



Belgian Events - July 2015

Newsletter of the Embassy of Belgium in London

Dear readers,

This Summer issue of the Embassy's newsletter focuses on a variety of topics. First of all it reports on the Commemoration of the Bicentenary of Waterloo both in the UK and Belgium. There is news on ministerial visits, events at the Ambassador's Residence, the latest WW1 commemorations the Embassy has been involved in and some consular information. The *'Did you know?'* section highlights Belgium on the international scene while the cultural calendar provides details on upcoming Belgian events in the UK. This issue also includes an interview with a Belgian living and working in the UK and concludes with some announcements we wanted to share with you.

Don't forget you can also follow us on [Facebook](#) and if you have any suggestions, don't hesitate to share them with us via belgianevents.uk@diplobel.fed.be. New subscribers can provide their details via the [Embassy's website](#).

Waterloo 200

On the 15th of April, a **VIP dinner** took place at the Residence of the Ambassador to express the Embassy's support of the **Waterloo 200 Committee's** activities in the commemorations of the Bicentenary of the Battle of Waterloo. The dinner was also intended by Waterloo 200 to express gratitude to their members and benefactors. The Embassy was guarded for the occasion by the Shorncliffe Trust's historical interpreters, and refreshed by the Waterloo Beers.



The next day, another event was organised at the Residence in the context of the Bicentenary of the Battle of Waterloo, this time with the Household Division. The **reception and dinner** provided an opportunity for the **Household Division** to explain to their friends and colleagues how its Regiments continue to contribute to activities both at home and abroad, and to highlight its plans for the upcoming ceremonial season, in particular to commemorate the 200th Anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo. The Embassy had again the privilege to be guarded by the Shorncliffe Trust historical re-enactors and be refreshed by the Waterloo Beers.



On 10 June, the Household Division invited the Embassy to this year's '**Beating Retreat**' ceremony dedicated to the commemoration of the Battle of Waterloo. The yearly ceremony consists of a spectacular evening military concert with a marching display and fireworks on Horse Guards Parade in Central London.

Later in June, the Embassy participated in two official *Waterloo 200* commemoration ceremonies. On 17 June, the Ambassador attended a **VIP gala banquet** at Guildhall for everyone involved in the commemorations. The raised funds went to ABF - The Soldiers' Charity and to Wellington College's Prince Albert scholarship Scheme. The following day, there was a **Te Deum** at St Paul's Cathedral in which the British Royal Family was represented as well as members of the Wellington family and of other veteran families.



For a more detailed article on *Waterloo 200* on the Embassy's website, click [here](#).

Ministerial Visits

25 April 2015 marked the 100th anniversary of the **ANZAC** landings at Gallipoli, the first major military action fought by Australian and New Zealand forces during the First World War. In London, commemorative ceremonies took place on that day, including a dawn service, a wreath laying ceremony at the Cenotaph and a service at Westminster Abbey. Belgium's **Defence Minister Steven Vandeput**, accompanied by the Belgian Ambassador, represented our country on the occasion.

On 9 June, Belgium's **Federal Minister for Mobility, Jacqueline Galant**, was in London on a working visit. She had a meeting with her British counterpart Minister McLoughlin during which current challenges faced by the British Railways were discussed.



The 81st annual **Belgian Parade** took place at the **Cenotaph** in Whitehall earlier this month. This year, **Bart Tommelein**, State Secretary for social fraud, privacy and the North Sea represented the Belgian King and laid a wreath at the monument.



Since 1934, the Belgian Parade in London has taken place yearly during a

weekend in July, preceding the Belgian National Day. Our country is the only nation that is allowed to parade its troops in uniform and carrying arms in central London.

Embassy News

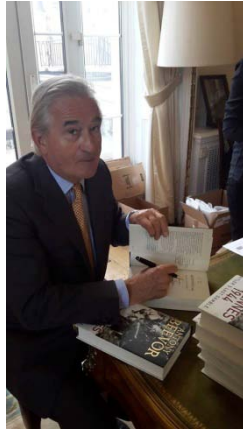
In recent months, the Ambassador's Residence in Belgrave Square has again been the venue for a wide variety of events; from Waterloo commemorations (described above), book launches and B2B networking to fundraisers. Below is a non-exhaustive list.

Book launches

11/5 - Ambassador Trouveroy hosted a talk launching the book **'The Flemish Merchant of Venice: Daniel Nijs and the Sale of the Gonzaga Art Collection'** by **Dr Christina Anderson** (Oxford University and Ashmolean Museum). The book examines the greatest art deal of the 17th century of ancient statues and paintings by Titian, Raphael, Correggio and Rubens orchestrated by the Flemish merchant, collector and dealer Daniel Nijs who lived in Venice at the time.



19/5 - A cocktail reception marked the launch of the latest book by British historian [Antony Beevor](#). **'Ardennes 1944: Hitler's Last Gamble'** tells the story of the German's ill-fated final stand. On 16 December, 1944, Hitler launched his 'last gamble' in the snow-covered forests and gorges of the Ardennes. He believed he could split the Allies by driving all the way to Antwerp, then force the Canadians and the British out of the war. Although his generals were doubtful of success, younger officers and NCOs were desperate to believe that their homes and families could be saved from the vengeful Red Army approaching from the east. Many were exultant at the prospect of striking back.



Business Events

1/6 - During their 2-day mission in London, members of the Infrastructure Club of [Agoria](#) (Belgian companies active in the construction sectors) had the opportunity of networking with representatives of [ARUP](#), one of the biggest engineering companies worldwide during a dinner at the Residence of Ambassador Trouveroy.

4/6 - The Ambassador hosted an exclusive dinner for guests of the [Delvaux boutique](#) in London (36 New Bond Street) with a preview of the *Delvaux* Fall/Winter 2015-16 exotic leather bags.



15/6 - Presentation by leading international company [Ikaros-Solar Group](#) operating in the photovoltaic market worldwide to their contacts in the renewable energy sector..

29/6 - Networking event for Flanders' digital research centre and business incubator [iMinds](#) and London-based venture capital investors.

30/6 - Seminar by [Vasco Data Security International](#), a leading supplier of strong authentication and e-signature solutions to financial institutions. At the event, decision makers in the field were presented with existing challenges and possible solutions for trusted digital identities.

Fundraisers

3/6 - An event in support of the **British Red Cross** started with a talk by the acclaimed British writer and historian [William Dalrymple](#) on his latest [book](#) in which he details events of the first Anglo-Afghan war of 1839 and was followed by a seated dinner.

23/6 - A reception followed by a dinner in support of [PACT](#) (Parents and Abducted Children Together). At the event, *PACT* introduced its two current projects: the 'Safe, Not Scared' Campaign and the release of its documentary film "Sarah-Cecilie" due in late September.



PACT was founded in 1999 by Lady (Catherine) Meyer, CBE, while she was living in Washington DC where her husband was British ambassador. Catherine had herself suffered the tragedy of being forcibly separated from her two children. She was determined to put this harrowing experience to positive use by creating a charity that would raise awareness of parental child abduction across frontiers and campaign for fundamental improvements in child protection.

25/6 - Fundraising event in support of the UK's leading Veterans' mental health charity [Combat Stress](#). The charity supports over 5,900 veterans aged from 18 to 97 and provides a vital lifeline for these men and women (and their family) suffering from psychological wounds. *Combat Stress* currently spends over £15 million a year delivering its unique range of specialist treatment and welfare support.



Credits: Ludovic Des Cognets

Awards

12/5 - Ambassador Trouveroy celebrated the **Diana Award** during a thank you event for their supporters. At this occasion, the Ambassador presented the **Diana Courageous Citizen Award** to Megan Cherise-Kerr for raising awareness of living with MS and Neurofibromatosis, a health condition both she and her father suffer from.



The [Diana Award Anti Bullying Programme](#) supports young people who engage in the fight against exclusion. To mark the 15th anniversary of the Diana Award, the number of nominations from the EU has been increased, including from Belgium.

WW1 Commemorations

In April, the yearly [Cavell Nurses Trust Scholarship Awards](#) took place at the prestigious Fishmonger's Hall in the presence of HRH Princess Anne, president of the Trusts' Centenary Appeal. The awards aim to support exceptional student nurses and midwives across the UK. The Belgian Embassy has been working together closely with the Trust and decided on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the death of Edith Cavell to finance an annual scholarship for '**Outstanding Achievement**'. The Award was handed over to the winner by the Belgian Ambassador.



As announced in the previous edition of this newsletter, the **Lycée français** in London celebrated its **centenary** in May this year. The school was established during the First World War and provided education to the children of the many refugees. At the time, some 250,000 Belgians had fled their country and settled in the UK. By 1918, almost 70% of the 275 registered pupils at the Lycée were Belgian.

The Belgian Embassy supported both the conference (which the Belgian Ambassador attended) and the publication of a book on the history of the establishment. The celebrations were opened by HRH Princess Anne. Click [here](#) for further information on the publication as well as photographs of the events.



9 July 2015 was a very special day for leper's [Last Post ceremony](#), as it was blown for the 30,000th time under the city's Menin Gate. Ambassador Trouveroy was among the attending dignitaries. Large-scale international participative events took place worldwide, including in London, to honour the occasion, involving fire services and other organisations across the world.

The Menin Gate bears the names of 54,897 soldiers from the British Commonwealth who perished in the Great War and whose remains were never recovered. The daily Last Post which was installed in 1928 is a tribute to them and all those who fell in war. Since then, the sound of bugles played by local firemen can be heard every evening under the Menin Gate, only to be interrupted by the Second World War.

Consular News

Christiaan Sys (2nd on the right) from the Belgian Embassy, who is currently President of the Consular Corps, received the title of 'Young Diplomat of the Year' at this year's DIPLOMAT Magazine's annual Awards Ceremony at the Langham London Hotel. During the event, attended by diplomats from over 100 countries, 10 awards were presented to some of the most influential diplomats based in the UK.



After two successful visits of the embassy's **flying biometric kit** to Edinburgh, it was **Manchester's** turn. On 16 and 17 April, Belgians living in the vicinity of Manchester, could apply for a new passport at the premises of the Consulate General of Portugal in the city. 56 Belgian took advantage of the opportunity.

Events Calendar

[Click here](#) for a listing on the Embassy's website of upcoming events with a

Belgian touch.

interview with a Belgian in the UK

We recently interviewed **Philippe Rixhon**, a Belgian entrepreneur at the junction of the arts, business and technology who runs his own [London-based company](#). Before focusing on the arts, Philippe spent twenty years managing successful and innovative projects for major companies in ten countries and worked in the IT domain. He currently publishes and lectures internationally to pass on his expertise to people who intend to launch a business in the arts.

Simply click [here](#) to read the interview. (credits Sharon Halleux)



Did you know...?

Belgians traveling outside of the EU can now register their travel details on the website Travellersonline.diplomatie.be. In case of a major crisis (natural disaster, political crisis...) in the country of destination, the Belgian Ministry for Foreign Affairs will be able to inform and assist you more easily. [#travellersonlineBE](https://twitter.com/travellersonlineBE)

Chelsea midfielder **Eden Hazard** has been voted the 2015 **Footballer of the Year** by the [Football Writers' Association](#). The Belgium international topped the poll of 300-plus journalists with 53 per cent of the vote. Hazard, signed by Chelsea in June 2012, had already been named **Player of the Year** by the [Professional Footballers' Association](#).

In May, Belgian singer **Loïc Nottet**, ended in fourth place among entries from 40 participating countries, with his song 'Rhythm Inside' at the **Eurovision Song Contest** in Vienna. It was Belgium's best result since 2002. This year's 60th edition of the contest was won by Sweden.

Click [here](#) to view Nottet's performance on youtube.



According to a [recent report](#) by the EU's statistical service, **Brussels** was the **third-richest region in the European Union** in 2013, with a GDP 207% higher than the average for the 28 member states. London came top of the list, with GDP 325% higher, followed by Luxembourg at 258%.

Belgian theatre director **Ivo Van Hove** received the [Laurence Olivier Award](#) for best director for his adaptation of Arthur Miller's play *A View from the Bridge* during a ceremony in April at the Royal Opera House in London. The British theatre prize, named after actor Laurence Olivier, is one of the most prestigious awards in the theatre world. Van Hove was not the only Belgian to receive an Olivier award this year, with *32 Rue Vandenbranden* by Belgian theatre company **Peeping Tom** winning the award for best new dance production.

Belgian **Sander Blommaert** is among 7 dancers who have been promoted to the rank of 'First Artist' at London's **Royal Opera House**.

The Dutch-speaking TV channel abroad has launched a new service. You can now view **BVN** programmes everywhere in the world thanks to live broadcast via the **internet**. Until recently, the channel was accessible only by satellite or cable. BVN offers a selection of news, sports, series, drama and entertainment from the Dutch public channels and Belgian TV. Click [here](#) for more information on BVN programmes and local broadcast hours.



Roa is an anonymous Belgian artist who draws on outer walls of buildings. Actually, Roa comes from Ghent and is a graffiti artist. His work can be seen on buildings around the world (in the USA, Australia, across Europe and in New Zealand). He characteristically draws wild animals in predominantly black, white and red.

His art hasn't always been appreciated. Some authorities have threatened to remove his work but most locals have grown to like the big rabbits or huge birds on their street walls and don't want to change that. In 2010, a successful campaign was launched by local residents of Hackney in London to preserve 'their' mural. Where in the UK can you find Roa graffiti? Just walk around the Shoreditch area in London, and more specifically around Brick Lane. In Bristol the Belgian artist took part in the 'See No Evil' festival where he produced a sleeping fox painted over the full length of a two-story building.

According to Roa “*Graffiti is one of the most free art expressions of the world; you don’t do it for money nor for an institution, it’s free expression and it liberates yourself creatively from a lot of restrictions.*” His challenge is to mix the artistic nature and the urban aspects of cities like London or Fremantle (Australia).

Announcements

Flanders House Vacancy

'Flanders Investment and Trade' at Flanders House in London is looking to employ a temporary full time administrative assistant between 14 September and 14 December. Deadline for applications is 31 July. For more details and applications, please contact fitlondon@fitlondon.org or click [here](#) to find details on the vacancy.

Inbev-Baillet Latour Health Prize

The yearly Inbev-Baillet Latour Health Prize is granted for outstanding achievements in biomedical research. The international prize is endowed with a personal award of 250,000 euros. Click [here](#) for more details on previous winners and how to enter this year's competition. The theme for 2016 is 'infectious diseases'. Deadline for applications is 30 September.

The Belgian Embassy in London wishes you all a glorious Summer and a **Happy National Day** on 21st July!