



Press release: A Public Change of Image and Steam Festival 2019

Public name change to “Stoomtrein Maldegem-Eeklo”

“Stoomcentrum Maldegem” (or Maldegem Steam Center) has changed its public name to “Stoomtrein Maldegem-Eeklo” (or “Maldegem-Eeklo Steamtrain”). For legal reasons, the association’s name will stay unchanged as “Stoomcentrum Maldegem”.

The reason for the change is to better reflect the experience to be had to the public and to reflect the activities of the association. At the start, Stoomcentrum Maldegem was mainly a preservation center for all kinds of steam engines. But in more recent years, it has developed into a full preserved railway on 2 track gauges.

In the past there have also been problems with the public associating “Steam Center” with trains. Together with this change comes a new website: www.stoomtreinmaldegem.be.

Steam Train Festival

This year’s Steam Train Festival will be held at Maldegem, Belgium, on Saturday and Sunday 4th and 5th of May, 2019.

Planning is proceeding well. The theme of the festival is “Trains in all forms”. There should be 7 locos in steam on narrow and standard gauges including 2 narrow gauge locos from the UK. Patrick Keef’s Bagnall 0-4-0st “Woto” and Kerr Stuart 0-4-0st “Peter Pan” making a welcome return after a major rebuild. Maldegem’s own Hanomag 0-4-0wt “Yvonne” from 1906 will also be operating.

On the standard gauge, 3 of Maldegem’s own locos will be in service: Austerity 0-6-0st WD196, Avonside 0-4-0st “Fred” and St Leonard 0-4-0t “Yvonne” from 1893. There will also be a visiting loco on the standard gauge. Negotiations for this are ongoing.

Several items of modern rolling stock have been promised for display including a Class 55 diesel used as a “Thunderbird” on the TGV lines. As usual, there will be an international selection of trade stands present and live steam, electric models, Lego trains, ... in operation.

Maldegem lays about 14km from Bruges on the Belgian –Dutch border.

For groups wishing to attend from the UK, transport from Zeebrugge P&O ferries terminal (nightly sailing from Hull) or Bruges railway station can be arranged by preserved bus.

Kevin M Hoggett

For vzw Stoomcentrum Maldegem

Contact e-mail avonside040@telenet.be

Stationsplein 8 9990 Maldegem België

Banknr: BE17 0015 8405 0921

+32 (0)50 71 68 52

BIC: GEBABEBB

info@stoomtreinmaldegem.be

Bank: BNP Paribas Fortis

www.stoomtreinmaldegem.be

BTW BE 0428 727 231

