



The Ramble

578 of 3rd August 2026



Monday 10th August	[579]
Monday 17th August	Holiday
Monday 24th August	Holiday
Monday 31st August	Holiday
Wednesday 9th September	[580]
Monday 14th September	[581]
Monday 21st September	Holiday [Innotrans]
Monday 28th September	Holiday
Monday 5th October	Holiday [Salzinnes Works Open Day on 04.10.26]
Monday 12th October	[582]
Monday 19th October	[583]
Monday 26th October	[584]
Monday 2nd November	[585]
Monday 9th November	[586]
Monday 16th November	[587]
Monday 23rd November	[588]
Monday 30th November	[589]
Monday 7th December	[590]
Monday 14th December	[591]
Monday 21st December	[592]
Monday 28th December	[593]

Dewsbury Road, Tingley



Walking home the other night from the pub, I took this photo. I could have put something funny here but in light of the following item, it was not appropriate. The light in the trees in the back garden caught my eye.

Andreas Reuter †



I was so shocked and saddened by the sudden and untimely passing of my dear friend - Andreas Reuter, he was out doing what he loved.

No longer will I hear "greetings Herr Schnee" or "not Required".

This picture was taken earlier this year in a chance encounter at Wien Hütteldorf. We had both took the train back to Westbahnhof chatting away.

Countless enjoyable encounters over the years. Including visiting your flat for dinner and signing the apron as did many others. More were chance encounters over the decades, I never imagined that this would be our final meeting.

Our heartfelt condolences to his family and everyone who had the privilege to know him. Gone far too soon.

Farewell my friend enjoy the Chocolate cake, new track and winners.

David Snow

For The Diary 2026

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

Chemin du fer du Bocq - August 15th & 16th ONLY

Tickets and information is here <https://www.cfbocq.be/tickets/fete-rail/>

The 2026 Festival is now just Saturday 15th and Sunday 16th.

The main themes of this year's event are the renewal of the railway line and 100 years of NMBS/SNCB. Special attention will be given to the renovated Spontin station, now expanded to three tracks, as well as the station works in Evrehailles-Bauché.

It would appear that things have been very busy at the Bocq. With a limited number of volunteers and a lot of work to prepare for the Gala, the Foto Safari proposed for Friday 14th has had to be cancelled. This will have not have been done lightly as the taking of photographs is the key driver for most Belgian enthusiasts.

At the time of writing the locomotives working passenger trains are [Monday 03/08]

5205 - PFT/TSP

5183 - PFT/TSP

4185 202 - HSL Belgium

Iain's Comment - What I find very surprising is that PFT/TSP have a large number of locomotives in their care and yet are only able to put two out from their fleet for this showcase Gala. One problem may be getting train drivers, from the big railway, who are authorised to drive the locomotives they have as static exhibits on a major Public Holiday weekend.

Exhibition Vehicles at Ciney

I6 carriage (1st Class): reception and information desk

SR3 "Disco-Bar" carriage (in "New Look" livery and renamed "Lounge")

disco atmosphere + drinks and snacks on sale

I10 "Resto" carriage (in "New Look" livery): pizza sales TO BE CONFIRMED;

M7 BMX power car

HLE 18 electric locomotive;

DB Cargo TRAXX or Vectron + DB 6400/6500 locomotive - TO BE CONFIRMED

DE18 "The Lion" 4185 202 HSL Belgium locomotive

Infrabel HLR 77/78 diesel locomotive

Infrabel ES900 catenary railcar

Infrabel EM201 survey railcar

IMPORTANT INFORMATION Our 2026 Railway Festival is without steam locomotives. Due to the drought and high fire risks, and in consultation with the DINAPHI Rescue Zone and the Commune of Yvoir, we have decided not to allow steam locomotives to circulate during our Railway Festival on August 15 and 16.

The safety of our visitors, our volunteers, the locals, and the preservation of our environment are our priority.

But the Railway Festival will be a great success... and it promises to be very rich!

Two days of circulation on the Bocq Railway

An exceptional exhibition of modern and historical railway equipment

Many locomotives and passenger cars to discover

Animations, exhibitions, catering, and activities for the whole family

And above all... a great team of volunteers working tirelessly to offer you an unforgettable weekend!

See you very soon on board the Bocq Railway!

Iain's Comment – Attending the Bocq Gala will cost me about £600 with hotels and food etc. One winner and 210 metres of new track is “unforgettable” in my case. The sole reason for travelling out on 13th August and staying in Namur, is to attend the Bocq Gala.

“And above all... a great team of volunteers working tirelessly to offer you an unforgettable weekend!”

A locomotive may be rostered for a Fire Train but with no steam this may not be needed now. With what is going on with these fires in France and Spain I might still have a Fire Train out in any case, especially in a remote wooded area!

Below is an photographic article on the laying of track at Évrehailles-Bauche Station. There are, in the Off Train Activities tab on the web site, mention of walks from Évrehailles-Bauche to Purnode, Dorinne-Durnal & Spontin. “Départ d’une promenade balisée le long de la rivière Bocq et de notre ligne ferroviaire vers Purnode, Dorinne-Durnal et Spontin.” Therefore you must be able to get off at Évrehailles-Bauche Station.

It is probably things like the track works at Évrehailles-Bauche Station going on at the last minute that has overstretched their resources.



I intend to be there on Saturday and Sunday. Do introduce yourself if you see me about and if we have met before, do introduce yourself again.

So you know who I am, here is a handy photograph!

Bottom of the Wolfe Creek Crater on 18th May 2018.

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

[I have been to the outback a few times now on my trips with my friends. This is one of the places I would like to go back to.]

Pukkelpop - Thursday 20th to Sunday 23rd August

Sometimes there are extra trains and it is always busy in the Hasselt area.

European Railtours - 28th & 29th August 2026

Two days of tours based in Rotterdam with a short Friday tour and a full days tour on Saturday. RailExperts are again facilitating the tour.

Whilst I was away the details were announced.

Details are here <https://europeanrailtours.co.uk/netherlands-2026>

To book <https://europeanrailtours.co.uk/book-now>

There is only one price of £209 or €249 and this is for both day combined.

The Vienna Explorer 2 - Saturday 12th September and Sunday 13th September 2026

Ramble reader Paul Griffin has asked me to include details of this tour as it may be of interest. <https://www.branchline.uk/current-fixtures.php>

Saturday 12 September 2026

Join us in the delightful city of Vienna for this one day tour of freight lines and unusual track in the Vienna area. Our special train will be composed of two Schlieren coaches with opening windows plus top and tail locomotives 2050.09 and 2143.XXX (one not used on the first tour will be requested). Veteran electric loco 1110-524 will haul the consist between Korneuburg and Stadlau yard both ways.

Requested route:

Korneuburg d. 08:45 - Jedlersdorf - Floridsdorfer Hochbahn - Leopoldau - Schleife Süßenbrunn - Süßenbrunn Süd - Wien Erzherzog-Karl-Straße - Stadlau (detach 1110-524. 2050.09 and 2143.xxx take over top and tail) - Simmering - Kaiserebersdorf - Abzw. Alberner Hafen - Alberner Hafens bis Friedhof der Namenlosen - Abzw. Alberner Hafen - Wien Freudenu Hafen - Hafen line 60A and Hafen line 31A -- Wien Freudenu Hafen - Donaukaibahnhof - Schleife Praterkai - Erdbergerlande - Simmering - Lanzendorf-Rannersdorf - Götzendorf - Margarethen am Moos km 22,340 - Götzendorf - Mannersdorf - Götzendorf - Lanzendorf-Rannersdorf - Wien Zvbf Ost - Wien Zvbf Nord - lines 191-11 and 131-01 (line on east side of yards) - Simmering - Stadlau (attach 1110-524) - Wien Erzherzog-Karl-Straße - Süßenbrunn Süd - Schleife Süßenbrunn - Leopoldau - Floridsdorfer Hochbahn - Jedlersdorf - Korneuburg (arrive approx. 18:00).

Sunday 13 September 2026

A further extensive exploration of the Vienna tram system including some sections and curves we were unable to fit in last year as well as rare lines and curves in another two districts of Vienna.

Raildagen 18th & 19th September 2026

<https://rildagen.nl/>

I forgot about this annual event.

Friday 18th sees guided tours of the Wagon Works at Amersfoort.

Friday 18th and Saturday 19th sees an Open Day at the Havenstraat Tram Sheds

Stoomtrein Maldegem-Eeklo - 5508 Running day - 20th September 2026

<https://stoomtreinmaldegem.be/nl/evenementen-2026/20-september-2026-rij-mee-met-de-5508/>

De Lijn - Antwerpen PCC Tram Event - 26th September 2026

Farewell to the PCC event in Antwerpen.

Open Day at Mechelen and Salzinnes Works - Sunday 4th October 2026

Both works have an Open Day on 4th October 2026.

European Timetable Changes

The big timetable change happens each December in Europe. This is when all the railways alter things as one country's train's alteration can affect the ones in neighbouring countries. During the year there are also minor changes which can be a bit of a mystery. Then factor in domestic big changes like the move from the summer timetable back to the black triangle in Belgium and sometimes it gets a tad confusing.

<https://rne.eu/capacity-management/tt/process/>

PUBLICATION of Timetable Updates **2026**



PUBLICATION of Timetable Updates **2027**



PUBLICATION of Timetable Updates **2028**





Belgische Nachrichten Nouvelles belges Belgisch Nieuws

Evrehailles-Bauché Station Works

Contactors have nearly finished work on one track in the Évrehailles-Bauché station area. Trains will get as far as Évrehailles-Bauché station at the Bocq Festival but they will be top and tailed as the run round loop will not be ready. The Bocq are advertising walks with Évrehailles-Bauché being advertised as a boarding and alighting point.

These next photographs were taken by Claude Dekkers on 24th July 2026.

Looking down towards Evrehailles-Bauché station.



These photographs were downloaded from Facebook here:-

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1863045587255368/posts/4915308705362359>

The current end of the line at PN6 is the white sign above where the men are working.



This is a sign to show there is a pipeline here so you can follow the route from the air. The presence of this pipeline in the station area is one of the many problems the Bocq Management have had to overcome.



The country end point of the run round loop.



The country end point from the other direction. The Évrehailles-Bauches is the building in the centre of this photograph. You can see the yellow pipeline sign and then the trolley in the far distance.



The current end of the line. The trackbed has been cleared in recent years but nature has a nasty habit of growing back very quickly.



HLE 13

After the Revision Dates on 1312#, 1313, 1319, 1323, 1343, 1348# & 1354#
[# In Salzinnes Works].

- 1312 is at Salzinnes Works for an Intermediate Revision. Back in mid September.
- 1313 on repair at Antwerpen Noord after colliding with a car on the Athus Meuse Line.
- 1333 is at Salzinnes for repair after a collision with a truck in France on 27/02/25.
1333 has a new nose recovered from another 13 and is getting a repaint.
- 1343 is back in service after an Intermediate Revision.
- 1348 is at Salzinnes Works for an Intermediate Revision. Due back at the end of August.
- 1354 is at Salzinnes Works for an Intermediate Revision. Due back early August.

HLE 18/19

Interested in the Intermediate Revision dates on
1829#, 1847, 1853#, 1875#, 1907# & 1908# [# In Salzinnes Works].

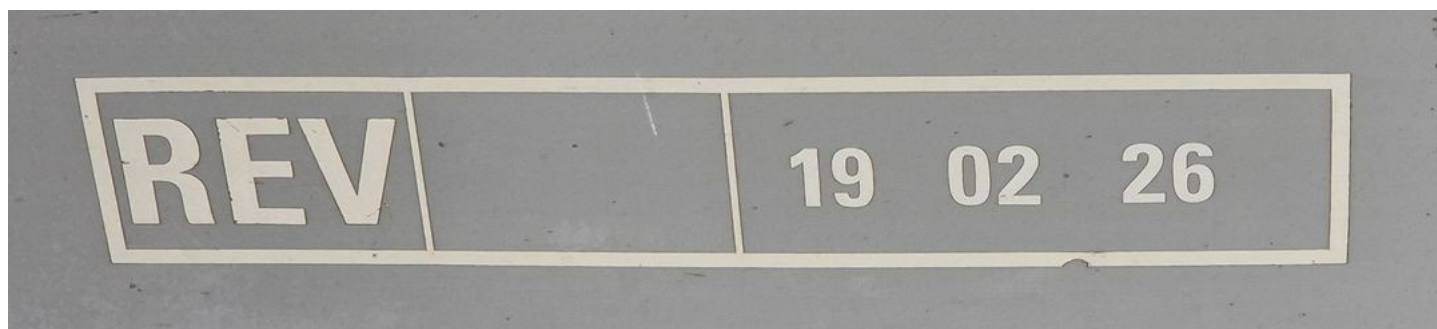
Some of the “ETCS works” may be rectification or a lesser upgrade.

- 1803 Revision Date is 15.04.26
- 1813 is currently at the Velim Test Track.
- 1824 Revision Date is 24.02.26
- 1826 I made a mistake last Ramble and 1826's Revision date remains 24.10.19.
- 1828 Revision date is 26.05.26 which is correct
- 1829 is in Salzinnes for ETCS works and probably Revision.
- 1841 Revision Date is 19.02.26
- 1843 is back in service with a Revision Date of 17.07.26.
- 1845 is out of Salzinnes Works after a RI2 Revision.
- 1853 is in Salzinnes for an RIK2 revision. Back end of August.
- 1857 Revision Date is 14.04.26
- 1862 is back in service after ETCS works.
- 1867 is back in service after ETCS works.
- 1872 is back in service after ETCS works.
- 1874 is in Salzinnes for ETCS works.
- 1875 is in Salzinnes for an RIK2 revision. Back early of August.
- 1883 is back in service after ETCS works.
- 1886 is back in service after ETCS works.
- 1904 is in Salzinnes for ETCS works.
- 1907 is likely in Salzinnes for an RIK2 revision. Back mid of August.
- 1908 is in Salzinnes for ETCS works and possibly Revision. Back mid August.
- 1912 is in Salzinnes for ETCS works.
- 1922 is in Salzinnes for ETCS works.
- 1924 Revision Date is 22.05.26

1803's Revision Date



1841's Revision Date



1843's Revision Date – Photograph by Nathan Van Riet



1924's Revision Date





1860 has also lost its distinctive front grills as well. Originally Siemens built three pre-production HLE 18s, 1801, 1802 and 1860. The idea was that testing would take place and by the time 1859 was entering service, 1860 would have finished testing, have any retrofitting done and be ready.



The Very Sorry Case of 1890



Photographed here at Gent St Pieters on 25th July 2026

On Wednesday 13th December 2023 1890 working E2042 had an accident in Kapellen where a car drove into the locomotive on the level crossing at the station. There was a bang and a big flash of electricity and 1860 did not work any more!

It went into Salzinnes Works on 26th January 2024 and was finally released around the beginning of February 2026. This was a stay of over **five hundred days!**

I had a ride with 1890 on 19th February 2026.

1890 went into Salzinnes with this graffiti on the side. In five hundred days at Salzinnes, no one within management thought to organise for the graffiti paint to be removed and the locomotive cleaned up. The paint has been on that long it is now fading.

THIS IS NOT ACCEPTABLE!

It is back in traffic and the graffiti has still not been cleaned off in six months of service.

I do not think the graffiti problem in Belgium is any worse than anywhere else really. It is bad, but not that bad. What is bad is the cleaning off of the graffiti and then only at Kinkempois and Charleroi, with Kinkempois being especially bad.

HLE 27

The five HLE 27s at Mechelen Works are still on site but have been moved away from the track they were on to out the back of the works.

HLE 28/29/186

Alain messaged me on 21st July to say that he had heard reports that 186 253 had gone off lease with Lineas. I photographed 186 253 sat outside the signalbox at Brugge on Thursday 23rd July,



It is also possible that 186 445 and 447 have also gone off lease with Lineas.

186 223 from Alpha trains has been stickered in Brugge to celebrate 25 years of Alpha Trains. The loco will be in the replacement pool as cover for customers who have to stop their locomotives for works attention during the ETCS Baseline 3 upgrade.



HLD 59

5910 is still at Salzinnes Works and is due off sometime in the autumn

HLD 62

6306 is still at Melle and is due off maintenance soon but this is likely to be extended.

HLR 77/78

I have done quite a bit of checking this week and all should be correct.

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.

7706 is at Brouwer Technologie BV Roosendaal for installation of ETCS.

7707 is back in service after installation of ETCS.

7709 is back in service after installation of ETCS and repainting into Infrabel Blue.

7710 is in Salzinnes Works for the fitting of ETCS and repainting into Infrabel Blue.

7726 is in the Infrabel Hire – Operations North Pool and has moved to Antwerpen.

7743 is back in service after ETCS fitting.

7754 is at Salzinnes Works for ETCS fitting.

7759 is at Salzinnes Works for ETCS fitting.

7761 is back in service after ETCS fitting.

7763 is at Salzinnes Works for ETCS fitting.

7764 is at Salzinnes Works for ETCS fitting.

7774 is at Voith Turbo, Kiel for Revision.

7775 is at Salzinnes for Revision.

7787 is at Salzinnes Works for ETCS fitting.

7808 is at Brouwer Technologie BV Roosendaal for installation of ETCS.

7814 is in the Infrabel Hire – Kirow Cranes pool.

7817 has been fitted with ETCS.

7838 is at Antwerpen Noord after level crossing collision damage.

7839 has gone on hire to Infrabel and is in the Operations North Pool.

7843 has gone on hire to Infrabel and is in the Kirow Cranes pool.

7845 is in the Infrabel Hire – Kirow Cranes pool.

7857 is at Brouwer Technologie BV Roosendaal for installation of ETCS.

7857 has also come of rent with Infrabel and gone back to Lineas.

7862 has been fitted with ETCS.

I11

12899 + 12821 + 12853 + 12856 + 12842 are in Amersfoort on the HLE 17 test train.

11801 + 19815 (PZB/LZB/ATB prototype) + 11835 are at the Wildenrath test track along with 1813 for yet another software upgrade.

M7

79091, 92, 93 and 94 were delivered to Schaarbeek on 20th July. These vehicles will be going to Melle. It always makes me smile that B-Transport haul them from Brugge Works to Schaarbeek and then back the way they have come to Melle.

79095 and 79096 contacted the NMBS/SNCB Mother Ship last Friday.

De Lijn Bus and Tram Tracker

<https://businfo.be/>

The guy behind the Treinfo Tracker has started one for De Lijn buses and trams. As with Treinfo it started with a few features missing but it is a start!

Vehicle run information now limited

For a vehicle run, we now only show trips that have already departed. This means it's no longer possible to see where a bus will be heading next. The rest of Businfo stays the same. Questions or comments? Email support@businfo.be.

Norichten aus Lëtzebuerg

CFL Cargo Class 188

CFL 188 183 is in service with it's maiden run on an intermodal train from Bettembourg-Antwerpen on Wednesday 15th of July.

CFL 188 184 has also been delivered and is in Luxembourg. It does not appear to be in commercial service yet. Owl stickers for this loco?

CFL 188 185 is still in Kassel.



This photograph of 188 183 came originally from Linked In.



ICNG

Seventy eight examples have been in service. As with all things ICNG, "Service" is open to interpretation.

ICNG-5	3101, 3102, 3103,	3105,	3107, 3108, 3109, 3110 [8]
	3111,	3113, 3114, 3115, 3116, 3117, 3118, 3119, 3120 [9]	
	3121,	3123, 3124, 3125, 3126, 3127, 3128, 3129, 3130 [9]	
	3131, 3132, 3133, 3134, 3135, 3136, 3137, 3138, 3139, 3140 [10]		
	3141, 3142, 3143, 3144, 3145, 3146, 3147, 3148, 3149 [9]		
ICNG-8	3201,	3205, 3206,	3209 [4]
	3211, 3212,	3214, 3215,	3219, 3220 [4]
	3221, 3222, 3223, 3224, 3225, 3226, 3227 [7]		
ICNG-B		3304, 3305, 3306, 3307, 3308, 3309, 3310 [7]	
	3311, 3312, 3313, 3314, 3315, 3316, 3317, 3318, 3319, 3320 [10]		
	3321 [1]		

Accepted [owned by NS] and ready for Passenger Service is 3201.

In Commissioning/Acceptance/Testing are 3214, 3351 & 3352.

3136 is back in service after retrofit work.

3141 is at Alstom Brugge for Retrofit Work.

3214 arrived on Sunday 28th June and was out on test on Tuesday 30th June.

3215 arrived on Saturday 25th July and went to the naughty step at Cartesiusweg Technisch Centrum, Utrecht on Monday 27th July.

3225 has returned to Watergraafsmeer after retrofit work at Alstom Brugge.

3308 is out of service due to fire damage in the toilet on 16th May 2026.

3320 was sat on Amersfoort with 3137 between 14th and 21st July 2026.

3320 had a side scrape with 4083 at Lelystad Yard.

Brugge is doing door work where the top of the door frames at each end of the unit are being strengthened. The doors are coming off, the fascias are being removed and the top of the door frame is having extra aluminium added. Just like modern cars, the frame of the train is designed to give way in a designed way to absorb the energy in a collision and protect the human contents in the train. So it is not just a case of welding some more metal on but it has to be done in a controlled and certified way. Too much, or too little welding, and the train will not absorb crash energy in the designed way.

The doors being strengthened are the ones at each end of the train near the driving cabs. On the eight cars, the doors near where there are normal bogies and not the Jacobs ones, are also being done.

I do not think the bogies are being looked at although they may be fixing some of the worst of the vinyls. Only Salzinnes sends locomotives out with the graffiti still on them.

Having ridden some ICNG in recent days they are as rough as a badger's bottom at times, especially just south of Rotterdam.

3215 arrived on Saturday 25th and went to the naughty step at Cartesiusweg Technisch Centrum, Utrecht on Monday 27th July.



Blast From The Past



The light in this photograph is very nice.

1860 at Oostende having arrived on IC 440 the 17.47 from Welkenraedt on 25th April 2017. Most of these trains are now M6 or M7 and 1860 has now lost its distinctive grills on the front plate.

Photograph by Bill Wright and posted to Flickr

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/barkingbill/33497500964>



Belgian Can Can

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This week the Can Can is 2129 and it is seen here with 2114, 2140 and 168 at Merelbeke on 17th May 1987.



Photo by peterspoor

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/93471658@N08/31777477297>



Other News

Managed to stock up before the
hosepipe ban

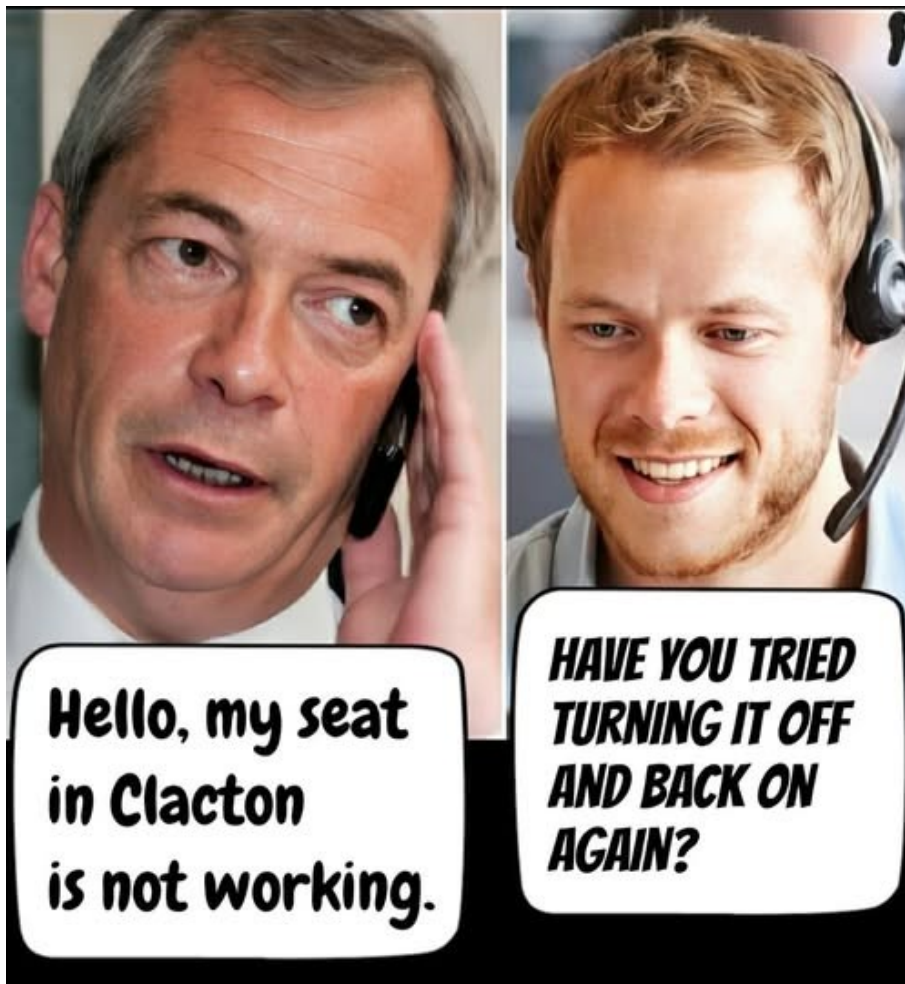


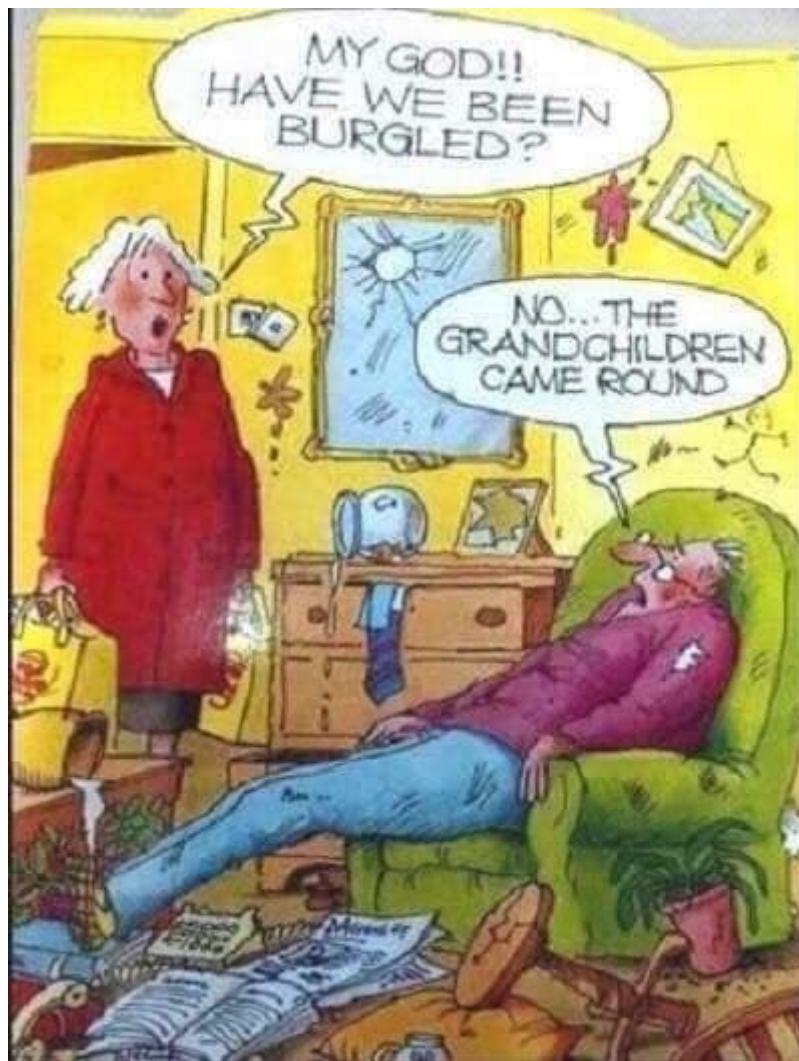
**They told me I'd never be
good at poetry because
I'm dyslexic, but so far I've
made 3 jugs and a vase !**



"Relax, I'm here to make a donation."







HER: "I BET HE'S THINKING ABOUT OTHER WOMEN!"



HIM: "HOW AM I GOING TO AFFORD ALL OF THE TRAINS IN THE NEW CATALOG??"



Have a nice week

Iain