



## Belgian Events - May 2014

Newsletter of the Embassy of Belgium in London

Dear readers,

This issue of the Embassy's newsletter reflects on the recent Belgian Royal visit and other events at the Ambassador's Residence. In an interview, the Belgian honorary consul in Edinburgh talks about his life and job in Scotland. There is a brief report on the recent voting by Belgians registered in the UK. Read about compatriots doing well on the international scene and winning various prizes and awards. The usual cultural calendar provides details on upcoming Belgian events in the UK.

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](mailto:belgianevents.uk@diplobel.fed.be). New subscribers can provide their details via the Embassy's website.

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**Royal London Visit**

## Belgian King and Queen on one-day visit to London



As part of a series of official visits to European capitals, King Philippe and Queen Mathilde visited the United Kingdom on 13 March. The Royal couple was accompanied on their day trip by Minister Didier Reynders. The event attracted considerable media attention. Over 30 Belgian journalists traveled to the UK capital by Eurostar to follow and report on the Royal visit.

They started their day in Parliament where they met with both Speakers.

Afterwards, they were welcomed by Queen Elizabeth II for a private luncheon at Buckingham Palace.



In the afternoon, King Philippe and Queen Mathilde laid a wreath at the grave of the Unknown Soldier at Westminster Abbey. The couple was guided around the magnificent building before signing the guest book.

The beautiful sunny day came to a close with a reception hosted by Ambassador Trouveroy at his Residence and attended by about a hundred prominent Belgian and British Londoners.

**Embassy news**

## British Red Cross fundraising dinner

On 3<sup>th</sup> of April the Ambassador hosted a fundraising event for the benefit of the British Red Cross. Guests were treated to an exceptional musical performance by tenor Sam Furness, accompanied on piano. German, Italian and French work was performed.

After the recital guests could catch-up with friends and meet new ones during a lively dinner. The Ambassador is pleased that he was able to contribute to the most honourable work of the British Red Cross.



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## Europe Editor of The Economist at the Residence



John Peet, Europe editor of *The Economist* since 2003, gave a talk at the Belgian Ambassador's Residence on the Euro Crisis, the European Parliament Elections, the UK and EU relations as well as the British Media. The talk was followed by a long session of Q&A and a networking lunch.

Photo of John Peet taken by the editor of the *Embassy Magazine*.

For more on this event: <http://www.dpaal.org.uk/our-events/events-archive> .

## Ceremony at Royal Military School in Dover

On 2 May, Ambassador Trouveroy attended the yearly drill parade at the Duke of York's Royal Military School in Dover. He presented the Baroness Thatcher Sword of Honour to the school's best Junior Officer as well as the drill competition prize and good conduct stripes to the winning pupils.



The Duke of York's Royal Military School is a state boarding school set up in 1803 and is sponsored by the Ministry of Defence. It offers secondary education to pupils between the ages of 11 and 17.



A number of school members belong to the Belgian Torch Remembrance Society. Each autumn, the Torches of Remembrance from Britain are lit at the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior in Westminster Abbey and are carried via Dover and Ostend to Brussels where the King relights the Eternal Flame at 11am on 11th November. In 2015, the Academy will be taking over the organisation of the Society.

## Consular news

### Polling station at the Ambassador's Residence



On Wednesday 21 May, 550 Belgians (of the 20,000 registered in the UK) cast their vote in the elections for the Federal Parliament at the Residence of the Ambassador.



The polling station was open from 1 until 9 pm. Another 4,500 Belgians decided to vote by post or by proxy.



### **Biometric Flying Kit in Edinburgh**

Earlier this month, the Embassy's biometric flying kit landed at the Honorary Consulate in Edinburgh. Some 50 Belgians in need of a new passport had their biometric data taken in Edinburgh and saved themselves a trip to London. Soon, the biometric kit will travel to other locations in the UK. Watch out for announcements on the Embassy's website and FaceBook page.

### **Interview**

#### **Interview with Yves Lemarchand, Honorary Consul in Edinburgh**

Yves Lemerchand left Belgium in 1988 and is now managing director of *Experience Scotland* in Edinburgh. He has been Honorary Consul for Belgium since 1996.



Minister Alex Salmond and Yves Lemarchand

Read the interview:

[http://countries.diplomatie.belgium.be/en/united\\_kingdom/newsroom/news.jsp?id=242641&title=ni\\_180214\\_interview\\_yves\\_lemarchand](http://countries.diplomatie.belgium.be/en/united_kingdom/newsroom/news.jsp?id=242641&title=ni_180214_interview_yves_lemarchand)

## World War 1

### European Summit meeting in Ieper

The next European summit will take place in the city of Ieper. EU heads of state and government will meet in the city that was at the heart of the Great War battlefields to mark the centenary of the start of the First World War.

The summit will start on 26 June - two days ahead of the centenary of the shooting of the Hapsburg heir, Archduke Franz Ferdinand, a killing that triggered the start of the conflict.

During the summit, the European dignitaries will also attend a special Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate. The Last Post is sounded at 8pm every evening to remember those who died in the conflict. It was through the Menin Gate that many of the soldiers marched off to war, many never to return. The names of the soldiers who have no known grave are chiseled on the monument.



According to Ieper burgomaster Jan Durnez it shows great recognition for Ieper that the suffering which occurred there is used to underpin a call for peace, especially at a time when this requires added attention.

For more details: <http://www.centenarynews.com/article?id=1523>

## International Prizes and Awards

## Agro-Insight wins international video award in London



The Belgian company *Agro-Insight* has won gold at the Industry Award for Communication Effectiveness ceremony, organised by the prestigious International Visual Communications Association (IVCA) in London on March 28<sup>th</sup>. *Agro-Insight* produced a series of ten videos for the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid-Tropics, a non-profit agricultural research organisation that works for the poorest of the poor in the semi-arid tropics.

“This is a great honour,” says Dr Paul Van Mele, director of *Agro-Insight*, “it is an international recognition of how our way of producing and sharing videos enhances impact on rural livelihoods at a large scale.”

In collaboration with local media professionals, the videos were translated into English, French, Arabic, Portuguese and 19 African languages, and used by hundreds of organisations. Research indicated that farmers who watched the videos changed many of their farming practices.

The jury members commended the power of *Agro-Insight's* videos in triggering African farmers to learn and improve their farming practices: “The messages of the videos are simple and clear, and their spread and impact has been overwhelming.”

[www.agroinsight.com](http://www.agroinsight.com)

## Prestigious Olivier Award for Belgian choreographer

Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui has won the Olivier Award for best new dance production. The awards named after the greatest British actor, honour the best productions seen in London's Theatreland over the past year.

Cherkaoui was awarded the prize on account of his production of 'Puzzle' that was staged at the prestigious Sadler's Wells Theatre.



## Posthumous International Opera Award for Gerard Mortier

Opera director Gerard Mortier, who died a few months ago aged 70, was given a posthumous lifetime achievement honour at the International Opera Awards in London.



Read more: <http://www.bbc.com/news/entertainment-arts-26926253>

## Cultural Calendar

For a listing of upcoming events with a Belgian touch: [http://countries.diplomatie.belgium.be/en/united\\_kingdom/events/](http://countries.diplomatie.belgium.be/en/united_kingdom/events/)



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/](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/](http://countries.diplomatie.belgium.be/en/united_kingdom/honorary_consulates/)

Other official information and services: [www.belgium.be](http://www.belgium.be) 

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