



Belgian Events - March 2014

Newsletter of the Embassy of Belgium in London

Dear readers,

Did you know Jacques Rogge received an honorary knighthood at Buckingham Palace? And what about Belgium having among the world's healthiest diets? The embassy's newsletter can tell you more.

In this issue, newly arrived Ambassador Guy Trouveroy reveals first impressions of his London posting in an interview. The usual cultural calendar provides details on upcoming Belgian events in the UK and the 'news' section aims to keep you updated with Belgian news and matters relating to the Embassy.

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.

From Moscow to London



In January, Ambassador Guy Trouveroy took up his post at the Embassy of Belgium in the UK after 4 years of diplomatic duties in Moscow. He has been active in the Belgian diplomatic service since 1977.

Click here for an interview with the Ambassador:
http://countries.diplomatie.belgium.be/en/united_kingdom/newsroom/news.jsp?id=244124&title=interview

For our Belgian readers

Elections

Federal parliamentary elections

The Embassy wishes to point out that the final deadline to register for the federal parliamentary elections of 25 May 2014 passed on 31 January 2014. You are therefore no longer able to register for these elections. However, your registration will be valid for subsequent elections.

European elections

If you live in the UK and are no longer registered with a Belgian commune, there are two ways to participate in the European elections. Either you can take part in the European elections in the UK (voting for British candidates), in which case we suggest that you obtain information from your local council, or you can vote by correspondence for Belgian candidates. If you should opt for the latter, the required form can be obtained from london@diplobel.fed.be. The form needs to be returned to the Embassy no later than 26 March 2014.

Changes to the Belgian e-ID

On 1 March 2014, the fee for electronic identity cards for Belgians abroad increased to £18. At the same time, the validity of these e-IDs has been extended.

e-IDs of those between 12 and 18 years of age are valid for 6 years, for applicants between the ages of 18 and 75 e-IDs are valid for 10 years and for those older than 75 the document is valid for 30 years.

World War I

WWI commemorations online



The commemorations of the First World War start in earnest in August this year. Meanwhile, information on the planned events can be found on various websites.

The official Belgian website on the centenary celebrations contains information on the three main themes and the commemorative ceremonies in Belgium. <http://www.be14-18.be/>.

The provinces of West Flanders and Antwerp have joined forces and set up a new site to make it easier for the public to find their way through the sheer quantity of information that comes up when you google 'World War I'. <http://www.wegwijzerwoi.be/>

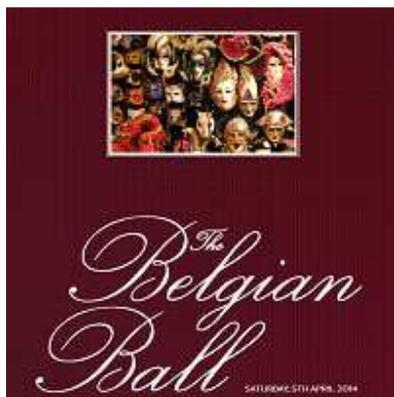
The city of Brussels and the Broodhuis Museum have launched a website about life in the capital during WWI which precedes an exhibition at the museum opening in August. <http://www.14-18.bruxelles.be/>

Meanwhile, the Royal Museum of the Army and Military History is dedicating its website to the exhibition '14-18, it's our history' which opened on 26th February. <http://www.expo14-18.be/>

In the UK, the British government set up www.gov.uk/ww1centenary. The Imperial War Museum in London, which is in charge of the cultural aspects of the celebrations, also created a website containing a wealth of information and documentation on the commemorations in the UK and abroad. <http://www.1914.org/>

What's on?

Belgian Ball



The theme of this year's Belgian Ball, organised by the Anglo-Belgian Society under the patronage of H.E. the Ambassador of Belgium, is 'Venetian Masquerade'. The ball takes place on 5th April and is organised for the benefit of the Royal Belgian Benevolent Society.

<http://www.belgianball.com/>

Tcha Limberger & Budapest Gypsy Orchestra on tour in the UK

Belgian musician Tcha Limberger and his Budapest Gypsy Orchestra embark on their UK tour on 12 March to 17 stations, among them Leeds, Sheffield, Edinburgh, Southampton and London.

Tcha Limberger was born blind, half Belgian, half Manouche Gypsy Belgian. His fascination with Hungarian music encouraged him to travel to the country and learn from the greatest masters of traditional Hungarian music. He is now a master of the violin himself.

<http://www.lejazzetal.com/web/content/index.php>



Laureate Concours Reine Elisabeth at Wigmore Hall



On 23rd March, the Polish/British pianist Mateusz Borowiak will perform at London's Wigmore Hall.

The recipient of many awards, Borowiak was a laureate of the 2013 Queen Elisabeth Piano Competition in Brussels where he was also awarded the Musiq'3 Audience Prize, and was Gold Medalist at the 2011 Maria Canals competition in Barcelona.

Borowiak has appeared at some of Europe's most prestigious venues and his concerts

are regularly broadcast in Poland, Hungary, Belgium and Spain. This concert will be the pianist's Wigmore Hall debut.

<http://www.wigmore-hall.org.uk/whats-on/productions/mateusz-borowiak-piano-34726>

Cultural Calendar

For a listing of the above and other events with a Belgian touch:

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



News

KULAK students at the Belgian Residence

On 21 February, a group of some 100 students from the department of Law and Political Science from the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven Campus Kortrijk (KULAK) were invited to the Residence of the Belgian Ambassador. Ambassador Trouveroy addressed the students, explaining the role of a diplomat .Geert De Proost and Ben De Smit provided details on Flanders house in London and the role of an Economic & Commercial Counsellor.



Jacques Rogge receives British knighthood



Jacques Rogge, former International Olympic Committee President, received an honorary knighthood at Buckingham Palace for his years of service to the Olympics and in particular for his work on the London 2012 Olympic Games.

<http://www.deredactie.be/cm/vrtnieuws.english/News/1.1890820>

Van Dyck discovered by BBC



The BBC's TV programme 'Antiques Roadshow' discovered a genuine work by Anthony Van Dyck during one of its 2013 editions. The show host and news reader Fiona Bruce suggested the painting could be valuable, which was later confirmed by Dr Christopher Brown, a world authority on Van Dyck. The painting is a portrait of a Brussels' Magistrate.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/art/news/fiona-bruces-antiques-roadshow-hunch-leads-to-discovery-of-lost-400000-van-dyck-masterpiece-9029096.html>

Oscar Nomination for The Broken Circle Breakdown



The Belgian film '*The Broken Circle Breakdown*', directed by Felix Van Groeningen, was in the running for this year's Academy Award in the category Best Foreign-Language Film. It was the 7th time a Belgian film had been nominated for this Award, but our country has yet to bring home the prize. Italian drama '*The Great Beauty*' captured this year's Oscar.

A week earlier, '*The Broken Circle Breakdown*' did win the French equivalent of the Oscars: the César.

<http://www.flanderstoday.eu/current-affairs/broken-circle-breakdown-wins-cesar-misses-oscar>

Stromae's second UK concert

“Alors on danse..” was the song that launched the career of Belgian singer songwriter Stromae. The single reached number one in The Netherlands, France, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Greece, the Czech Republic, Bulgaria and Belgium.

Last month, Stromae won three awards in France at the “Victoires de la Musique”, the so-called French Grammy’s.

Now he seems to have also conquered the UK. Some of you may have seen him a fortnight ago, at the live music club KOKO which sold out within days. So don’t forget to follow his tour and buy your tickets in time for Stromae’s next concert.



More news ...

New Newcastle - Brussels connection



From 3rd March the British airline carrier BMI Regional will start a double daily service from Newcastle International to Brussels International. The new route is the only direct flight from the north east of England to the Belgian capital.

Belgium has world's 4th healthiest diet



According to OXFAM's Global Food Index Belgium is among the top countries in the world when it comes to food consumption. Oxfam's 'Good Enough to Eat' report compares food availability, affordability and nutritional value in 125 countries worldwide. Belgium ranks 4th after The Netherlands, France and Sweden.

<http://www.oxfam.org/sites/www.oxfam.org/files/good-enough-to-eat-oxfam-media-brief-012014.pdf>

Westvleteren tops the ratings

At the latest edition of the RateBeer Awards, the American beer connoisseurs' website, Belgium's Westvleteren XII has been named the world's best beer. Another nine Belgian beers appear also on the list of the world's top 100 beers.



It is the fourth year in a row that the Westvleteren XII features as number one. Brewed in moderate supplies by the monks of Sint Sixtus and sold once a week, Westvleteren has become a much sought after beer. The RateBeer Awards have been bestowed since 2002. The selection is made based on points awarded by beer lovers from across the globe via the RateBeer website.

For further information on the world top beers:

<http://www.ratebeer.com/> <http://www.ratebeer.com/>.

Belgian tycoon takes over English football club



In January, Belgian businessman and politician Roland Duchâtelet completed the takeover of South London Football Club Charlton Athletic. Duchâtelet now has interests in five clubs in four countries

Pilotto wins Fashion Award

Peter Pilotto (Austrian/Italian) and Christopher De Vos (Belgian/Peruvian), the designers behind the Pilotto label which was launched in 2007, have won the 2014 British Fashion Council/Vogue Designer Fashion Fund. Both designers trained at Antwerp's prestigious Royal Academy of Fine Arts.

<http://www.vogue.co.uk/news/2014/1/28/peter-pilotto-wins-bfc-vogue-fashion-fund-2014>

among which Belgian Club Standard Liège.

<http://www.bbc.com/sport/0/football/25592144>



For more information on Belgian representations, clubs and organisations in the UK, http://countries.diplomatie.belgium.be/en/united_kingdom/belgians_in_the_uk/belgian_organisations/ .

For contact details of the Belgian Honorary Consulates in the UK, http://countries.diplomatie.belgium.be/en/united_kingdom/honorary_consulates/ .

Other official information and services: www.belgium.be **.be**

2014 © Embassy of Belgium in the UK - http://countries.diplomatie.belgium.be/en/united_kingdom