

Embassy of Ireland Newsletter September 2017

Embassy of Ireland team is delighted to welcome newly appointed Ambassador of Ireland to the Kingdom of Belgium H.E. Ms. Helena Nolan.



Before being appointed as Ambassador to the Kingdom of Belgium H.E. Ms. Helena Nolan served successfully as Director of Disarmament & Non-Proliferation. We warmly wish Ambassador Nolan the best of success in her new position.

Welcome message from Ambassador Helena Nolan

Dear Friends,

I am delighted to join the Embassy team and to take up my position as Ambassador of Ireland to Belgium. I arrive at a time of excellent relations between Ireland and Belgium – trade and tourism is flourishing between our two countries and political relationships are strong. The Embassy continues to work closely with the State Agencies including Bord Bia, Enterprise Ireland, IDA Ireland and Tourism Ireland to promote trade, tourism and inward investment. My predecessor Ambassador Éamonn Mac Aodha led the Embassy through an exceptionally busy period, not least during the past year when he oversaw planning for the

centenary of the Battle of Messines Ridge. The major ceremony on 7 June reflected on the engagement, side by side, of the 36th (Ulster) Division and the 16th (Irish) Division at the Battle of Messines Ridge, the remembrance of which has become an important symbol of reconciliation on the island of Ireland. I look forward to participating in commemorative ceremonies and events in Belgium in the years to come. I also look forward to promoting Irish arts in Belgium and I hope you will join me for our cultural events. Such events also present an opportunity to meet my dedicated colleagues at the Embassy – Anna, Miruna, Ruth, James and Philippe.

I would like to wish Éamonn Mac Aodha, his wife Ciara O'Brien and their family all the very best as they move on from the Embassy but not from Brussels.

I very much look forward to working with you.

Helena Nolan



Embassy of Ireland team:

James O'Brien, Anna Osypchuk, Ambassador Helena Nolan, Ruth Barrett, Miruna Bouros and Philippe Wanet.

SAVE THE DATE

In the Name of Peace: John Hume in America 18 October at 18.30

The Embassy of Ireland, Belgium together with the Northern Ireland Executive Brussels Office present a screening of *In the Name of Peace: John Hume in America*



Director Maurice Fitzpatrick
Cast President Bill Clinton, President Jimmy Carter, Prime Minister John Major & Prime Minister Tony Blair
Script Maurice Fitzpatrick
Producer Maurice Fitzpatrick
Year 2017
Country Ireland
Duration 90 minutes

Where: Embassy of Ireland
Rue Froissart-Froissartstraat 50,
1040 Brussels

When: Wednesday 18 October
Doors open at **18:30**

The screening will commence at 19:00 sharp.

In the Name of Peace: John Hume in America is a compelling feature documentary, narrated by Liam Neeson, featuring dramatic footage from the conflict in Northern Ireland and stirring

accounts by Presidents Bill Clinton and Jimmy Carter as well as US Congressmen and Senators. This film shows how one man with courage and charisma, inspired by Martin Luther King, mobilised Irish Americans and America to bring an end to years of bloody violence in his homeland. With a musical score by Bill Whelan (*Riverdance*), this beautiful film reminds us of the redemptive powers of politics to overcome hatred and division: in the words of Hume's fellow Derryman, Seamus Heaney, when, 'once in a lifetime, the longed-for tidal wave of justice can rise up, and hope and history rhyme'. The film was supported by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's Reconciliation Fund.

Please save the date. An invitation will be sent to you soon.



Green Lines – an occasional blog by Ambassador Helena Nolan, Embassy of Ireland in Belgium

Imagining the Future



I've been thinking a lot this week about The Atomium. My family and I moved here in early August, intending to learn more about our new Belgian home for the next few years. All month long I kept saying "let's go to the Atomium" – I had read about the 1958 EXPO but I'd never seen the iconic structure.

Finally, at the end of August, we found the time to drive out to Heysel Park. I wondered whether the reality would live up to expectation but as we arrived on the avenue, we all just said "wow" and then we were speechless. This truly is a masterpiece of design and construction, dominating the sky and appearing almost magical, with the light glancing off its curves and lines. There is something completely implacable and audacious about it; it doesn't look as if it should even have been possible to build at all, those nine enormous spheres with their slim but strong connecting stems. And it struck me later that it is this very audacity that is the source of its power, that and the compelling belief and optimism in the future which it represents.

I think that what I really love about it though is that someone was able to first imagine it and then to make it happen. This has always seemed to me to be a good motto to take through life - that nothing can happen which has not first been imagined. I believe too that this is something that in my line of work, as diplomats, we try to apply to our role, just like scientists, entrepreneurs, architects and anyone who is trying to build on the foundations of history to create a better future.

Somehow, built in the 1950s but looking far into the distance, a distance in which we now stand, the Atomium manages to encapsulate past, present and future all within itself. As a symbol of confidence in human endeavour, it could hardly be more appropriate, especially at this time of global challenge. The Atomium, with its beautiful, strong and optimistic design, represents our better selves and the value of leadership and aspiration. To visit it, therefore, is to feel newly emboldened, about possibility, about hope, about change.

It seemed appropriate then that I was seeing it in my first weeks here as Head of Mission for Team Ireland and that we, as a family, had decided to sit in the restaurant to toast my eldest son's departure for university in Dublin. And how lovely to discover, as we read through the menu, on a snazzy electronic tablet, like something from The Jetsons or Star Trek, that there was some wonderful Irish beef on offer! I'd already seen the Irish beef

accolade on menus all over Brussels and indeed Bord BIA, the Irish Food Board, were able to advise me that there is a “club” of chefs here in Belgium who prefer to use Irish meat on their menus. (These are listed below, so you can try them out.) The Atomium Chef is now one of this Club and so it is possible to taste a little “bite” of Ireland inside this iconic symbol of Belgium, a place which suddenly reminds me so much of home and not just because of the beef. Like Belgium, Ireland is a small country with a complex history. As a people, we are both clearly rooted in our past but equally open and determined about our future and our active place in a rapidly changing world. We are not just along for the ride. Like the positive Belgian initiative behind the post-WW2 EXPO 58, we as Ireland want to play a leadership role, in the EU, at the UN, wherever the future is designed and made. Team Ireland here in Brussels are keen to play our part. The visit to the Atomium has been a great start to my posting here in Belgium and has opened my mind to the rich possibilities for an even closer and more dynamic relationship between our two young and creative countries. Now, all we need to do is to find a way to turn the Atomium green for St Patrick’s Day next year, 2018, which will be the 60th Anniversary of EXPO 58 and so the Atomium’s birthday – who is up for the challenge?

Helena Nolan

Chefs’ Irish Beef Club restaurants in Belgium

<http://www.lepassage.be>

www.restolola.be

<http://restoparkside.be/en>

www.callenscafe.be

<http://www.maximecolin.be>

www.orangerestaurant.be

<https://www.brasseriealfons.be>

www.brasseriemariadal.be

www.maisonmarit.be

www.maxens.be

www.brinzl.be

<http://www.atomiumrestaurant.be/en/>

And check out Bord Bia’s Facebook page ‘Irish Food Belgium’ for recipes using Irish meat:

<https://www.facebook.com/BelgiumIrishBeef>

Nevan Lahart: Liberty Party Shop
Belgium from 28 September 2017 - 30 November 2017

Presentation of a solo exhibition of new work by Nevan Lahart entitled 'Liberty Party Shop'
at KRIEG, Hasselt

K R I E G

Elfde-Liniestraat 25

3500 Hasselt (BE)

Monday to Friday, 9am–6pm (except bank holidays)

KRIEG.pxl-mad.be

Nevan Lahart (1973) is a Dublin-based visual artist, working in a wide variety of media: painting, sculpture, installation, video, animation and performance. The subject matter of his work encompasses television, the media, social and political perceptions and the history of art and life as he finds it. His art practice aims to engage in creative collaboration in ways that may be seen as either humorous or deeply subversive. Recent exhibitions include *Newtopia - Mechelen* (2012), the *Gothenburg Biennial* (2013) and *IMMA Collection: A Decade, Irish Museum of Modern Art - Dublin* (2016), as well as solo exhibitions at *Temple Bar Gallery and Studios - Dublin*, *Triskel Arts Center - Cork*, and *Kevin Kavanagh Gallery - Dublin*. Supported by Culture Ireland.

IRISH DANCING FOR CHILDREN

EIREANN DANCE ACADEMY will start weekly Irish dancing classes for children on Wednesday 20 September at 18.30 in ESPACE TEMPS DANSE, Rue Egide Van Ophem, 4, 1180 Uccle.

All welcome to come for a free trial class before enrolling.

More information on www.irishdance.be and to enrol on www.espacetempsdanse.com



BRUXELLES : UCCLE
*** ESPACE TEMPS DANSE

DANSE >> www.espacetempsdanse.com

Wednesday - Mercredi - Woensdag

6 - 11 years : 18:30 - 19:30

12 years & 12+ : 19:45 - 20:45

As of
Vanaf
À partir de

20 Sept. 2017

WWW.IRISHDANCE.BE / INFO@IRISHDANCE.BE / +32 3 501 22 80
By Eireann Dance Academy VZW



Travelling this Winter?

**Top Tip: Copy your passport and email to yourself in case of loss/theft. This will make filing a Police report and getting a replacement travel document much easier.
For more travel advice, download the DFA [TravelWise](#) app today.**

**Follow the Embassy of Ireland Twitter for information and updates on events
[@IrishEmbBelgium](#)**

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



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