



Belgian Events - July 2013

Newsletter of the Embassy of Belgium in London

Table of contents

[Embassy news](#)

[First World War Centenary](#)

[Interview with Professor Koen Lamberts](#)

[Academic news](#)

[Culture](#)

[Did you know?](#)

Links to

[Representations, Clubs, Organisations](#)

[Belgian Honorary Consulates](#)

[Calendar of events](#)

EMBASSY NEWS

Facebook



You can now also follow the Embassy of Belgium in the UK on Facebook! Our brand new page features the latest news and feeds about events in the UK with a Belgian touch.

If you have an interesting piece of news or an event you would like to announce, please contact us via email at belgianevents.uk@diplobel.fed.be

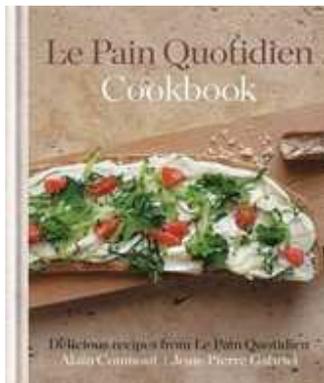
Honorary Consuls' Conference

The Embassy organised a conference day on 4th June with its network of Honorary Consuls throughout the UK, as well as the Representatives of the Belgian Regions and Communities in the UK, the Belgian tourist offices, the Belgian Luxembourg Chamber of Commerce and the Anglo Belgian Society.

Consular matters were discussed with regard to the constant improvement of our assistance to the Belgian community in the UK. The concepts of economic and public diplomacy were given a special focus since they are two additional areas where the Honorary Consulates can form an important link between Belgians living in their local jurisdiction and the Belgian Embassy in London.

A list of the Belgian Honorary Consulates in the UK is available from: http://countries.diplomatie.belgium.be/en/united_kingdom/honorary_consulates/

Alain Coumont's Visit



To promote his new cook book, the founder and “Chief Creative Officer” of *Le Pain Quotidien* attended a series of events in London in early June, among which a special First Tuesday Drink organised by the Anglo Belgian Society at the BLCC Club House, a dinner at the Embassy and a networking event at Flanders House.

The Belgian company has opened 23 branches throughout London since 2005 and is a success in 17 countries thanks to its quality bread and organic food, as well as its welcoming atmosphere.

FIRST WORLD WAR CENTENARY

On 10 May, during a work lunch at the Ambassador's Residence, the commemoration events for the WWI centenary in both Belgium and the UK were presented. For Belgium, the Representatives of the Regions and Communities in the UK, the tourist offices and colleagues from the Belgian Embassy were present. The British attendants came from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, the Imperial War Museum and the Commonwealth Graves Commission. During the lunch, the Ambassador presented an overview of the planned centenary activities in Belgium. Afterwards, all attending parties elaborated on the programmes they were involved in.



2014-18

On 10 June, Culture Secretary Maria Miller officially announced detailed information on how Britain is planning to commemorate the World War I centenary. The 100-year anniversary of the outbreak of World War I on 4 August 2014, will be marked by 3 events among which an event at the military cemetery of St-Symphorien in Mons.

More details on the programme of events can be found on the British government website: www.gov.uk/ww1centenary.

The Imperial War Museum in London, which is in charge of the cultural aspects of the celebrations, also set up a website www.1914.org containing a wealth of information and documentation on the commemorations in the UK and abroad.

The official Belgian website on the centenary celebrations was launched on 21 May at the Musée de l'Armée in Brussels. www.be14-18.be contains information on the three main themes and the commemorative ceremonies in Belgium.

INTERVIEW WITH A BELGIAN IN THE UK



Professor Koen Lamberts is a cognitive psychologist with an extensive track record in experimental and theoretical research on human perception and memory. He is currently deputy vice-chancellor and provost of Warwick University. In January 2014, he will take up the post of new vice-chancellor at the University of York.

READ MORE

http://countries.diplomatie.belgium.be/en/united_kingdom/newsroom/news.jsp?id=226631&title=ni_200613_interview_koen_lamberts

ACADEMIC NEWS

Higgs Boson particle: what's in a name?

Belgian theoretical physicists Robert Brout († 2011) and François Englert are among six researchers involved in the discovery of the Higgs boson particle which was announced in July last year at CERN's Large Hadron Collider. The discovery, heralded as one of the greatest triumphs of science, has become a tricky matter as far as its name is concerned. Some leading scientists suggest the Higgs boson particle be stripped of its name, arguing that Brout and Englert submitted the first complete paper on the symmetry breaking mechanism in 1964, a few weeks before Edinburgh University physicist Peter Higgs' publication. This then ignited a raging controversy set alight by supporters of Tom Kibble, Gerald Guralnik and Carl Hagen, three physicists who submitted an independent account of the mechanism just as the work of the other three was appearing in print.

The long-running naming debate has been rekindled following speculation that this year's Nobel Prize for Physics will be awarded for the Higgs theory. According to American Professor Hagen, one of the six contributors to the discovery, "Peter Higgs was treated as something of a rock star and the rest of us were barely recognized. To single out one individual marginalizes the contribution of others involved in the work."

Last month, Belgium's Prime Minister Elio Di Rupo, accompanied by François Englert, visited CERN. During a speech to CERN researchers and students, Englert

suggested the name 'BEH mechanism' (Brout-Englert-Higgs).

The Nobel Laureates in Physics are chosen in October. A maximum of three individuals can be named as winners of a Nobel Prize and they have to be alive. Professor Brout died two years ago and the other five scientists involved are now in their 70s and 80s. Therefore, the pressure is not only on those who wish to change the name of the particle but also on the Nobel committee determining the physics prize to award it for the 'Higgs'.

In the meantime, Higgs and Englert together with CERN have been awarded the *Prince of Asturias Prize 2013* for Technical and Scientific Research in recognition of their work establishing the existence of the so-called God particle. The prize, which will be handed out by Spain's Crown Prince Felipe in the autumn, is regarded as the Ibero-American world's equivalent of the Nobels.

Professor Piot awarded Hideyo Noguchi Africa Prize for Medical Research

Professor Peter Piot, Director of the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine since 2010, has been awarded the Hideyo Noguchi Africa Prize for Medical Research by the Government of Japan. He formally received the award from the Prime Minister of Japan, Shinzo Abe, on 1 June, the opening day of the 5th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V). On 26 June, the Japanese Ambassador in London organised a lecture, a reception and a private dinner to celebrate the award to Professor Piot.



The Hideyo Noguchi Africa Prize honours outstanding achievements in the fields of medical research and medical services to combat infectious and other diseases in Africa. With this prize, Peter Piot is being recognised for his pivotal research on disease endemic in the African continent, for bringing AIDS to the forefront of global attention and for developing scientifically-grounded responses to the control and treatment of the disease.

Peter Piot began his career in the early 1970s at the Institute of Tropical Medicine in Antwerp, in his native Belgium, and did much collaborative research in Zaire (now the Democratic Republic of Congo), Kenya and other countries in Africa. He was a co-discoverer of the Ebola virus and a pioneer in understanding the AIDS epidemic in Africa in the 1980s. Professor Piot has published over 500 scientific

papers and articles, and 16 books, including his memoirs, *'No Time To Lose: a life in pursuit of deadly viruses'* which was officially launched on 10 July 2012 at the Residence of the Belgian Ambassador in London. Over the past 25 years, he has led world-wide efforts to research and tackle AIDS and other threats to global health as founding Director of UNAIDS and Under Secretary-General of the United Nations.

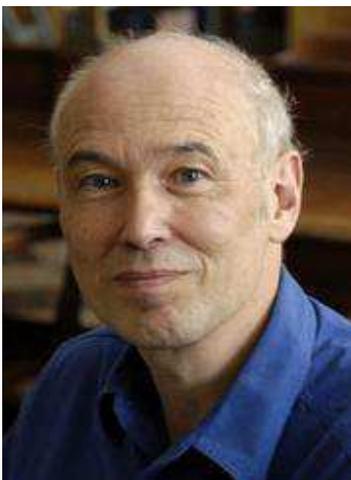
Professor Piot said: "I am deeply honoured and grateful to have been awarded this prize. Dr Noguchi holds a special place in the history of medical research, and was in many ways a pioneer of what we now call global health. While we have collectively achieved many successes, infectious diseases are far from under control, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. New pathogens will continue to emerge, and we must sustain local and global efforts for many years to come."

www.cao.go.jp/noguchisho/english/award/02/index.html

Belgian named Abel Prize winner

The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters awarded the Abel Prize for 2013 to Pierre Deligne "for seminal contributions to algebraic geometry and for their transformative impact on number theory, representation theory, and related fields", to quote the Abel committee. He received the Prize from H.M. King Harald at a ceremony in Oslo.

The Abel Prize considered the equivalent to the Nobel Prize, recognises contributions of extraordinary depth and influence to the mathematical sciences and has been awarded annually since 2003. It carries a cash award of about 800,000 euro.



Pierre Deligne is a research mathematician who has excelled in finding connections between various fields of mathematics. His research has led to several important discoveries. He is best known for his work in algebraic geometry and number theory, but he has also made major contributions to several other domains of mathematics. He has a number of mathematical concepts named after him: the Deligne Conjecture, the Deligne-Mumford moduli of algebraic curves, Deligne-Mumford stacks and Deligne cohomology, to name a few.

Pierre Deligne was born in 1944 in Brussels where he grew up. He studied at the Université Libre de Bruxelles and became junior scientist at the FNRS (Fonds National de la Recherche Scientifique) before advancing his career in France. Since 1984, he has been attached to the School of Mathematics at Princeton in the US.

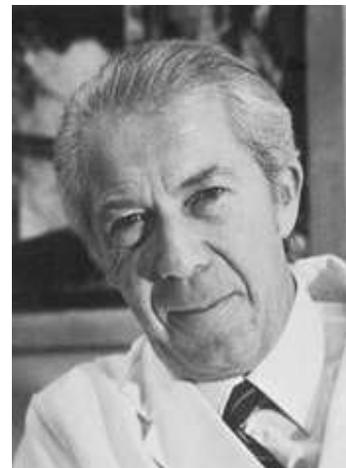
Pierre Deligne has received many distinguished international awards. In 2006, Deligne was honoured by King Albert II who made him a Viscount.

Homage to a Belgian Nobel Prize winner

The work of Belgian biochemist Christian de Duve, which led to a better understanding of genetic disorders and unlocked a new area of cell research, earned him a share of the 1974 Nobel Prize for Physiology. De Duve was largely responsible for the birth of modern cell biology. His work on lysosomes (the digestive organelles, which engulf and destroy invading bacteria, toxins, unwanted cellular products and dying cells) and peroxisomes (organelles that are the site of metabolic processes involving hydrogen peroxide) were specifically cited as important by the Nobel Committee.

Christian de Duve was born in Thames-Ditton in 1917. His parents had fled Belgium at the outbreak of the First World War and returned in 1920.

De Duve studied medicine and chemistry at the Catholic University of Louvain. He worked at the Nobel Institute in Stockholm and the Washington University in St Louis, before returning to the University of Louvain Medical School in 1951 as professor of biochemistry. In 1962 de Duve became a professor at the Rockefeller University and began dividing his time between his laboratories there and at Louvain. In 1974 he founded the International Institute of Cellular and Molecular Pathology in Brussels. He retired as President of the Institute in 1991.



De Duve died in an act of euthanasia. His decision was firm and final following a series of ailments, including cancer.

CULTURE

Music Hall's UK Tour with 'Peter Pan' Spectacle



Four years ago, Geert Allaert, CEO of *Music Hall Entertainment Group Belgium*, decided to create the arena spectacular 'Peter Pan, the Never Ending Story'. At that time, he had no idea that eventually he would be promoting this incredible live adventure across 15 major European cities.

[READ MORE](#)

http://countries.diplomatie.belgium.be/en/united_kingdom/newsroom/news.jsp?id=226710&title=ni_210613_peter_pan

(Contribution by Music Hall Belgium)

First ever International Online Art Biennale

In April, Belgian David Dehaeck launched the first ever Online Art Biennale (www.artplus.com), showcasing the works of 180 promising emerging artists.

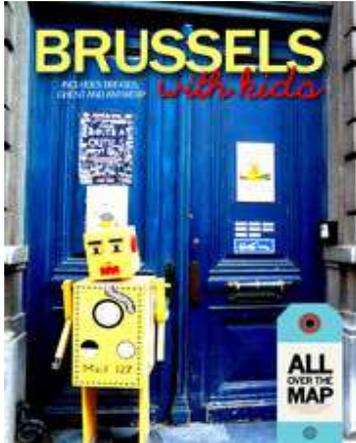
**BIENNALE
ONLINE**



The organisers teamed up an impressive selection committee of 30 international curators led by the prolific curator Jan Hoet (76). Jan Hoet is very proud to be a part of this initiative: *"With this initiative we hope to reach professionals and artists as well as active internet users who would not normally visit a museum."* The 30 leading curators were each appointed to a different country and were asked to select five young creative talents. Laurent Busine, director of MAC's Grand Hornu, had the honour to select the artists representing Belgium. Edith Dekyndt and Frédéric Platéus, among others, made the Belgian selection.

Online visitors can register for free and for only 8 dollars (6.1 euro) per month they can visit the biennale to link up with the artists and curators and buy art via the galleries that represent the artist. The biennale will run until 2015.

E-Book 'Brussels with Kids'



'All Over the Map' has launched *Brussels with Kids*, an e-book guide to Belgium especially for families. The book includes a comic book introduction to Belgium, short historical interludes and colourful local legends. *Brussels with Kids* lets parents discover more than 200 points of interest, restaurants, playgrounds and day trips the whole family can enjoy. The book is a useful resource not only for families traveling to Belgium, but also for expats.

The author Véronique Autphenne is a native Belgian. She was born in Antwerp and spent most of her childhood in a small town outside Brussels. She now lives in the US and loves to travel to Belgium with her husband and three boys.

Brussels with Kids is available in the Amazon Kindle Store.

www.alloverthemap.net

To complement the information in the guidebook, *All Over the Map* also recently launched a new website about family travel to Belgium, www.belgiumwithkids.com.

DID YOU KNOW?

British director and Belgian choreographer join forces

www.youngvic.org/whats-on/a-season-in-the-congo

'De Lijn' wins Eurostar Ashden Award for Sustainable Travel

www.ashden.org/travel_awards

'Houghton Revisited' includes works by Belgian masters

www.houghtonrevisited.com

BBC 4 acquires Belgian thriller

www.bbc.co.uk/mediacentre/latestnews/2013/salamander.html

BBC discovers Van Dyck painting

www.bbc.co.uk/news/entertainment-arts-21712209

LIST OF REPRESENTATIONS, CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS IN THE UK

http://countries.diplomatie.belgium.be/en/united_kingdom/belgians_in_the_uk/belgian_organisations/

BELGIAN HONORARY CONSULATES IN THE UK

http://countries.diplomatie.belgium.be/en/united_kingdom/honorary_consulates/

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

http://countries.diplomatie.belgium.be/en/united_kingdom/events/

2013 © Embassy of Belgium in the UK - http://countries.diplomatie.belgium.be/en/united_kingdom

Other official information and services: www.belgium.be 