



The Ramble 468 - 04/12/23

The next Rambles will be on:-

Monday 11th December	[469]
Monday 18th December	[470]
Monday 25th December	No Ramble - It is Christmas Day!
Monday 1st January	[471]
Monday 8th January	[472]
Monday 15th January	[473]
Monday 22nd January	[475]
Monday 29th January	[476]
Monday 5th February	[477]
Monday 12th February	[478]
Tuesday 13th February	[Shrove Tuesday]
Monday 19th February	[479]
Monday 26th February	[480]
Thursday 29th February	A Brucie Bonus day and Gary Thornton's Birthday

Santa's Team

You all think that Santa lives at the North Pole and his team are based there. Wrong they all work out of Langdorp and travel by train! Captured in action by Bart.



See the item later on about Black Pete.



Belgische Nachrichten Nouvelles belges Belgisch Nieuws

HLE 13

1332 is damaged after a tree fell onto the locomotive. It will go to Salzinnes Works for repair.







HLE 21

I suspect that this week will be the last official week of the HLE 21s with withdrawal of the remaining locomotives from this weekend. Some may continue on well towards Christmas and may be beyond as they will be stopped at their next due exam.

2105 last worked on 24/11/23
2114 was working today, 4th December
2124 was working today, 4th December
2132 was working today, 4th December
2134 was working today, 4th December
2135 was working today, 4th December
2137 was working today, 4th December
2141 last worked on 13/11/23
2143 was working today, 4th December
2148 last worked on 28/11/23
2153 was working today, 4th December

2148 was photographed here at St. Ghislain on 14th October 2023 with just over a month to go by Julien Casier.



AM/RM 66 to 79

I do not know how long these will last for now as there are reports that the remainder of the older AM66-79s moving to Charleroi to see out their days. 657 has gone to Park so it will not be making any moves except the last one to Athus. Certainly they finish on the Aachen - Spa trains this weekend.

These two photos by Bruno Malfait.

AM 624 L5036 Welkenraedt 28/11/2023. This is the oldest EMU in service out of this batch and is the sole surviving runner in the AM/RM 66 sub-class.



AM 655 L5014 Welkenraedt 28/11/2023



Bas Bonhoff was out and about on Saturday 2nd December 2023.

655 at Verviers Central





The little photographed station at Hergenrath which is about a kilometre within Belgium.



The markers at the maintenance boundary which is not necessarily the border between Germany and Belgium.



Journeys end at Aachen with time for a little rest before back on the 16:04. From this weekend it is HLE 18s and I11 stock.



Welkenraedt

DB ICE 4602 + NMBS 1861 Welkenraedt 28th November 2023. Photo Bruno Malfait.



HLR 77/78

7854 has gone back PW Melle after repairs at Salzinnes Works.

Steenbrugge Clear Out

On 14th November 5512 with DMS 90003 moved a coach, a wagon and 3106 out of Steenbrugge to the store in the old depot at Haine-Saint-Pierre near La Louvière-Sud.

Gwenaël was around and took these photographs of the movement.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/135235560@N07/albums/72177720313021890/with/53364770083/>

Then on 27th November 5512 moved 5142, HV I5 Bc10 14530, a wagon and 8219 from Steenbrugge to the museum shed at Melle.

Gwenaël was around again and took these photographs of the movement.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/135235560@N07/albums/72177720313071359/with/53365933787/>

M7

New out this week is 76083

There are 72 M7 BMx in service

76007/08/09 [3]

76010/11/12/13/14/15/16/18/19 [9]

76020/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29 [**10**]

76030/31/32/33/34/35/36 [7]

76041/42/43/47/48/49 [6]

76050/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58/59 [**10**]

76060/61/62/63/64/65/66/67/68/69 [**10**]

76070/71/72/73/74/75/76/77/78/79 [**10**]

76080/81/82/**83**/84/85/87 [7]



Recently in service is 76087 and is seen here at Saint-Ghislain on 11th November 2023.
Photo by Julien Casier.

NS Units

The Great Stork delivered 3141 on Sunday 3rd December 2023.

Brake tests are planned for Tuesday 5th December 2023.

Nothing appears to have gone the other way on Monday 4th December

Last week I said that “3142 was sent from Amsterdam to haul 3311 to the ‘meer for some TLC [and a new pantograph].” In fact 3142 came off Utrecht Cartesiusweg and took 3311 back there. It is reported that 3311 has moved to Watergraafsmeer. 3142 is still at Utrecht and 3141 should be going there on Tuesday evening after testing.

I also made a mistake in saying that 3111 was out on braking tests on Monday 27th. Monday 27th saw 3111 having checks at Zwolle and it was out on the main line for tests on Tuesday 28th. 3111 only did a part week of tests. 3111 was seen out on test on Monday 4th December 2023.



ICNG 3111 on the way from Akkrum to Zwolle in the Lindevallei south of Wolvega at 12:20. Photo by Jelle Jan Postma 28th November 2023.



Photo by Huib Den Dulk and taken at Bentheim Spa on Sunday 3rd December 2023 in some nice autumn sun. “Kijk wat de ooievaar bracht, dat stond in de glazen bol. Look what the Stork brought, it was in my Glass Ball. The 3141”

There is a bit of Friday fun on the ICNG Intercity Nieuwe Generatie NS Groep on Facebook. Ariën runs a poll to allow people to guess which ICNG is coming that Sunday. Even people who have the information get it wrong such is the parlous state of the ICNG deliveries at the moment.

People also post extra poll options and a couple of these this week were “Enn knuffel variant voor in bed” [a cuddly version for in bed] and “Schoentje is genvuld met een schaalmodel van de ICNG gemaakt van marsepein en chocolade” [Your Christmas Stocking is filled with a scale model of the ICNG made of marzipan and chocolate].

Usually by Wednesday the elephants are rumbling with a potential candidate for Sunday. We have a couple of crystal balls going and sometimes the mists part with them. We look at the coffee grinds, tea leaves and have even known to tap the table in Utrecht and have a seance.

If the Great Stork is wearing her flying goggles on Friday and the word on the streets is that there is a Commissioning Test booked for Tuesday, then we know that a delivery might happen.

Then you get word on Sunday that nothing is coming that week.

Culture Corner

One of the ICNG poll options was "Schoentje is gevuld met een schaalmodel van de ICNG gemaakt van marsepein en chocolade" [Your small shoe is filled with a scale model of the ICNG made of marzipan and chocolate].

This makes no sense in English. So I e-mailed Bert to ask about this translation as sometimes the on-line programs do not do slang or double meaning words very well.

Bert wrote, instead of Santa Claus we celebrate Saint Nicolas. In the weeks before December 5th, kids can put their little shoe ("schoentje") below the chimney with a carrot for the Saints' horse. In return they will get a present down the chimney, in the case of the ICNG Poll, a very original one. I do like the idea :)

Ah! A Christmas Stocking. We use a large sock in the UK called a stocking which the children put up on Christmas Eve. Then on Christmas Morning, Santa has been and left the presents in the stocking.



As you get older the term "stocking" moves from a decorative sock to a more adult term for stocking and stocking filler. British humour is very much based on double entendre and the double meaning of words. So a stocking filler is a smaller less important gift to fill up the container. In a more adult context, it could be a nice attractive young lady wearing a pair of stockings - a stocking filler.

Bert sent another e-mail with well there are a lot of rabbit holes to fall into. One is of course Black Pete who collects the carrot and put the present in the shoe next to the chimney, which is sensitive in this day and age. And for some reason Flemish kids celebrate Sinterklaas a day later, the 6th. Never really understood that one. I mean, it is very practical that he does the Netherlands the 5th and then Belgium a day later, but surely it wasn't thought out that way!

This is a photo of Zwarte Piet / Black Pete as you can see here, it is quite obvious why this blacking up causes problems.



We have similar problems with the blacking up here in the UK with things like the the Britannia Coconut Dancers who perform in Bacup. One side of the argument is that this is offensive and the other side is that the blackening up is traditional and is not a slur on black people.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Britannia_Coconut_Dancers

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blackface> and look at the photo of Al Jolson. That is not good and that is a slur on black people. Perhaps Black Pete has got caught up in the backlash against things like this.

Blast From The Past



With the weather very similar to around here at the moment - 45007 cuts a ghostly figure at Sheffield, whilst working the Fridays Only 12:46 Portsmouth - Leeds. Most people wouldn't even bother trying to take a photograph in these conditions - testament to Robs' enthusiasm!
Pic Rob Anderson 25/2/83

Sik Corner

In November 1967 Sik 325 ranks in Bovenkarspel with some Amsterdam trams saved by the Tramweg Foundation.



Photo by Bob D Boekhout.

325 was built by Werkspoor and is Works Number 862 of 1950.

Owner - N/A.

Location - Cut in 2007.

Information from <http://locomotor.nl/index.php/locaties/>

No Photograph Found 202, 205, 208, 212, 221, 233, 239, 269, 272, 275, 277, 280, 304, 313, 333, 356, 365 & 367 [19].

A number of Siks were lost during World War II. I am assuming that no photographs exist of these locomotors. 201, 206, 216, 220, 224, 236, 240, 258, 261, 266, 268, 282 287 & 295 [14]



Other News

Fairytale of New York

[Kirsty MacColl](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=poDOCWk2d3k) and [Shane MacGowan](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=poDOCWk2d3k) - both dead now....

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=poDOCWk2d3k>

It was Christmas Eve babe
In the drunk tank
An old man said to me, won't see another one

A couple more Pogues You Tube Clips <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=122isznjdto>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yAEFKjqPtIU>

Yes Shane was like that and yes his teeth were that rotten!

**Sorry, we can't play Fairytale of New York
this year, it's too offensive.**



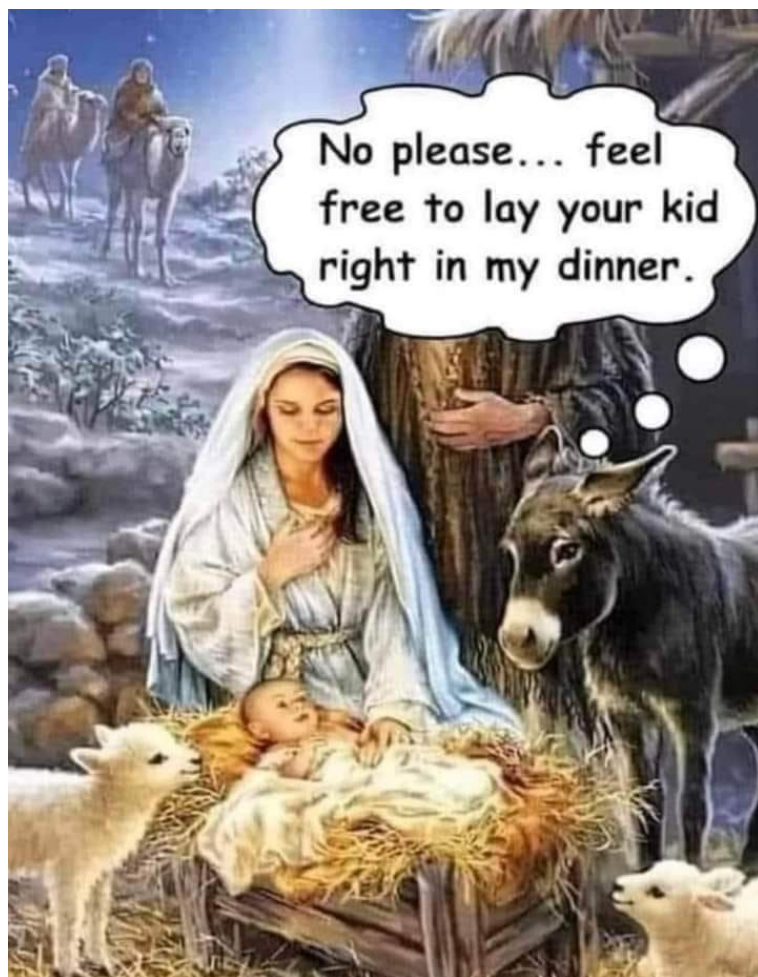
**Anyway, here's Cardi B rapping
about her vagina.**

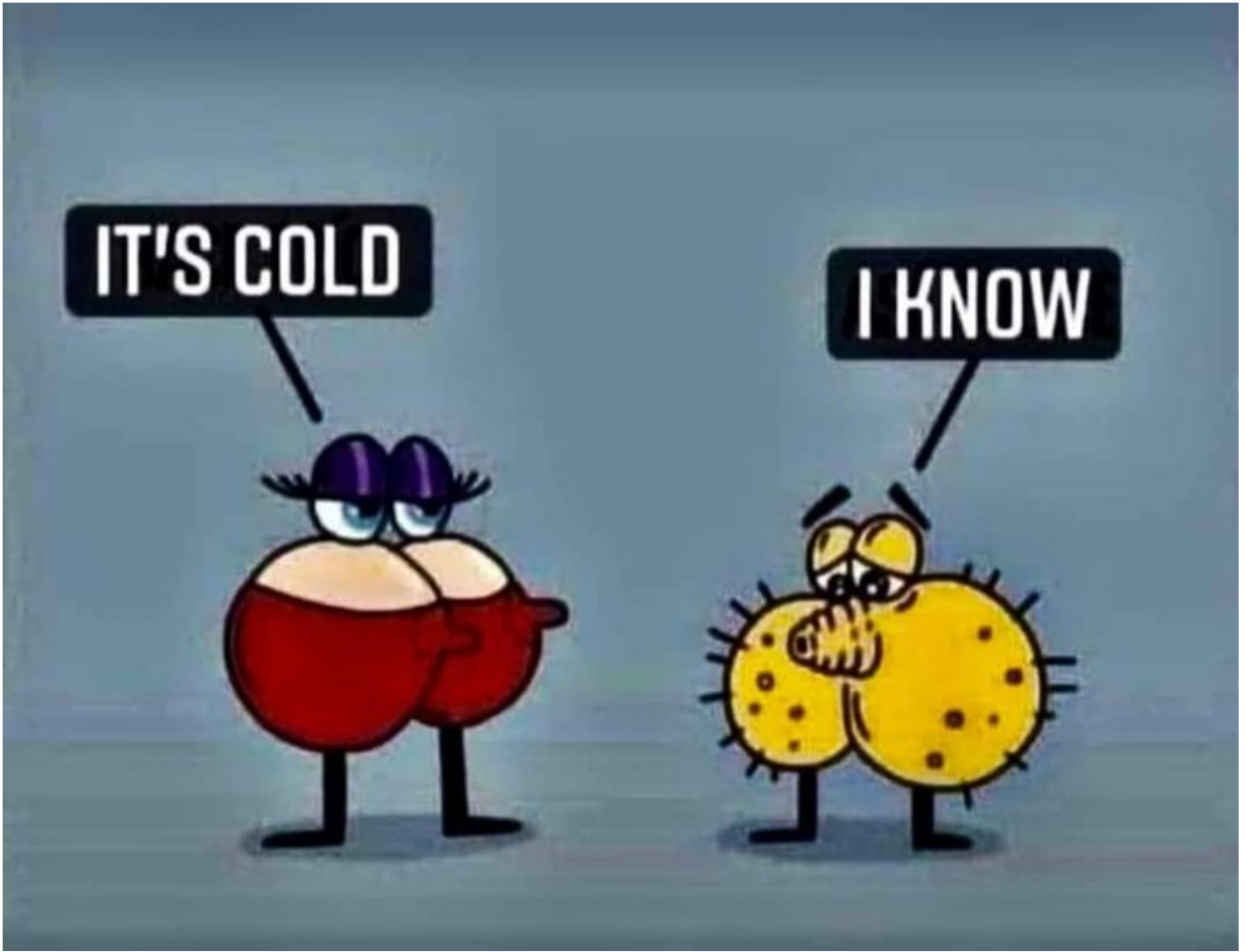


Historic photo of children listening to Mariah Carey's "All I want for Christmas"



Baby Jesus is fluffier than we expected





Have a nice week

Tain