



Belgian Events - September 2014

Newsletter of the Embassy of Belgium in London

Dear Readers,

After the summer holidays, *Belgian Events* is back! This issue of the Embassy's newsletter focuses on the World War commemorations and particularly on those the Embassy has been involved in.

The newsletter also reveals details on various events at the Belgian Residence. The cultural calendar contains information 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. New subscribers can provide their details via the [Embassy's website](#).

Latest News from the Embassy

The Ambassador of Belgium had the great honour to welcome **HRH the Princess Royal** at his Residence on Wednesday 17 September on the occasion of a fundraising dinner. HRH attended in her capacity of President of the Centenary Appeal of the [Cavell Nurses' Trust](#).

Edith Cavell arrived in Belgium as a nurse in 1907 and helped save lives during the First World War through her nursing and underground activities. She was executed in Brussels on 12 October 1915. The **Cavell Nurses' Trust** has the forward looking purpose to support nurses and midwives in need due to isolation or loneliness caused by illness and disability.



HRH the Princess Royal and the Ambassador of Belgium flanked by the CEO of the Cavell Nurses' Trust Kate Tompkins and their Acting Chairman Stephen Charlton

On 8 September, Ambassador Trouveroy hosted a reception for the British athletes, coaches, delegates and sponsors participating in this year's **Special Olympics European Summer Games in Antwerp**. Between 13 and 20 September, more than 2,000 athletes with learning disabilities from 58 European and Eurasian countries will take part in 10 sports events at the Games. 49 British athletes will compete in 7 different disciplines.

The Special Olympics was set up in 1968 and runs Summer and Winter Games every 4 years, as well as international Regional Games such as the [European Summer Games in Antwerp](#).

Queen Mathilde officially opened the Special Olympics at the King Baudouin Stadium in Brussels on 13 September.



Thumbs up for the British Team

During their London visit on 16 September, 15 private sector members of the Belgian **Agoria Infrastructure Business Club**, together with the BLCC, organised a business lunch at the Ambassador's Residence with the prominent British architect Ray Hole from **RA Architects**. RA Architects is responsible for the vast Paramount Park project, a comprehensive theme park in Kent. The Belgian companies had the opportunity to present their high quality, innovative and internationally-orientated products and services in the technological field.



Upcoming Events at the Ambassador's Residence include:

- 23 September - Presentations by 3 guests on 'How to lobby in Brussels' for international companies and organisations (in collaboration with *Brussels Invest & Trade*)
- 9 October - Fundraising dinner in support of the Elsie & Mairi statue project (in collaboration with the *Vlaamse Club*).
- 23 October - 'Belgium and Internationalism' lecture by Daniel Laqua.
- 28 October - Book launch 'Presentation Thinking and Design' by Ed Gruwez, CEO of Ogilvy International Communications (in collaboration with the *BLCC*).

Political News

On 4 and 5 September, Wales saw the largest gathering of international leaders ever to take place in Britain as the UK hosted the **NATO summit**. President Obama, Chancellor Merkel, and President Hollande attended along with leaders and senior ministers from around 60 other countries. Belgium was represented by Prime Minister Di Rupo.

The summit came as NATO draws down from its longest ever mission in Afghanistan and against a backdrop of instability in Ukraine. It was an opportunity to ensure that NATO continues to be at the forefront of building stability in an unpredictable world.

Earlier this Summer in London, Minister Reynders was among 79 Ministers attending the **Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict**. The [conference](#) was co-chaired by the Foreign Secretary William Hague and Angelina Jolie, Special Envoy for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.



Minister Reynders and Angelina Jolie

This was the largest gathering ever brought together on the subject, with 1,700 delegates and 129 country delegations.

The Summit agreed practical steps to tackle impunity for the use of rape as a weapon of war, and to begin changing global attitudes to these crimes.

World War Commemorations

World War 1

On 12 July, the 80th annual **Belgian Parade at the Cenotaph in Whitehall** took place. On this occasion, HRH Prince Laurent, representing the Belgian King, laid a wreath at the monument. The ceremony was also attended by Belgian Defence Minister De Crem and UK vice-Minister of Defence Lord Astor, various British and Belgian civil and military authorities and veterans as well as detachments from military education establishments.



HRH Prince Laurent at the Cenotaph in Whitehall

The ceremony at the Cenotaph was followed by a military parade at Horse Guards Parade and a reception offered by the Belgian Ministry for Defence at Wellington Barracks. In the afternoon, guests were invited to a luncheon by Ambassador Trouveroy at his Residence.

Eighty years ago, Belgium's King Albert I died as a result of a climbing accident. Touched by the death of his nephew and in recognition of the heroism and sacrifice of the Belgian Army in the First World War, King George V of Great Britain decided to bestow a unique honour on the Belgians never awarded to any other non-Commonwealth nation: a yearly parade at the Cenotaph in Whitehall, the monument for the dead in London built in 1920 at the request of the then prime minister Lloyd George. Belgium is the only nation that is allowed to parade its troops in uniform and carrying arms in central London.

The Belgian Parade in London has taken place yearly since 1934 on the Sunday preceding the Belgian National Day. It is a strong symbol of the fraternity between the British and the Belgian soldiers during and after both World Wars and it confirms the close ties that unite both countries.

The first major commemoration ceremonies attended by royalty and other VIPs took place simultaneously in **Glasgow, London, Mons and Liège on 4 August**, the day on which war was declared 100 years ago.

You can find background information on World War One and its commemorations on the Embassy's website. We update it regularly to include the Embassy's involvement in numerous events, such as the one in Leicester illustrated below, held in the context of the Centenary. [Click here](#) to gain access to the article.



Belgian representation at Welford Road Cemetery, Leicester

World War 2

Ambassador Trouveroy attended the **Drumhead** Ceremony and Remembrance Service at **Portsmouth** on 5 June to mark the 70th anniversary of D-Day on Southsea Common. The Drumhead Ceremony was preceded by an inspection of the parade by HRH The Princess Royal.



On 14 June, 70 years to the day that Belgian fighter pilot Henri Gonay was shot down, his daughter traveled to **Jersey** for the official '**Rue Henri Gonay**' road naming ceremony. The ceremony was also attended by the Belgian Chief of Defence General Van Caelenberge and other representatives of the Belgian Air Force as well as the Belgian Honorary Consul in Jersey.



Did you know?

Competitiveness and Innovation

Have you ever wondered just how innovative Belgium is as a country? According to the [Global Competitiveness Report of the World Economic Forum](#), Belgium is an innovation-driven economy and ranks high in various domains:

- Quality of math and science education: 3rd place
- Quality of scientific research institutions: 4th place
- University-industry collaboration: 6th place
- Capacity for innovation: 10th place
- Availability of latest technologies: 12th place

Furthermore, the [Global Innovation Index](#) ranks Belgium in a solid 21st place out of 142 countries based on its innovation capabilities and results.

Nicole Kidman dressed by Belgian designer

Belgian designer Carine Gilson continues to enjoy success on the big screen. Actress Bérénice Marlohe wore an outfit designed by Gilson in the latest James Bond film 'Skyfall'. Next on the Belgian's agenda is Nicole Kidman in 'Before I go to sleep' which was released in the UK on 5 September.



Carine Gilson who was born in Brussels and studied at the city's Fine Arts Academy, set up her own brand of Lingerie Couture in 1994.

In 2011, *Vogue* described Gilson as one of the cerebral Belgian designers alongside Dries van Noten and Raf Simons. According to the fashion magazine, her store in London's Knightsbridge is not 'just another lingerie shop, but reveals layers of thought, intellect and collaboration discreetly blended into the mix. Gilson's lingerie is 'beautifully crafted and timeless'.

Two Days, One Night

The FT described it as 'an uncharacteristically gentle film' from the Dardenne brothers. '*Two Days, One Night*' tells the story of Sandra (Marion Cotillard) who returns to work after suffering from depression to find out that her colleagues have chosen to take a bonus at the expense of her job. She has just one weekend to change their minds.



Two Days, One Night received rave reviews after its premiere at this year's [Cannes Film Festival](#) and won the Sydney Film Prize at the [Sydney Film Festival](#) "For its masterfully elegant storytelling, its dedication to a fiercely humanistic, super-realist worldview, its brave, essential commitment to community solidarity, and its celebration of a woman's power and vitality," according to the Jury President. Writing in The Guardian, Peter Bradshaw gave the film 5 stars, praising in particular Cotillard's "supremely intelligent performance."

'Two Days, One Night' is currently screened at various cinemas in London and is also available for home viewing on [BFI Player](#).

BBC to broadcast Belgian series

BBC4 has bought the broadcasting rights to the Belgian thriller series 'Cordon'. An outbreak of a deadly virus in Antwerp will be the focus of the channel's latest Saturday night foreign drama. The city is sealed off from the outside world in this 10-part thriller, following the discovery of a contagious and deadly virus which brings out the very best of the people trapped inside, but also the very worst.



It is the second thriller from Belgium on BBC4 following the bank heist drama 'Salamander' earlier this year.

Events Calendar

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

Prize Announcements

In 2015, the Fund for Scientific Research (FRS-FNRS) will grant the triennial and international '**GAGNA A. & Ch. VAN HECK Prize**', amounting to 75.000 €, to a scientist or a medical doctor in recognition of research which has contributed to the treatment of a currently incurable disease or which has raised hopes for curing the disease.

Application deadline is 1st October 2014.

More details: www.fnrs.be/docs/Prix/FRS-FNRS_Prix_Gagna_EN.pdf

The theme of the international '**INBEV-BAILLET LATOUR HEALTH Prize**' 2015 is 'metabolic disorders'.
The Prize is awarded to a scientist active in biomedical research and/or practical applications for human health.

The current value of the Prize is 250,000 €.
Application deadline is 30th September 2014.

More details: www.inbevbailetlatour.com