

Embassy of Ireland Newsletter November 2017

SAVE THE DATE



The beleire Innovation Seminar – November 23rd, 2017

The Ambassador of Ireland to the Kingdom of Belgium, H.E. Ms. Helena Nolan and the Belgian Ambassador to Ireland H.E. Mr. Pierre-Emmanuel De Bauw will be opening the seminar and welcoming guests during the reception. The keynote speaker Peter Van Hees will then guide you through the world of technology and innovations. The seminar will take place on November 23rd 2017 from 2:00pm to 9:00pm in the Leuven Institute for Ireland in Europe.

Beleire, the former Ireland-Belgium Business Association (IBBA), is a non-profit organisation aiming to facilitate business networking between member companies and individuals in the Belgian and Irish business communities.

The beleire Innovation Seminar will offer insightful discussions on how to be competitive while being compliant. The day will be filled with interesting keynote speakers and interactive brainstorming sessions about People & Technology, Regulations & Technology and Social Disruptions. The seminar will be followed by a walking dinner and a networking opportunity with like-minded business people.


Register now via the website: <http://beleire.com/the-beleire-innovation-seminar>





YOU ARE INVITED

The beleire-team proudly presents our first Annual Seminar and you are invited.

The beleire Innovation Seminar
from being compliant to being competitive

 Leuven Institute for Ireland in Europe

 November 23rd 2017

 02:00 pm - 09:00 pm

Subscribe via our website before Wednesday November 15th 2017.

We hope to meet you there!

#WhereStoriesMeet www.beleire.com info@beleire.com

www.MOREC.BE



Green Lines – an occasional blog by Ambassador Helena Nolan



Hello everyone, I hope that you all enjoyed a lovely Halloween break, either here, or in Ireland or perhaps somewhere more exotic, given the 10% increase in flights out of Brussels this mid-term. Tourism between Belgium and Ireland is increasing all the time, which is great to see and you may have noticed the social media campaign this year explaining how the traditional festival of Samhain originated in Ireland, was brought to the United States by our immigrants and then returned to our shores, along with the cries of “trick or treat” with which the world is now familiar.

Like many of you I’m sure, I’m old enough to remember when Halloween meant a plastic mask bought in the local shop, a homemade bin bag or bed sheet “costume”, going round the neighbours looking for sweets for the party and coming home to bob for apples. I also remember the carved turnips, which are definitely more terrifying than their cuter pumpkin cousins. But isn’t it great to see these ancient Irish traditions travel across the world, develop and change and continue - a real symbol of interconnectedness and our influence in action.

Time is flying and it feels like we are moving from autumn to winter more swiftly this year; there is certainly a crispness in the air here since the start of November. I find the lines from WB Yeats coming to mind as I notice the changing colours in the parks - “The trees are in their autumn beauty, the woodland paths are dry, under the October twilight, the water mirrors a still sky”. We have a lot happening between now and the end of the year and I hope to have the opportunity to meet many more of you at various events.

On 4 October, I was honoured to present my credentials to King Philippe in a beautiful and truly welcoming ceremony at the Palace. Since then, it’s been a fascinating few weeks - I have been delighted to attend and address the Irish Universities Alumni Association dinner together with Senator David Norris, to speak to the Belgian food media with Bord Bia to promote Irish salmon, beef, whiskey and gin, to join MEP Marian Harkin to talk about Sligo’s food and culture and the Wild Atlantic Way at the European Parliament and to host a screening of the documentary “Hume in America”, together with our colleagues at the Northern Ireland Executive Office, a very impressive and moving film which I know many of you really enjoyed. We are hoping to have more of these film events and other cultural activities in the months ahead, including launching our new contemporary Irish Book Club at the Embassy.

I am also looking forward to the Beleire (Belgian Ireland Business Association) Innovation Seminar on 23 November and as incoming Joint patron, together with the new Belgian Ambassador to Ireland, we hope to welcome lots of new members.



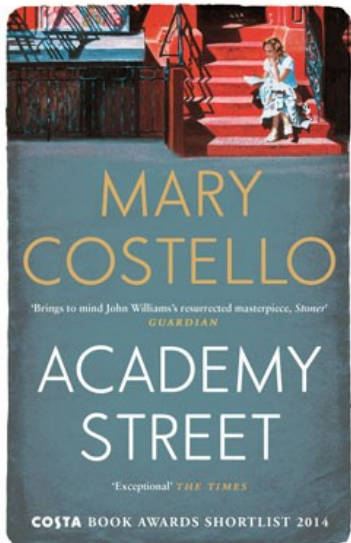
One of my most enjoyable days was spent saying thank you and farewell to our Honorary Consul in Antwerp, Mr Yvan Roubouts, who has served Ireland to the highest standards for over 35 years; he told me I was his 11th Ambassador! We were delighted that our Secretary General, Niall Burgess, was visiting and could personally convey the letter of appreciation from Minister Simon Coveney. As a small foreign service with limited resources, Ireland greatly values the voluntary support of our Honorary Consul network and we are very pleased that Mr Yves Rombouts has already taken over the role in Antwerp, a city I look forward to visiting again in mid-December.

This is also a time of commemoration and I was privileged to lay wreaths on behalf of the Irish fallen at a number of events last month and again this weekend. These inclusive and dignified ceremonies are a poignant reminder of the terrible human losses of war and an important spur to ensure that such tragedies will never happen again. Next month I will travel to Oslo as a guest of ICAN who will receive the Nobel Peace Prize for their advocacy on nuclear disarmament, an objective which has been consistently supported by Ireland and on which I worked in my former role. As the beautiful Christmas Markets begin to set out their stalls here, I can think of no better gift for the planet than the complete elimination of these destructive weapons.



(11 November 2017 Ypres, Menin Gate)

Embassy of Ireland Book Club launch

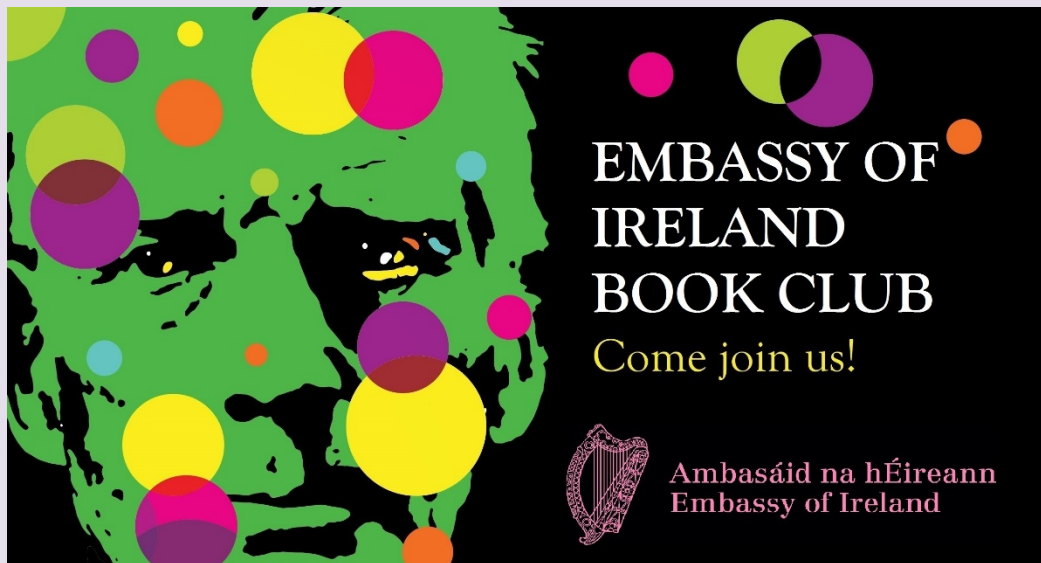


Join us on **Wednesday 29 November (18:30 – 19:30)** for the inaugural meeting of the new **Embassy of Ireland Book Club**. The Book Club will be reading books by contemporary Irish authors writing in English today, and will meet every 6 weeks. For the first meeting we will read *Academy Street* by Mary Costello. *Academy Street* won the Eason Novel of the Year prize and was shortlisted for both Costa and EU Prize for Literature.

You can get a copy of the book on [Amazon](#)

We hope that you'll join us!

Please register [here](#) to attend.



Book Launch 'Nevan Lahart: Vic Sims of the Hollow Gram' KRIEG (Hasselt, BE) - 30.11.2017 (7 pm)

The launch of 'Vic Sims of the Hollow Gram', the first monographic publication on the work of Irish artist Nevan Lahart will take place on 30 November. Lahart's artistic career spans more than twenty years, and includes numerous monumental projects, full of wordplays, (art) historical references, and life as he finds it. In his more recent work, he beckons us to pay attention to alternative theories and their potential to tell us truths that have been obscured in the past for reasons both benign and malevolent. With the kind support of PXL-MAD School of Arts, the City of Hasselt, the Province of Limburg, the Flemish Authorities, Kevin Kavanagh Gallery and Culture Ireland. Find out more at KRIEG.pxl-mad.be

Christmas BAZAAR de Noël

in aid of the Association's
humanitarian projects

au profit des projets
humanitaires de l'Association

ten bate van haar humanitaire projecten



Association Femmes d'Europe aisbl



2/12/2017

Bruxelles Espace Beaulieu de 10h à 17h00

Cadeaux originaux • Livres • Jouets • children's corner
Brocante • Delicacies from around the world
Coffee • Cakes
Restaurant international • Tombola

Païement avec Bancontact possible

Se munir d'une pièce d'identité - Personal ID required - Identiteitskaart vereist
Transport en commun recommandé

Métro Beaulieu - Av. de Beaulieu 5, 1160 Anderghem / Oudergem

www.assocfemmesdeurope.eu

Planning a Christmas/New Year getaway?

The run up to Christmas is one of the busiest periods at the Irish Passport Office. It is important to check the expiry dates of you and your kids' passports and keep the processing times in mind to avoid disappointment.

Remember: Expired passports just don't fly - look before you book!

Adult Online Renewals

If you are an adult, renewing online is the **fastest** and **cheapest** way to get your new passport and if you get a Passport Book and Passport Card together you will save €20.

No forms, witnesses or printed photos are required and **your new passport will be delivered direct to your door in Belgium in 2 weeks (plus post).**

If your passport is about to expire or has just expired, renew now by clicking here.

Check out how easy it is to #RenewOnline in this video demonstration.

Renewing through the Embassy

You can also renew through the Embassy. The **current processing times (10 November) are:**

- Renewals – 3 weeks
- First Time Applications – 4 weeks



Irish Passport Card

Did you know the Irish Passport Card can be used for travel within the EU/EEA and Switzerland?

It fits in your wallet and is less likely to get lost. The card is available to all Irish passport holders who are over 18 years and have a valid Irish Passport (min. 3 months validity).

You can find more information on how to apply for your passport card here.



*Follow the Embassy of Ireland Twitter for information and updates on events
[@IrishEmbBelgium](https://twitter.com/IrishEmbBelgium)*

*If you have received this email in error, or do not wish to receive further updates from the Embassy of Ireland please email to brusselsembassy@dfa.ie with '**unsubscribe**' in the subject line. The Embassy is not responsible for external services and events or for the content of external websites.*

*Those who wish to be added to our **mailing list** can register [here](#)*



**Ambasáid na hÉireann
Embassy of Ireland**