to a potential reduction in Class 4000s as well. Perhaps if one has a nasty bang it will be withdrawn.

I asked if anyone knew anything as I assumed that DSB already had some similar coaches. The CFL DOSTO stock was the same as the DB stock and was basically an add on order, just finished in a different livery.

John Mulrine came back with.

"Yes DSB has a series of Bombardier DD 4th Gen stock like DB and CFL.

Info here with mention of 9 ex CFL being purchased.

https://www.sebtus.de/steckbrief_dsbv_abs.html

The ones sold are all intermediate cars according to Drehscheibe

<https://www.drehscheibe-online.de/foren/read.php?030,11388170>

- 50 82 36-70 020-1
- 50 82 36-70 024-3
- 50 82 36-70 025-0
- 50 82 36-70 028-4
- 50 82 36-70 029-2
- 50 82 26-70 049-2
- 50 82 26-70 052-6
- 50 82 26-70 061-7
- 50 82 26-70 083-1

DSB purchased the ex ALEX ones last year so perhaps it's all for set strengthening - I've not seen any mention of trailers being sold."

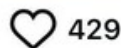
Iain's Comment - DSB is strengthening four and five car sets to six car sets and they need compatible stock. So they go and buy some! However the less stock CFL has means less need for locomotives which is something we need to be mindful of.

I would like to thank John Mulrine and the other people who responded to my question. It is not what you know, but being able to ask people who do!



trainspotting_danmark
Ejby, Fyn, Denmark

Volgen



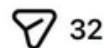
429



10



7



32



trainspotting_danmark 🇩🇰 I dag ankom de første to af i alt ni dobbeltdækkervogne til Danmark, som DSB har købt brugt af luxembourgiske CFL (Chemins de Fer Luxembourgeois). DSB EB 3216 stod for transporten fra Padborg til København. I et kedelige og tåget vejr, kunne jeg fotografere transporten ved Ejby på Vestfyn.

🇩🇪 Heute kamen die ersten zwei von insgesamt neun Doppelstockwagen in Dänemark an, die DSB gebraucht von der luxemburgischen CFL (Chemins de Fer Luxembourgeois) gekauft hat. DSB EB 3216 übernahm den Transport von Padborg nach Kopenhagen. Bei trübem und nebligem Wetter konnte ich den Transport bei Ejby auf Westfynen fotografieren.

NS TRAXX

- 186 001 entered service with B-Transport as 2851 on 17th February 2025.
- 186 002 entered service with B-Transport as 2851 on 17th February 2025.
- 186 011 is working for TCA
- 186 016 has gone back to Akiem, sometime between 16th February and 1st March.
- 186 019 has reappeared back on Watergraafsmeer.
- 186 020 has reappeared back on Watergraafsmeer.
- 186 026 has gone back to Akiem, possibly @ 10th February.
Vasco saw it at Hilversum on the evening of 10th February 2026.
- 186 028 is working for HSL

186 003/004/005/006/009/017 are on Watergraafsmeer and 186 014 and 015 are in the buildings at Zaanstraat. As we have now entered a new month, some of those on the 'meer may be going to Akiem at Krefeld.



Here is 186 001 on 18:44 Brussel Zuid - Rotterdam with 186 002 on the other end.
Photograph by Chris Westerduin.

Here is 186 006 sat on Watergraafsmeer waiting for someone to lease it.
Photograph by Chris Westerduin on 16th February 2026.



Below is 186 016 which has left Watergraafsmeer and may already be working for someone new. It has been noted that some TRAXX have gone to Krefeld and then come back to the Netherlands.

Photograph by Chris Westerduin on 16th February 2026.



NS Vectron

Ex-NS Vectron [may be] 6193 948 has been photographed in MAV livery by Julian Mandeville on Thursday 26th February at Budapest Keleti. Its just arrived in IC519 0524 Nyiregyhaza to Budapest Keleti. 6193 948 may be a sub lease off NS who actually lease it from ELL. It is very complicated but 6193 448 may find itself on a TALGO train in the future.



DB liveried but possibly sub leased off NS is 6193 441.

It worked out on Saturday 7th February on NJ 403 20:47 Utrecht – Zurich and worked back on NJ 402 03:29 Frankfurt Flughafen – Amsterdam Centraal.



Photograph by TSVelp at Utrecht Centraal on Saturday 7th February 2026

<https://treinposities.nl/foto/426359>

NS Units

ICNG

In Service are 69 examples. As with all things ICNG, "Service" is open to interpretation.

ICNG-5 3101, 3102, 3103, 3105, 3107, 3109 [6]
3111, 3114, 3115, 3117, 3118, 3120 [6]
3121, 3123, 3124, 3126, 3127, 3128, 3129, 3130 [8]
3131, 3132, 3133, 3134, 3135, 3136, 3137, 3138, 3139, 3140 [10]
3141, 3142, 3143, 3144, 3145, 3146, 3147, 3148, 3149 [9]
ICNG-8 3205, 3206, 3209 [3]
3211, 3212, 3219, 3220 [4]
3221, 3222, 3223, 3224, 3225, ~~3226~~, 3227 [7]
ICNG-B 3304, 3305, 3306, 3307 [4]
3311, 3312, 3313, 3314, 3315, 3316, 3317, 3318, 3319, 3320 [10]
3321 [1]

In Commissioning/Acceptance/Testing are 3351 & 3352.

3107 went into passenger service on Monday 23rd February 2026.

3109 went into passenger service on Monday 23rd February 2026.

3226 is at Alstom Brugge for retrofit work

SNG

Returned to Service, 23rd February (from repair): 2326

2326 collided with a car at Van Loon near Assen on 14th July 2025 and suffered fire damage.

However on 26th February it is reported that 2326 was stopped at 't Harde with an onboard fire.

VIRM

Out of service: 9480

On Friday 13th February 9480 hit a broken overhead line at Houtensepad, Utrecht. The 9480 suffered burn marks on the nose due to the accident with the overhead line and a crack in the windscreen.

ICRm Sets

Haarlem Works to Amersfoort Goods (9th February 2026), Amersfoort Goods to Arnhem Goods (10 February 2026):

20-70 545-0, 82-70 978-8, 10-70 351-5

351-5 had been at Haarlem Works since 3rd July 2025 having been removed from 16438. 978-8 and 351-5 had been at Haarlem since an unknown date having been removed from 16478.

Blast From The Past



2160, "Train World"

Schaarbeek, 28 feb 2026

@Lucien Claeys



Belgian Can Can

36 / 144



It is the turn of 2112 this week. It is seen here at Jaworzno Szczakowa Północ Yard on 8th July 2022. Photograph by Huib den Dulk.

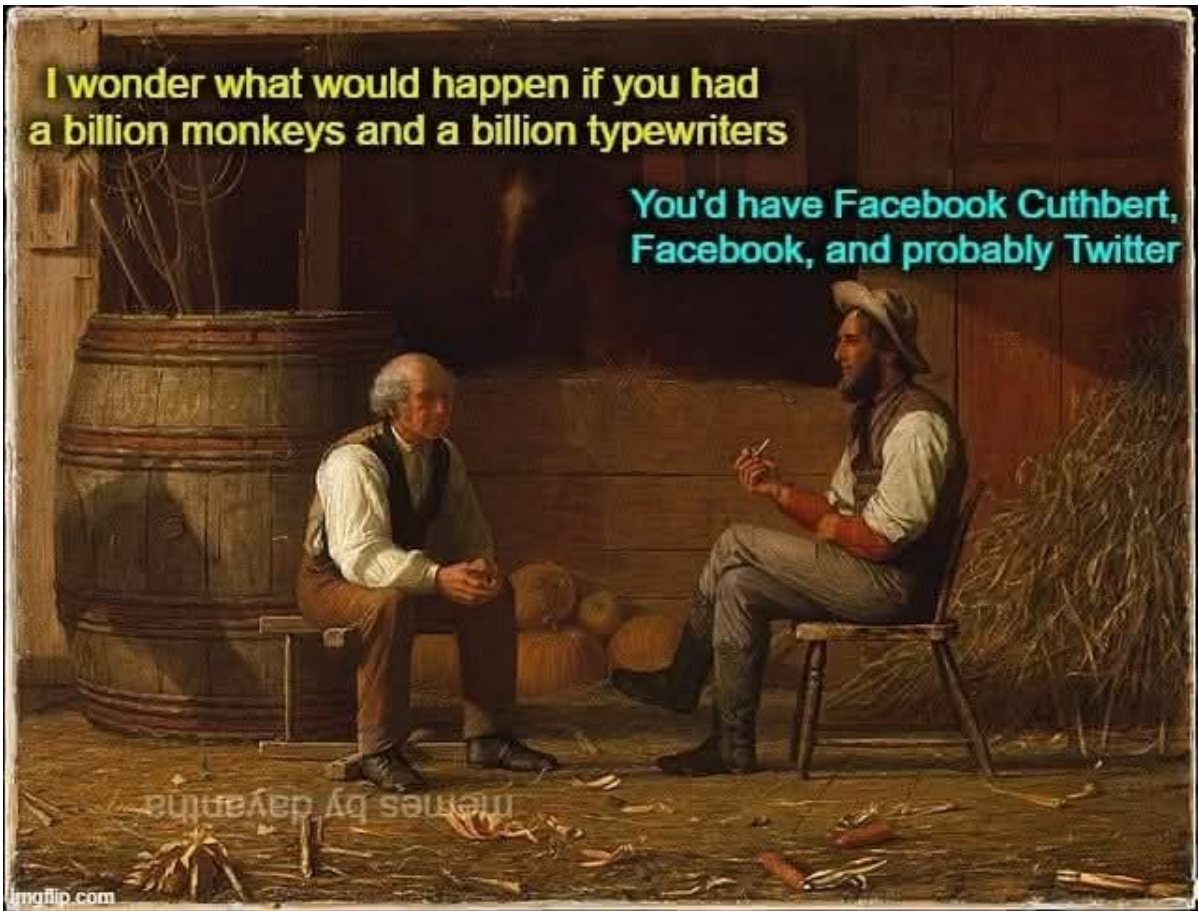


It does look as if the Polish dream of a further life is over. I did have my suspicions when I wrote to the Company that had bought them. Usually if someone has good news they want to tell you all about it but if the news is not so good, then then you do not get a reply. I wrote in both English and Polish and I did not get a reply.....

With scrap prices being very low at the moment then who ever bought these locomotives is in for a thumping great loss. They have also been outside for too long and they are no longer fit for anything but scrap really.



Other News



Reality



I chased a squirrel.

LinkedIn



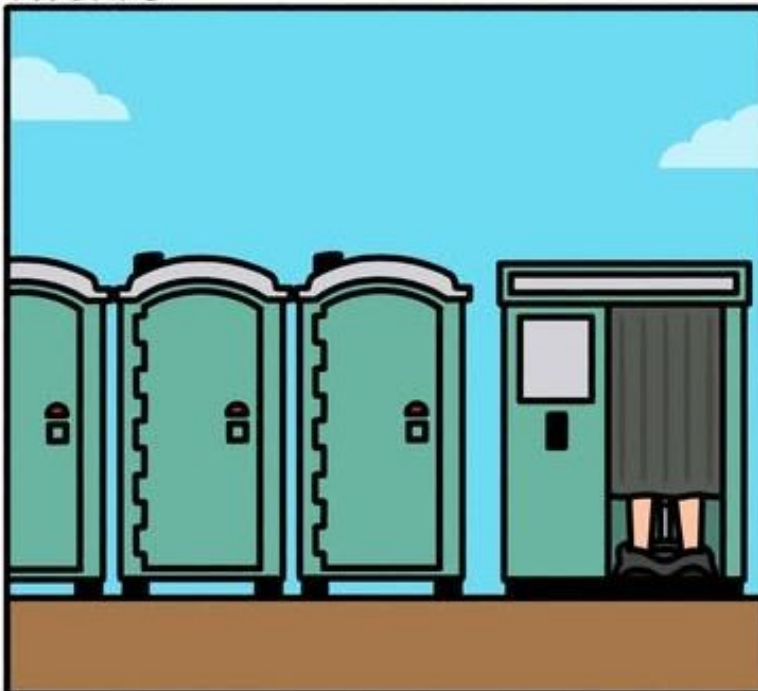
Proud to announce that I effectively executed a rapid-response squirrel displacement strategy to mitigate potential yard intrusions.

Humbled by the unwavering support of my family and local stakeholders.

This experience reinforced the importance of vigilance, ownership, and continuous improvement.

Looking forward to scaling this impact in future engagements. 🚀

TWONKS





Man Behaving Dadly ✓

9m • 🌐



BREAKING: Reform UK name Matt Goodwin as their Shadow MP for Gorton and Denton.



Gorton and Denton has fried the tiny minds of the British political establishment.

A woman plumber with wild hair and dayglo clothes, standing for an eco-left party led by a gay jew, won massively with thousands of Muslim votes.

The politics of division failed.



RC deWinter ✓

@RCdeWinter

On the night after his inauguration Donald Trump was visited by 3 ghosts.

Shortly after Trump hauled his lardass off to bed and was lying there snoring FDR appeared. Trump asked him, "How can I make America great again?"

FDR replied, "Think only of the people; do not make laws based on hatred, bigotry, or with the thought of lining your own pockets."

Trump's face soured. "FAKE NEWS!" he screamed, FDR disappeared and Trump went back to sleep.

A few hours later, he was awakened by George Washington's ghost.

Trump asked, "How can I make America great again?"

Washington replied, "I would suggest you never tell a lie." which infuriated Trump. He screamed for his bodyguards but Washington melted away.

Around 4 in the morning he visited by the ghost of Abraham Lincoln. Again Trump asked "How can I make America great again?"

Lincoln thought for a bit and said, "Go to the theater."

Have a nice week

Tain