



Belgian Events - October 2013

Newsletter of the Embassy of Belgium in London

Table of contents

[Belgian Elections](#)

[Recent Highlights](#)

[Interview with the Belgian Honorary Consul in Southampton](#)

[Did you know?](#)

- Belgian awarded Nobel Prize for Physics
- Belgium enjoys a very high reputation abroad
- Belgian Food Industry launches website
- Penguin to re-publish works by Georges Simenon
- Belgian General popular on Wikipedia
- Dr JP Vincent Fellow of Royal Society

[What's On?](#)

- Europalia.India
- Chantal Akerman Retrospective
- Belgian co-productions at London Film Festival
- 'Hors les Murs' on DVD
- Calendar of events

[Announcements](#)

- Embassy vacancy for a consular assistant
- Dutch language classes for children

Links to

[Representations, Clubs, Organisations](#)

Belgian Elections

(For our Belgian readers)

The next federal elections in Belgium will most likely be held on 25 May 2014 in which case you can register to vote until 31 January 2014.

Normally speaking, you will have received an election registration form by post a few weeks ago. On the form, you will need to fill in your election commune. Unlike for previous elections (2003, 2007 and 2010) you no longer have a choice in which commune you will cast your vote. This is now decided by law. You will also need to choose between one of five election options. In case you did not receive a form, please contact the Embassy as soon as possible:

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

Voting is compulsory for each Belgian national who is registered at the Embassy, is at least 18 years old at the time of the election and is not deprived of voting rights. For further details (in Dutch or French):

http://diplomatie.belgium.be/nl/Diensten/Diensten_in_het_buitenland/Deelname_aan_verkiezingen/

http://diplomatie.belgium.be/fr/Services/services_a_letranger/participation_aux_elections/

Recent Highlights



In this first issue of Belgian Events after a glorious summer, we reflect on some recent Belgian highlights.

This year's **National Day** took on extra dimensions with the abdication of King Albert II and the succession of Prince Philippe as the 7th **King of the Belgians**. In London, the occasion was marked with a reception at the Ambassador's residence and a barbecue at Wellington barracks. Throughout September and October, King Philip and Queen Mathilde are touring Belgium in a traditional programme of "Joyful Entries" to meet the heads of each of Belgium's ten provinces and of the German-speaking Community. At the

request of the royal couple, these visits include social, cultural or economic events, working lunches devoted to provincial priorities as well as opportunities to meet the Belgian people.

The schedule is posted (in Dutch and French) on the official website of the Belgian Monarchy:

<http://www.monarchie.be/nl/actueel/agenda/archief/blijde-intredes> (Dutch)

<http://www.monarchie.be/fr/actuel/agenda/archives/joyeuses-entrees> (French)

In August, a Memorial took place at the cemetery of Minster-in-Thamet for the 70th anniversary of the Belgian RAF Pilot **Baron Jean de Sélvs-Longchamps**, grand-nephew of King Leopold III. The commemoration was attended by military representatives from the UK and Belgium, a representative of the Belgian Embassy in the UK and family of the pilot.

On 12 September, our **Foreign Minister Didier Reynders** visited the Belgian Pavilion at the World Leading Defence & Security Event DSEI in London.



That same evening, a networking cocktail at the Residence of the Ambassador marked **London Fashion Week**. Guests of honour were Belgian fashion brand A.F. Vandervorst and the Flanders Fashion Institute. Musical entertainment for the evening was provided by Belgian singer and pianist An Pierlé.



On Friday 4 October, the art festival **Europalia.India** kicked off in Brussels. On Thursday 26 September, it was officially presented at the Residence of the Ambassador to an audience of representatives from the political, economic, cultural and press communities in the UK.

The complete programme is available from www.europalia.eu

Interview with the Belgian Honorary Consul in Southampton

In the next issues of our newsletter we will be talking to the Belgian Honorary Consuls in the UK, finding out how they assist our compatriots and support the work of the Embassy in London. At present, Belgium has eight Honorary Consulates in the UK.



Peter Green, our Consul in Southampton, is keen to explain what his position entails:

http://countries.diplomatie.belgium.be/en/united_kingdom/newsroom/news.jsp?id=233652&title=ni_011013_interview_peter_green

Did you know?

Belgian wins Nobel Prize in Physics

Back in June 'Belgian Events' reported on the possibility of a Belgian scientist winning this year's Nobel Prize in Physics. Now we can confirm that François Englert has indeed been awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics 2013, together with the British scientist Peter Higgs. With his theory developed in 1964 in cooperation with his colleague Robert Brout (1928-2011), Englert laid the foundations for the discovery of the famous Higgs-boson in 2012.

The Prize has been awarded "for the theoretical discovery of a mechanism that contributes to our understanding of the origin of mass of subatomic particles, and which recently was confirmed through the discovery of the predicted fundamental particle, by the ATLAS and CMS experiments at CERN's Large Hadron Collider".



François Englert is the first Belgian ever to win the Nobel Prize for Physics. Previous

Belgian Nobel Prize winners are: Ilya Prigogine, Chemistry (1977); Christian de Duve, Physiology or Medicine (1974); Albert Claude, Physiology or Medicine (1974); Georges Pire, Peace (1958); Corneille Heymans, Physiology or Medicine (1938); Jules Bordet, Physiology or Medicine (1919); Henri La Fontaine, Peace (1913); Maurice Maeterlinck, Literature (1911); Auguste Beernaert, Peace (1909); Institut de Droit International, Peace (1904).

Belgium enjoys a very high reputation abroad

Belgium is ranked 13th out of 50 countries worldwide, notably ahead of the UK, Japan, France and the US, according to the Country RepTrak rankings published by the Reputation Institute.

Each country's reputation is ranked based on four criteria: confidence, esteem, admiration and respect, along with public perception of sixteen aspects including safety as a tourist destination, beauty, friendliness and warmth of its people, a progressive social and economic policy, an effective government, etc.

The study, performed online between January and March 2013, sought the views of 27,000 citizens of G8 countries who measured the reputation of fifty companies specific to the each country.

<http://www.akkanto.com/network/reputation-institute/667-reputation-institute/167-belgium-maintains-its-strong-reputation-abroad>

<http://www.reputationinstitute.com/thought-leadership/retrak-in-countries>

The Belgian Food Industry launched website

www.food.be

FEVIA (Belgian federation food industry) launched the food.be campaign to showcase the excellence of Belgian food, bolster the brand image of Belgium in this field, and promote exports.

The concept also represents an important step towards attaining the goals set in the ambitious FOOD2015 project. Launched last December under the aegis of Bernard Deryckere, the new President of FEVIA, the FOOD2015 plan is geared towards strengthening the positioning of the Belgian food industry as a world reference for excellence and to securing growth of € 1 billion for the domestic market and €5 billion for exports by 2015. Growth of the exports in 2012 amounted to 5.1%, in spite of the difficult economic climate.

Belgium may be a small country, but it has some great food!

Simenon re-launch

Starting next month, Penguin Press is publishing all 75 of Georges Simenon's novels featuring Inspector Maigret in new English translations. The first edition in this venture will be *Pietr the Latvian* (launch 7th November) Simenon's first Maigret novel. Over the next year, Penguin Press will publish one novel each month in a fresh approach.

The re-launch of Simenon's work will also include a selection of the author's 'romansdurs'. The first of these, *The Circle of Disapproval*, has never been published in English before.

www.penguin.co.uk



Favourite on Wikipedia

He served in the Boer War, both World Wars, and was awarded the Victoria Cross for his bravery; he was shot in the face, head, stomach, ankle, leg, hip, and ear; survived two plane crashes; tunneled out of a Prisoner of War camp and pulled off his own fingers when a doctor refused to amputate them. Describing his experiences in World War I, he wrote, "Frankly, I enjoyed the war."

With this introduction the Belgian/Irish Army Officer Sir Adrian Paul Ghislain Carton de Wiart has been crowned 'most interesting personality' on Wikipedia.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adrian_Carton_de_Wiart

Belgian Fellow

Belgian scientist Dr Jean Paul Vincent, Head of Developmental Biology at the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR), has been made a Fellow of the Royal Society, a title reserved for the most eminent scientists, engineers and technologists from the UK and the Commonwealth.

Dr Vincent has used his training in mathematics and physics to devise new techniques to solve important issues in developmental biology.

Further details on The Royal Society, the election of its 'Peers for life' and a biography of JP Vincent are available on <http://royalsociety.org>

What's on?

Europalia

The international arts festival 'Europalia' has turned the spotlight on India's cultural heritage for its 24th biennial. During the coming four months, the

festival presents a multidisciplinary programme of 250 events highlighting India's immense cultural wealth at 200 venues across Belgium and even in surrounding countries



For more details: www.europalia.eu

Chantal Akerman Retrospective

'A Nos Amours' are screening Chantal Akerman's entire cinematic oeuvre over the next 18 months, a first such retrospective in London. 'A Nos Amours' is a collective founded by film-makers Joanna Hogg and Adam Roberts dedicated to programming overlooked, under-exposed or especially potent cinema.

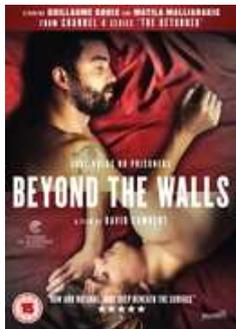
To commence this retrospective, there were screenings of *Saute ma ville* (1968), *L'Enfant aimé, ou je joue à être une femme mariée* (1971) and *Hôtel Monterey* (1972) last month at the ICA Cinema in London.

For information on future screenings and booking tickets, please visit <http://www.anosamours.co.uk/>

Belgian co-productions at London Film Festival

For details and tickets to watch Belgian co-productions screened during the 57th London Film Festival (9-20 October),

visit <https://whatson.bfi.org.uk/lff/Online/default.asp> (search 'Belgium')



Belgian producer's debut feature on DVD

'Beyond the Walls' (*Hors les Murs*) tells the story of a dedicated young pianist Paulo and bass player Ilir from Albania becoming consumed with one another, but it isn't long before their intoxicating love affair suffers the harsh light of day-to-day life.

'Beyond the Walls' is out now from Peccadillo Pictures and can be

purchased from Amazon, Playcom, Zavvi & peccapics.com.

Keep an eye on the Embassy's FaceBook page to win a copy.

<http://press.peccapics.co.uk/?type=Entertainment&folder=Beyond+The+Walls>

Calendar of Events

For a listing of all these and other events with a Belgian touch:http://countries.diplomatie.belgium.be/en/united_kingdom/events/

Announcements

Embassy vacancy for a consular assistant

http://countries.diplomatie.belgium.be/en/united_kingdom/vacancy.jsp

Dutch classes for children

As from January 2014 the Flemish Representation in London will be organising Dutch lessons for children on Saturday morning at Flanders House. The classes will be aimed at children between 5 and 9 years old, and will be run by two very enthusiastic teachers who can't wait to start!

Registration for the classes starts on Monday 14 October 2013. If you are interested in registering your child, please contact lotte.ysenbrandt@flandershouse.co.uk and she will happily send you more information about the classes and how to register.

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/

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Other official information and services: www.belgium.be 