

Focus on science

Antwerp researchers in the spotlight in National Geographic TV series

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Wild about summer

Plenty to keep little creatures busy this holiday

► 11



King Albert abdicates

Monarch will hand over to son Filip on 21 July

► 4



Treasures from the basement

Flemish universities work together to dust off the region's academic heritage

Andy Furniere

Many researchers at universities need to concentrate on one goal: innovation. As a result, older devices and instruments often end up neglected in boxes in hallways or basements. But as this material loses its scientific usefulness, its historical value increases. To ensure Flanders' academic heritage is preserved, four Flemish universities are taking action.

Six years ago, the Flemish universities of Leuven (KULeuven), Ghent (UGent), Antwerp (UA) and Brussels (VUB) created an inter-university platform for academic heritage. Staff at all four institutions began to set out a common strategy to protect the academic treasures gathering dust in their spare rooms. With funding from the Flemish government's arts and heritage agency, they set up a two-year project.

The first step consisted of making an inventory of the universities' collections, which should be presented to culture minister Joke Schauvliege after the summer. In a second phase, the universities want to professionalise the management of the collections and devise a strategy to bring the information to the public. The development of a website is a crucial objective,

but some universities also plan to establish exhibitions. Another goal is the integration of the collections of university colleges. A thorough search of departments brought to the surface a hundred or so collections: about one million objects in total. "There are, however, surely many more that remained hidden from our view," says professor Geert Vanpaemel of KULeuven.

Nostalgic urges

"Young researchers often lack an interest in tools that are not up to date; in many cases they consider it old junk. But thankfully there are senior scientists who take care of the material out of nostalgia." The difficult question now arising is how to choose what to preserve, because there is neither the space nor the money to store everything. In particular, KULeuven and UGent have amassed a large collection during their long history. Important criteria are a piece's uniqueness in the region, its representativeness for a period in scientific history, its role in a university's history, its attractiveness to the general public and its lasting scientific relevance.

"A collection of beetles from the 19th century may seem scientifically irrelevant on first sight," says Vanpaemel,

"but by investigating their level of pollution with modern techniques, they can still provide information on the environmental evolution in a region."

In Ghent's zoology museum, you can still admire the thylacine or Tasmanian tiger, although the species became extinct in the 1930s. "This stuffed animal is one of the last traces of this species in the world," says Isabel Rothier, UGent's main archivist.

Road to discovery

For Frank Scheelings, who leads the VUB's archive, the material can be essential in raising awareness of the long processes involved in science. At the headquarters of the Inter-University Institute for High Energies, which unites teams from Brussels' Flemish and French-speaking universities, intricate devices illustrate the road to the final discovery of the Higgs particle, from microscopes and projector tables to electronic equipment. One of VUB's huge electron detectors was moved to research centre Cern's museum in Geneva, where the particle was discovered this year.

VUB researcher Catherine De Clercq, who's also part of Cern, still uses one of the old projector tables to explain to students the basics of examining the particles. "The technology may

FACE OF FLANDERS

Alan Hope

Frans Van Daele



Amid all the coverage of the abdication of Albert II and the forthcoming enthronement of King Filip, there appeared in the newspaper a face at once unfamiliar yet very recognisable: that of ex-diplomat Frans Van Daele, tipped to be the chief advisor to the new king. For anyone who has been reading Hilary Mantel's magnificent *Wolf Hall* trilogy, however, it was the face of Thomas Cromwell, chief minister to the English king Henry VIII from 1531 to his arrest in 1540.

Not that anyone is suggesting Frans, Baron Van Daele is in any way a plotter, an enemy of the Pope or a scourge of the monasteries. The likeness, however, is striking, as an internet search for Hans Holbein's portrait of Cromwell will reveal.

Franciskus Van Daele was born in 1947 in Oostburg, just over the border into Zeeuws-Vlaanderen in the Netherlands, to a Dutch mother and Flemish father. When Frans was 12, his family moved to Knokke, and in 1967 he went to study Romance languages and art in Leuven. He is a member of the board of the Queen Elisabeth Music Chapel in Waterloo, a hothouse for young musical talent, and goes to the opera when

time allows.

He is in a perfect position to replace Jacques Van Ypersele de Strihou as "deputy king of Belgium". Like Van Ypersele, he served his time in the private offices of politicians, notably Etienne Davignon, the most aristocratic of Belgian dignitaries. He was then posted to missions to the EU, Nato and the UN, and later to Italy and Washington as ambassador. Having left the diplomatic service he became head of the cabinet of European Council president Herman Van Rompuy. He retired last year – briefly – at the age of 65.

Van Daele is described as amiable and discreet, straight and strong of character but with a gift for constructing compromises. Part of his job will be to deal with Filip's reputed tendency to stubbornness, something that may well come to the fore if the political world takes the opportunity of a change in monarch to implement changes in the role of the sovereign by reducing his function to one that is merely ceremonial.

Like Cromwell, Van Daele was made a baron, as he was departing to Washington in 2002. Unusually in modern times in Belgium, the title is hereditary; he is married, with two daughters and a son.

News in brief

Federal finance minister Koen Geens has asked customs officers to **refrain from fining British boat-owners** who use red diesel, after marinas in Flanders complained they were losing business to the Netherlands and France. Red diesel, so called because it contains a dye to prevent its misuse, is sold at a low price to power work vehicles including farm machinery, and is legal for boats in the UK but not here. Nieuwpoort alone saw a 40% reduction in the number of boats calling at the port, according to Steven Desloovere, chairman of the local water sports federation, at a cost of up to €100,000 a year.

Around one in three construction companies will **work through the traditional industry holiday** period this year, as a result of a lack of work or delays on planned projects during poor weather in the first half of the year, the Construction Confederation said. Among smaller businesses, the number is 60%.

Federal foreign minister Didier Reynders has written to US secretary of state John Kerry to request an explanation of reports which said the US intelligence services had used espionage techniques to **spy on EU member states** and Nato delegations in Brussels, Washington and New York. Last week Reynders called in departing US ambassador Howard Gutman to ask him to deliver the request.

Barely one in five first-year students of law and psychology at the University of Ghent **passed their exams at the first try** this year, according to figures released by some professors. Faced with the low figures – 18% for law and 21% for psychology – some professors are repeating calls for the introduction of an orientation test for new arrivals in the first year, which "would give an indication whether it made sense to follow a particular

course of study", law professor Marc De Vos said.

An orientation test for prospective science students organised by the universities of Antwerp, Brussels, Ghent and Leuven for sixth-year pupils **attracted 1,226 participants**. The test is not binding but is intended to give students an idea of their suitability for a particular course. A similar test follows in September.

The Belgian small-ads website 2dehands.be has been **sold to internet giant eBay** for an undisclosed sum. The site, which will remain free to users, was recently voted Site of the Year in the category Buying and Selling by *Clickx* magazine, ahead of eBay's own Belgian subsidiary. The owners said the sale would allow the site to improve with eBay's "expertise and innovative technology".

Sodexo, which provides catering facilities for many company restaurants, has pledged to **stop using pork from castrated pigs** from January. The company, which uses 1,200 tonnes of pork a year, is the latest to sign up to the campaign against castration without anaesthetic run by animal rights organisation Gaia, which is already supported by companies such as Ikea, Cora, Makro, Carrefour, Delhaize and Colruyt.

The city of Brussels is to launch a **weekly gourmet food market** in the autumn. It will run from 15.00 to 21.00 on Thursdays on the Zavel, to attract tourists and encourage commuters to remain in town, trade alderwoman Marion Lemesre said.

The official start of the **mussels season may be postponed** for two weeks, as a result of bad weather

earlier in the year which has delayed the bivalve's development. The season should begin on 17 July, but growth of the mussels suggests that deadline may not be reached. "The mussel is and remains a natural product. There's nothing we can do to force it," said Hans Van Geestbergen of the producers' organisation.

Flemish mobility minister Hilde Crevits has **opposed a plan by federal transport minister** Melchior Wathelet to let municipalities clamp the cars of motorists who persist in not paying traffic fines. Wathelet says municipalities and "several large Flemish cities" have requested the measure. Crevits pointed out that the measure falls under the responsibility of the Flemish government, and discussions on how such a system would work are far from advanced.

A record 4,736 candidates took part in an **entrance exam to be allowed to study medicine** or dentistry at a Flemish university, held last week at Brussels' Heizel complex. One in eight was from the fourth or fifth year of secondary school, with eyes on university admission in 2014 or 2015. The number of future dentists, however, at around 15% of the total, is causing concern: The number of dentists graduating every year in Flanders is not enough to take the place of those retiring.

The first six months of the year were the **worst ever for bankruptcies**, with 6,183 companies going under, according to the consultancy Graydon. The number was 11% higher than the same period in 2011 and led to the loss of 13,806 jobs. One in five of the companies affected was based in Brussels, where the increase was of the order of 33%. The rise was smallest in Flanders, largely because of last year's unusually high figure.

FLANDERS TODAY

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OFFSIDE

Alan Hope

Head in the clouds

In the old days, we carried data around with us on one or other sort of external storage medium like a diskette or USB stick; if you wanted to take stuff from one computer to another, you had to transfer the stuff to a thing, bring the thing and then transfer the stuff (excuse the technical jargon) to the remote computer.

Nowadays we have no need of things, because all our stuff is in the cloud. Your email's on the servers of Gmail, your documents on Dropbox, your sounds on iCloud or Spotify. No need to carry anything from one computer to the other, as they're all now joined to the cloud. It's thanks to people like Tom Ameloot, who's been gathering international fame for his research into cloud computing. He's a



doctoral student at the University of Hasselt and a research fellow of the Flemish Fund for Scientific Research. He defended his thesis last month and attracted attention from computer scientists for the way his research shows how to make the cloud more efficient,

easier to program and more productive.

For the experts, it's about declarative networking. For the rest of us, it's what happens to the billions of pieces of information we're uploading and downloading every minute: cat photos to Facebook, pictures of dinner to Instagram, saucy selfies to Snapchat.

"A cloud is used these days for applications which have to process and maintain a huge amount of information," Ameloot explained. "An example is Facebook: To manage those millions of profiles and timelines, you really need a very powerful supercomputer. However, it's much more flexible to use a cluster – a network of computers which operate together so they perform as if they were a supercomputer."

Treasures from the basement

Academic antiques are coming out of the attic and into the spotlight

► continued from page 1

be old-fashioned and slow, but it teaches students the necessary skills for the research," she says. "With the purely digital method, you don't get this close contact with the study objects."

The university also has a valuable collection of robotics and medical and electromotor technology. At UA, a six-metre-high electron microscope shows how high-tech instruments have decreased in size over the last decades.

Mad scientists

Sometimes, professors create their own collections throughout their career, such as the Flemish physiologist Corneel Heymans of UGent. Heymans won the Nobel Prize for physiology or medicine in 1938 and was also the mentor of Paul Janssen, the founder of Janssen Pharmaceutica – now a world-leading pharmaceutical company. "We need to protect the collections of such pioneers," says Rotthier. "Heymans is one of the academics who determined UGent's reputation."

Another influential UGent professor is physicist Joseph Plateau, the first person to demonstrate the illusion of a moving image. Plateau invented the phenakistoscope, an early animation device. "Films are now a normal part of our daily life," says Rotthier, "but his collection demonstrates how film was developed in the 19th century."

At KULeuven, the collection of professor Albert Michotte brings to mind the workshop of the stereotypical mad inventor. In 1894 Michotte established the laboratory of experimental psychology and constructed many of the curious instruments with his own hands. Visitors can examine 200 ingenious tools at a permanent exhibition in the library of the faculty of psychology and pedagogical sciences in Leuven.

They have names just as strange as their appearances: You can see, for example, the *olfactometer van Zwaardemaker*, the *tamboer van Marey* and an *ophthalmotroop*.

In Ghent, a peculiar collection is the Imaginair Museum Dierick: Hieronymus Bosch, exhibited at culture and congress centre Het Pand. The collection consists of a series of colour pictures from parts of Bosch's paintings, taken by professor Alfons Dierick.

Studying at the museum

In a few rare cases, collections of academic heritage have already been exhibited to the public. There is the HistarUZ museum in Leuven, which illustrates almost a century of activity at the University Hospital Leuven. The Museum for the History of Sciences, in Ghent, illustrates the history of different science disciplines via technological progress in instruments.

But most other "museums" at universities can only be visited by making an appointment and serve a purely educational purpose. "The



original meaning of a museum is a 'studyspace', says Geert Vanpaemel of KULeuven. "Our Museum for Zoology, for example, in the first place is meant to help students." The ambitions of the different universities in reaching the public differ greatly. UA, which in its current form has only existed for a decade, has a collection dating back to the end of the 1960s. Trudi Noordermeer, UA's chief librarian,

that will comprise student rooms and a socio-cultural hub.

Vanpaemel of KULeuven realises it's important that each university gets an overview of its own collection and identity but feels Flanders should organise its academic heritage on a regional level – after the Dutch example. He envisions a central heritage centre with managers that are not affiliated to any university, who can make

"A collection of beetles from the 19th century can still provide information on the environmental evolution in a region"

admits that they are only beginning to establish an academic heritage policy but sees many opportunities for co-operation with university colleges in the region.

The Antwerp Maritime Academy, for example, has an impressive collection of navigation devices that could attract marine enthusiasts. Noordermeer doesn't believe a museum with academic heritage will soon be established in Antwerp, but thinks that the expansion of the website dedicated to the topic is an important step. The VUB, which split from its French-speaking counterpart at the end of the 1960s, will soon have a depot where academic heritage from all departments can be stored. Co-ordinator Frank Scheelings hopes that in future, exhibitions can be set up in planned buildings

neutral decisions with attention to the historical value of heritage.

The university with the biggest plans is UGent. For its 200th anniversary in 2017, the university wants to open a new university museum, which will bring together prestigious pieces of various heritage collections. The new museum will be at the science faculty, next to the city's botanical garden. The new touristic hotspot will show the influence of science on society. "For example, how the invention of the transistor in the 1950s revolutionised the field of electronics and paved the way for our current smartphone and GPS," says co-ordinator Danny Segers, also director of the Museum for the History of Sciences.



All manner of pioneering scientific instruments are left over from previous decades – and centuries – in Flanders' universities

► www.academischerfgoed.be

Peeters calls for regular contact with new king

Demands recognition of “new economic reality” as Albert II announces abdication

Alan Hope

The new Belgian monarch needs to pay attention to the needs and aspirations of the regions, according to Flanders’ minister-president, Kris Peeters, who expects to be allowed a weekly audience with the king, similar to the traditional meeting between the prime minister and the sovereign. So far, there has not been a reaction from the palace, but federal defence minister (and Peeters’ party colleague) Pieter De Crem pledged that the new king would consult with regional leaders “whenever necessary”. “I think a mechanism has to be found whereby the king meets not only the prime minister every week, but also has regular contacts with the minister-presidents,” Peeters told VTM news. “I think that’s the way of the future”. While the king is sovereign of the whole country, he said, state reforms mean the regions are increasingly important, and Flanders is the largest, with the largest economy, and has become the country’s new “centre of gravity”. “The king has to take account of reality. I think it’s only natural that the king should look after the regions, and want to have contact with them, to see what’s going on and keep up relations. It also strikes me as logical that the new king should give some thought to how those contacts can be worked out.” King Albert, Peeters said, had taken care to do that. “He always asked about Flanders and listened with great interest,” he said. Albert II announced his abdication during a TV broadcast last Wednesday evening. His last official



Three generations of monarchy: Crown Prince Filip, Princess Elisabeth and King Albert II

assignment before that had been in Flanders, when he and Queen Paola visited Oostduinkerke to see the shrimp fishermen there, who still work with draft horses trawling along the shoreline. Those present said the king appeared tired, and he cited his health – he is 79 and has been on the throne for 20 years this summer – as the main reason for his decision. Prince Filip’s first official statement in reaction to the announcement was in Antwerp, where he was attending a conference on the use of Flemish space technology for global imaging.

Countdown to change

During the week before the enthronement, Albert and Paola will undertake a final tour of the country, taking in Ghent, Eupen, Brussels and

Liège, culminating in the National Ball on 20 July in the capital’s Marollen district. Filip and Mathilde will also be present.

Because the king chose to hand over on 21 July – the anniversary of the oath-taking of his ancestor Leopold I – the enthronement will fall on a Sunday, providing Belgians with an “extra” day off on Monday. The two houses of parliament, the Chamber and the Senate, will meet to hear Filip take his oath, in which he swears to uphold the Constitution and the laws of the land, to ensure the country’s independence and to secure its territorial integrity. The timetable is as follows:

9.30 Traditional National Day Te Deum in the cathedral of St Michael and St Gudula in Brussels, attended by royal family, ministers and dignitaries

11.15 In a ceremony at the royal palace in Brussels, Albert will officially step down as reigning monarch

12.45 The new King Filip takes his oath before the joined houses of parliament and becomes Belgium’s seventh monarch. His official name, used for signing bills into law, will be Philippe. However, it is expected that the media and others will continue to use both versions of his name

13.15 The new king makes his way to the Congress column for a salute to the tomb of the Unknown Soldier, then to Paleizenplein for the traditional military parade, where for the first time he will dress in the uniform of a four-star general, to which he was promoted this week

23.00 The day closes with a fireworks display around the palace and the Warandepark

Future role

Unlike in other countries, the accession of a new monarch in Belgium is not accompanied by an actual coronation. It is also, prime minister Elio Di Rupo pointed out last week, not a tradition here to invite heads of state to the occasion. While no one is expecting a repetition of the scenes of mass celebration at the recent coronation in Amsterdam of Willem Alexander of the Netherlands, it cannot be said there is much support for republican thought in Belgium. While most are in favour of the monarchy as a unifying institution, there is a strong current of public opinion –

in particular in Flanders – in favour of restricting the monarch’s role to ceremonial duties.

That question was always going to be put to one side until after the elections next June, when the new king seems likely to be called on in the creation of a new government – a task that took more than 500 days last time and would, according to most observers, have taken even longer without the king’s efforts.

ROYAL NEWS IN BRIEF

The sister and brother of the new king, **Princess Astrid and Prince Laurent**, now lose their seats in the Senate, which they held ex officio with Filip. Now they are no longer the offspring of the monarch, they must vacate their seats. The children of Filip and Mathilde will take up their own seats when they reach the age of 18.

As her father succeeds to the throne, **Princess Elisabeth** becomes Belgium’s first ever female heir apparent. Until the law was changed in 1991, only male heirs could succeed to the throne in Belgium.

Prince Amadeo, son of Princess Astrid and her husband, Prince Lorenz, is being tipped to take over from Prince Filip at the head of Belgium’s international trade missions. Amadeo is 27 and holds a degree in political science from the London School of Economics, and currently works as an analyst for Deloitte in New York. There are two missions planned for later this year, one to India and one to Angola and South Africa.

While the future **King Philippe** seems to have opted, at least officially, for the French version of his name, it was revealed that **Princess Elisabeth** is having trouble with written French and has been taking extra lessons. The Crown Princess-to-be attends a Dutch-speaking school and speaks French at home, but her written French is proving more difficult to master.

REACTIONS

“King Albert II: 20 years of reign with a profound sense of duty, modesty and a message of solidarity for all Belgians.”

PS president Paul Magnette

“In years past, the king has often been an oasis of calm at difficult moments. Now he can enjoy his own well-deserved rest. Thank you for your efforts.”

CD&V chairman Wouter Beke

“We certainly did not always see eye to eye, for example during the government negotiations of 2010, but I have every respect for the person

of the king.”

N-VA president and mayor of Antwerp Bart De Wever

“He carried out his important duties in an admirable manner for 20 years, and he did it in a way that matched the nature of the people. He always remained an ordinary man.”

Former prime minister Guy Verhofstadt

“He has been a remarkable king. During 20 years he fulfilled his role perfectly. His considerable human qualities allowed him always to be perfectly in touch with the concerns, the needs

and the expectations of the Belgians.”

Prime minister Elio Di Rupo

“Monarchist or republican, you can have only respect for the way Albert fulfilled the duties of his reign.”

Mechelen mayor Bart Somers

“I’m not a monarchist on principle, so nothing from me about Albert and Philip [sic]. Still, I have respect for other opinions. And for their choice.”

Open VLD senator Bart Tommelein

THE WEEK IN FIGURES

112

truant teenagers rounded up at home by police in Leuven last week, the first time a prosecutor’s office has used police to tackle the problem. The parents of the truants risk criminal charges

3,893

cases dealt with last year by the rail ombudsman, 30% fewer than in 2011, according to the latest annual report. Most concerned delays, cancellations and ticket issues

14%

of the territory of Brussels experiences severe nuisance from the noise of air traffic at night, according to a study by the environment agency Leefmilieu Brussel. Haren, Heembeek and Evere are the worst-hit areas

€897,172

bill for the accompaniment by federal police of cycle races in Belgium last year, up more than €111,000 on 2011, interior minister Joëlle Milquet told parliament

50c

a day charged by schools in Mechelen to allow children to eat a packed lunch from home. The school blamed a cut of more than 50% in the budget for supervision outside class hours

9.3%

increase in the number of unemployed people in Flanders in June compared with the same time last year. The total – 206,996 – is the highest June figure since 2006

Peeters and Rutte praise “natural alliance”

Flemish and Dutch governments unite on mission to Texas

Alan Hope

Flanders and the Netherlands have a common interest in promoting themselves together as an economic cluster which is far more important than any competition between them, according to a joint statement issued by Flanders' minister-president Kris Peeters and Dutch prime minister Mark Rutte. The two this week embarked on a three-day economic mission to Texas, accompanied by Flemish mobility minister Hilde Crevits and Dutch infrastructure minister Melanie Schultz van Haegen.

Peeters described the mission, in which the two are joined by more than 90 business representatives, as a “historic” moment. “This is the first time there has been a joint mission



in the long history that Flanders and the Netherlands share,” he said.

“Flanders and the Netherlands have a lot to offer. We have open

economies propelled by our ports; we share the same language, culture and history. That natural alliance is what we will be using this joint mission to further develop.”

Rutte pointed to the size of the joint delegation. “It's good to see so many people who are going to be making a lot of money in the next few days,” he joked. Flanders and the Netherlands together were small but powerful, he said. Texas on its own would be the 14th-largest economy in the world, he said – roughly the same as Flanders and the Netherlands combined.

“It is true that we are sometimes competitors but competition is healthy,” Crevits added. “We are here not as competitors but to promote our common assets.”

Port of Antwerp to acquire Opel site

The port of Antwerp is close to buying the site of the Opel Antwerp car plant, which closed in 2010 with the loss of 1,320 jobs, after a court was called in to put a value on the site.

The port management company had expressed an interest in taking over the site shortly after the closure, but no common ground could be found between their offer of €30 million and the €90-€100 million asking price of parent company General Motors. A court was called in to set a price based on the opinion of a panel of independent experts, and arrived at a figure of €43.6 million – close enough to the port's offer to make the deal virtually certain to go ahead.

“It's a fantastic location. You don't get the chance of a 90-hectare site every day,” said the port's director-general, Eddy Bruyninckx. “In the first place we'll be looking to see if we can find an industrial project to bring in and set up there.” The port's board will make a final decision on the purchase next month.

Meanwhile, the port management is also looking into the possibility of providing its own rail freight transport within the port area,

following complaints about the performance of B-Logistics, the subsidiary of the rail authority NMBS which currently provides freight services.

“We're not ruling out the possibility,” Bruyninckx said, confirming that the company had set up a working group to examine the issue. “We'll start off slowly as a negotiating partner, then perhaps as a purchaser of combined services, and if necessary we can go a step further.”

• Also in the port of Antwerp, the municipal disaster plan was triggered at the weekend near the Total refinery on Scheldelaan, after ground subsidence put pressure on underground pipes carrying butane, natural gas and crude oil, raising the risk of explosion. A 1km perimeter was set up, and the refinery, where 180 people were at work, was evacuated. Scheldelaan was closed and emergency services attended. The subsidence, shown on the photo in red, was caused by works being carried out on the waterfront by a private contractor. As *Flanders Today* went to press, the disaster plan remained in force and Scheldelaan remained closed.



Investment incentive breaks EU law, court rules

One of the federal government's major measures to encourage business has been declared in breach of EU rules by the European Court of Justice (ECJ) in Luxembourg.

The so-called notional interest deduction allows companies to reinvest income and obtain a tax deduction of the amount of interest they would have paid had they borrowed the money commercially. The measure has the twin benefit of encouraging foreign companies to set up here and providing an incentive for capital investment

using a company's own resources.

The ECJ was ruling on a question from the tribunal of first instance in Antwerp in a case opposing savings bank Argenta and the Belgian state. Argenta complained that the state disallowed the bank's assets in the Netherlands for consideration for the deduction, and the ECJ agreed that was in breach of the principle of free movement.

A spokesman for federal finance minister Koen Geens said he would “study the ruling thoroughly and make the necessary amendments”.

3D pastry printer wins prize

A mechatronic engineer from Neerpelt in Limburg has won this year's Minister-President's Prize for innovative ideas, for his 3D pastry printer designed for the food industry.

Three-dimensional printers use fine jets of powdered resin to construct 3D objects which can range in size from surgical implants to a house. Robin Pals, 35, designed the printer to work with food. Using computer templates, the operator would be able to decorate cakes, for example, according to a customer's exact design. The printer would also be capable of building up, one layer at a time, a pastry with a filling. The prize was awarded after a call for ideas from people aged 18 to 35, to help put Flanders on the map as a region of innovation. The winner receives €2,500, help to launch a start-up and the chance to take part in a future foreign trade mission with minister-president Kris Peeters.

Peeters said. “If we want to present an image of trail-blazing workmanship on the international stage, it's important to find ambassadors within Flanders itself. Robin Pals came up with a very clever idea, and will undoubtedly contribute to Flanders' trail-blazing image.”

• Last week the EU's Committee of the Regions awarded Flanders its annual European Entrepreneurial Region award for 2014, for the best political vision and the most progressive action plan for enterprise. Flanders shares the honour with the regions of Marche in Italy and North Brabant in the Netherlands.

“This confirms that Flanders is on the right track with enterprise, even in these economically difficult times,” minister-president Kris Peeters said. “The level of our entrepreneurs is among the highest in Europe, and is climbing constantly. Society's regard for enterprise is also on the rise.”

• Artists and organisations in the cultural and heritage sector need support and guidance more than new forms of subsidy, culture minister Joke Schauvliege said last week. The government plans to open a helpdesk offering business coaching to the sector, to help it exploit existing financing opportunities, she said, as well as free coaching on careers planning. “We want to stimulate enterprise in the arts sector. By making [advice] more accessible, we hope to show that there's nothing wrong with an artist thinking like an entrepreneur.”

THE WEEK IN BUSINESS

Bakery ▶ Panos

Sandwich and bakery retailer Panos, an affiliate of the La Lorraine bakery group, headquartered in Ninove, plans to open about 10 outlets in the larger cities of the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Poland over the next 18 months. The company, which already operates 230 stores in Belgium, is also considering an expansion of 20 franchises in Taiwan.

Banking ▶ KBC

Leuven-based KBC said it had paid back €1.17 billion in state aid from the Flemish government, after earlier reports that the payback would take place later in the year. The bank also paid compensation of 50% (€580 million). It still owes €2.33 billion, to be repaid over the period 2014-2020 in seven instalments of €330 million.

Beverages ▶ Miko

The Turnhout-based coffee distribution and supplies company has acquired 70% of the Danish ABC Mokka company, three months after buying one of the leading Swedish companies in the sector.

Energy ▶ C-Power

Wind energy producer C-Power announced the completion of the installation of its 54th and last wind turbine in the Thornton sandbank in the North Sea. The turbine park, started in 2008, now produces 325 megawatts of power, enough to supply 600,000 homes, and cost €1.3 billion.

Handling ▶ Sea-Invest

The Ghent-based handling and storage company inaugurated a €250 million terminal in the Port of Antwerp area last week. The new facility, which includes some 40 oil tanks, has been developed in partnership with the Glencore group.

Retail ▶ Atrium

Atrium, the Brussels support agency for the retail sector, announced a new edition of Afterwork Shopping, in which participating retailers stay open until 20.00 on Thursdays. Fewer retailers are taking part in this fourth edition, Atrium said, but those who do are more committed: Last year more than 77% stayed open late every week, compared to only half in the opening edition.

Wine ▶ BFWG

The Belgian federation of wine merchants and distillers is filing a legal complaint with the EU against a decision by the federal government to increase excise duties on wine to 8%. The €15 million raised would go to close the budget deficit and would add about two to five cents to the price of a bottle of wine.

The way to go

EnergyVille lays out its plans to establish a green energy community in Genk

Andy Furniere

EnergyVille in Genk recently presented its road map for the future. Its new building with advanced laboratories in the Thor science park will house about 200 researchers when it's finished in 2015. EnergyVille scientists focus on innovative and sustainable energy solutions such as smart grids, electric mobility and intelligent photovoltaic systems.

In a couple of months, EnergyVille's first stone will be laid at the science park, a former mining area in the Waterschei district of Genk. The founders of EnergyVille – the University of Leuven (KU Leuven), the Flemish Institute for Technological Research (Vito) and nanotech research centre imec – emphasise that the building will be completely energy-neutral and will incorporate pioneering laboratory facilities. The building plans and ambitions were explained to the press and business leaders during the recent event Your Road to EnergyVille at the C-Mine complex in Genk.

"The building will include a workshop to improve electric and hybrid vehicles, in addition to a 300-square-metre photovoltaic testing platform on the roof," said EnergyVille CEO Ronnie Belmans, also a professor at KU Leuven. The labs will contain advanced facilities for thermal, mechanical and electric trials, plus a smart grid testing environment. Enterprises will be able to rent the labs.

Electric metros

In the two years since the centre was launched, EnergyVille researchers have been involved in several projects, such as Linear, in which Flemish households test devices like washing machines that automatically modify energy consumption, with the goal of



optimally integrating renewable energy in the distribution network. For the Flemish Living Lab Electric Vehicles programme, EnergyVille helped create a general payment system for charging electric cars – instead of a system that requires car owners to be the client of a certain provider.

"But perhaps our general success lies in raising more awareness of sustainability among producers, distributors and users of energy," says EnergyVille COO Bert Gysen, also unit manager at Vito. Concerning the future of electric mobility, Gysen indicates the urgent necessity to remove drivers' worries that their electric battery will not last long enough to reach their destination. He also points to the potential of electric trams and metros.

He is optimistic about the possibilities of "power-to-gas" technology, which converts electric power into fuel. For example, excess power generated by wind turbines or solar panels is used to convert carbon dioxide and water

to methane. He also believes there is room to increase the efficiency of geothermal energy creation, by pumping steam or hot water from deep below the surface of the earth. For imec, EnergyVille offered the ideal environment to start planned research on smart photovoltaic or solar panels. "By integrating technology such as new sensors, we

area of energy technology for the realisation of intelligent energy networks in Flanders and abroad.

At the 20-hectare Thor science park, the building of the IncubaThor started at the end of last year. It will offer facilities to start-ups involved in green energy technology. The first company that agreed to move part of its activity to the IncubaThor is

"As Limburg once progressed from coal mining to automated industry, the region is now leading in the development of the renewable energy sector"

now hope to add functionalities that measure, predict and optimise the production of solar energy," explains Jef Poortmans, imec's programme director of photovoltaics.

Another partner that will be operating from EnergyVille is the Flemish Smart Grid Platform, which brings together businesses and research partners in the

Restore, which optimises supply and demand on the energy market by intervening on the demand side, also known as demand response aggregation.

The total surface of the Thor site amounts to 100 hectares, and Genk's aim is to create a business park with sustainability and smart energy as central themes. The mayor of Genk,



Architectural representation of the new EnergyVille headquarters in Waterschei, inside and out

Wim Dries, said that recent crises in the region – including the imminent closure of car manufacturer Ford – were also a chance to transform the area's economic identity. "As Limburg once progressed from coal mining to automated industry, the region is now leading in the development of the renewable energy sector," says Dries.

European dimension

Just like the City of Genk, the government of Flanders is investing in the EnergyVille project. Innovation minister Ingrid Lieten emphasised the importance of EnergyVille as a future leading European centre for energy research, which should attract foreign companies and scientists, and expressed the hope that EnergyVille would create jobs for both the highly and lower skilled. EnergyVille also received €2 million in subsidies from the European Regional Development Fund. The knowledge centre is part of KIC InnoEnergy, an international consortium of business, research and educational institutions. As one of the expertise centres in the urbanised Benelux region, EnergyVille performs research around the theme of "smart energy cities".

► www.energyville.be

Off the beaten track

Team of business people follow Silk Road from Flanders to China

Alan Hope

A caravan of European merchants rolls across the steppes, following the ancient Silk Road through Central Asia to China. Only these are not medieval traders bringing flax in return for silks and spices. They're 18 Flemish business people piled into seven SUVs for a 15,000-kilometre trip across a part of the world which is, for most Europeans, virtually unknown.

The brains behind the project is Dirk Vyncke, chairman of Vyncke Energie of Harelbeke, West Flanders, which sells energy installations across the world. The idea came to him, he says, when his company was celebrating its 100th anniversary.

"Our business had been forced to set off into the wide world, just as the flax farmers had to transform into industrialists," he says. "That gave me the idea of the link, of setting off in a jeep from Harelbeke to our office in Suzhou, on the east coast of China."

He found a partner in Bob Elsen, the man behind the Joker travel company, which had also celebrated an anniversary – its 30th – and opened a ViaVia travel cafe in Chengdhu, western China. The rest of the party of 16 includes Julie Vandenbroucke, who chairs the Buda arts centre in Kortrijk and runs Artecomony, a non-profit that forges links between artists and



On the flax route: One of the team's vehicles in the mountains of Turkey

business people. The trip, which is at this point only half done, took them through

several countries, including Turkey, Georgia and Azerbaijan. And it has already led to major discoveries "on

every level," says Vandenbroucke. "The view I had of those countries has totally changed. The idea I had – of something remote and sombre – turned out to be wrong. We met happy, hospitable people, and the countries are full of opportunity. I see that it's all a lot more positive in every way than I ever imagined it would be."

The first leg of the trip finished at the end of June to avoid the gruelling Central Asian summer, and the journey will resume in the autumn. *Flanders Today* will be in contact with members of the expedition as they undertake the second leg.

► www.vlasroute.be

Science for all

Flemish TV series for National Geographic demystifies complex research

Angela Chambers

In the rapidly changing world of science, it's difficult to keep up with all the discoveries shaping our lives. But in *Behind the Science*, the first Flemish series for the National Geographic Channel, complex subjects are produced in an interesting and understandable format.

In *Behind the Science*, scientists from the University of Antwerp (UA) share their research in a variety of fields, from powerful microscopes to environmentally friendly methods. The series' goal is to make science fun and encourage students to pursue a scientific discipline.

"When we sit down with a professor who is really deep into his field, we talk with him for hours about a very complicated subject and then find things that will catch a viewer's interest," says Erro Verschoor, creative director for the Benelux's National Geographic division. "We had fantastic co-operation with the professors, and they really took their time to explain things."

Behind the Science, which premiered in March, will be shown again on National Geographic from 13 July to 3 August and will feature five episodes: *Verborgen Meesterwerken* (Hidden Masterpieces), *Drugsriolen* (Drug Sewers), *Tussen de Atomen* (Between the Atoms), *Hernieuwbare Energie* (Renewable Energy) and *Eco-Economie* (Eco-Economy).

Beneath the surface

Refined scanning techniques are helping uncover paintings concealed beneath an artist's later work. Koen Janssens, from the UA chemistry department, explains these findings in Hidden Masterpieces.

Previous work used X-rays similar to those found in a dentist's office. This allowed scientists to see black-and-white shadows of what an artist may have painted over when creating a new piece. While it's easy to see the white colours, like the teeth and bones in a doctor's X-ray, it's difficult to view the darker images. Now, however, new technology tested by UA scientists allows various colours to be revealed.

"In one portrait, a curator didn't know if the painting below the surface was a lady or a man, but by using this new technology, we could see facial features of a woman with red lips," says Janssens.

In a Peter Paul Rubens piece, Janssens says the chemists now can observe when the colours change from yellow to brown with age, which allows them to slow down the depredation process.

It also is revealing previously unknown information about important artists. "When scanning paintings from Rembrandt's later career, you would think his hand would be steady by then



The National Geographic crew use a drone to get aerial images of UA



Professor Gustaaf Van Tendeloo during filming of *Between the Atoms*

and he wouldn't alter much," says Janssens. "But that isn't the case, because quite a few paintings have significant changes, which we couldn't see well enough until now."

Drugs war

In the next episode, Alexander van Nuijs from UA's department of pharmaceutical sciences demonstrates their studies on drug abuse in selected populations. This is accomplished by testing wastewater.

The scientists have worked for years with others across Europe, and this year, more than 30 cities will be tested to discover which ones have high levels of cocaine, methamphetamine and other drug use. In 2011, among 19 cities, Antwerp had the highest cocaine rates, while meth is highest in the Nordic countries. These analyses help contribute to EU drug policies. "In the pharmaceutical sciences, we have some issues with getting students to join the scientific world rather than working in the



Researcher Stijn Van den Broeck prepares a sample that can be used in the Qu-Ant-EM electron microscope

pharmaceutical industry," says van Nuijs. "We hope this series shows that pursuing scientific research is also very interesting."

He adds that while other media has been quite interested in his work, with National Geographic, he was able to explain his findings in depth.

Under the microscope

The Qu-Ant-EM (Quantitative Analysis in Antwerp via Electron Microscopy) is one of the most powerful microscopes in the world. Gustaaf Van Tendeloo, part of the UA research group, helps explain why this microscope is crucial to today's electronics industries in the National Geographic series.

"A nanometer is about five atoms in a row, so to make progress in microelectronics, you need a way to observe what you're making, and many materials are determined by the size of the nanoparticles," says Van Tendeloo.

When there is a defect in an electronic product, or if a company wants to make adjustments to it, it's necessary to understand the changes in its properties. With this microscope, for example, the scientists can observe when iron changes into a nonmagnetic form when reduced to an extremely small size. Electron microscopy has also contributed to creating better mobile phone batteries using lithium or other lighter materials.

Greenhouse-neutral

The episodes expand from studying the smallest particles to exploring the largest bioenergy plantation in Belgium.

In Lochristi, just north of Ghent,

Reinhart Ceulemans and fellow UA department of biology researchers are studying how to convert plants into renewable heat or electricity. They also take into account other factors, including the economic benefits and energy balance.

The biologists determined that they were creating more renewable energy than the greenhouse gases emitted to produce it, which means the plantation is greenhouse-neutral. However, so far, it hasn't been economically profitable. They are working on a way to solve this issue.

"After the first showing of the episode, some businesses contacted us and said they were really interested in the work we're doing," says Ceulemans.

The process works by chopping plants into "woody chips", which are then burned in an oven and used to activate a turbine for electricity conversion.

Special deliveries

Another way the UA is studying environmentally friendly methods is within the department of transport and regional economics. As Brussels and Antwerp have regularly been ranked the worst and second worst cities in the world for traffic congestion, this is a particularly important issue for Belgium.

"As more people live in cities, it's not only getting people there, but they also want to consume, which is how to get the goods there, and how to have efficient waste management," says Thierry Vanelslander from UA. "We are studying a number of solutions for all these factors combined, which will create cleaner cities and better environmental performance."

For example, when a delivery lorry comes to cities, it has to be there during working hours, not early or late in the day when people are relaxing and don't want to be disturbed by the noise.

One solution the UA researchers are working on is silent trucks, which have engines that produce much less sound and also offer improved unloading and loading methods. This allows them to deliver during less traffic-heavy hours, which means they will use less time and reduce the number of accidents involved in delivery. Companies see a significant economic benefit in this research, says Vanelslander.

The UA department is also exploring ways to reduce noise and pollution from aeroplanes and ships.

Critics' reviews and general reactions to the first airing of *Behind the Science* were positive. National Geographic, which is based in Washington DC, has had an office in the Netherlands since 2000, and the Dutch branch hopes to collaborate on another Flemish production in the coming months.

► www.natgeotv.com/nl/behind-the-science

THE WEEK IN SCI & ED

Scientists at the research institute imo-imomec, a collaboration between the University of Hasselt and nanotech centre imec, have considerably improved the **efficiency of thin-film solar cells**, converting 9.7% of the light energy received by the cells into electricity. No other centre in Europe has achieved such efficiency. Imo-imomec recently presented a demonstration model of a window composed of organic solar cells, which produces electricity.

Students who do their **maths exercises on a tablet make more mistakes**, according to Stef Van Gorp, Master's student at Thomas More University College in Mechelen, who examined the results of children in the third year of 16 primary schools. Van Gorp found that 72% of students make more mistakes on a tablet than on paper. On average, children made six mistakes on a tablet and just one on paper. Van Gorp's conclusion was that children often consider tablets as toys and take the digital exercises less seriously. However, he said that mistakes can also be caused by the children not yet mastering the operation of a tablet.

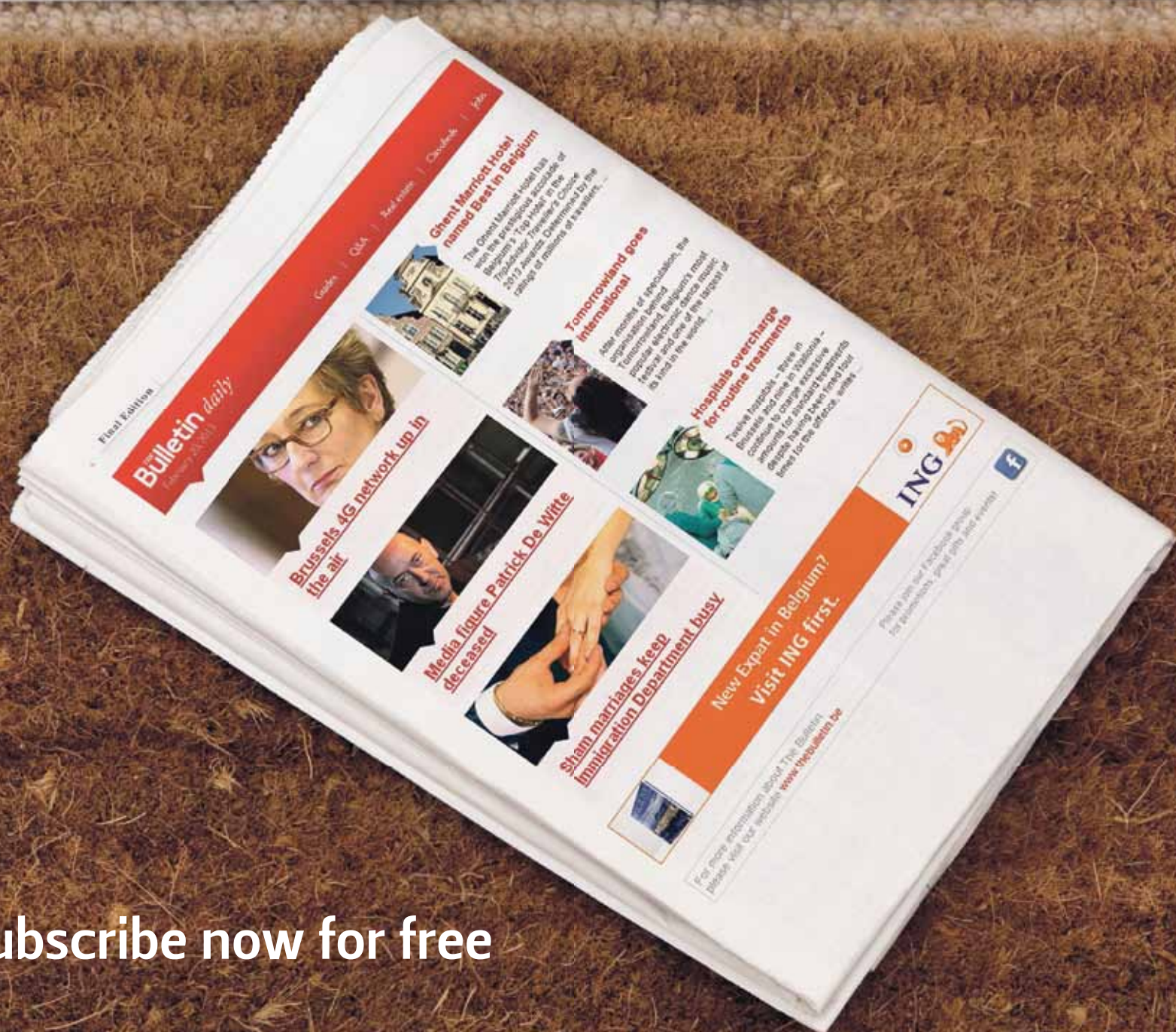
One in three Flemings with a disability doesn't go to the dentist or buy glasses when they need them, and almost half of all people with the lightest categories of **disabilities postpone health-care decisions**. These are the results of research by the University of Antwerp (UA) among 2,000 Flemings with a disability. According to Guido Van Hal, professor in medical sociology at UA, the principal reason is poverty. A quarter of all people with a disability live below the poverty line.

University colleges are noting an exceptional number of **registrations for teaching studies**. Many candidates already have careers but want to retrain as a teacher. The rise in registrations is due to the Flemish government's decision to allow employees from the private sector to keep their seniority when they transfer to the education sector.

A Leuven property developer is converting the former international **headquarters of brewer AB InBev into a student residence** with 255 rooms. The building, called #94, will produce its own energy via solar panels, a solar boiler and the use of a power station to generate electricity and heat simultaneously. There are 52 "budget rooms", with a lower rental price. #94 will open to students at the start of the 2014-15 academic year. **Andy Furniere**

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The Oosterweel inferno

A devastating explosion and the port's expansion wiped this village off the map

Text & photos: Toon Lambrechts

Somewhere in a lost corner of the port of Antwerp, a church tower rises from a pit in the ground, the lone witness to a more rural past and a reminder of one of the largest industrial disasters in local history. In the second part of our Mysterious Flanders series, we visit Oosterweel.

Because the surrounding land was raised, the church of Oosterweel sits in a pit surrounded by trees, with a narrow staircase leading to the building. A moment ago, you found yourself among the container terminals and refineries of the port; now you're in a churchyard in the countryside. In front of the church is a small stretch of cobblestones, a bit further a remnant of a bridge. To complete the picture, two chickens potter about in the bushes.

Once, a village called Oosterweel accompanied the church. By the late 19th century, it was surrounded by the docks of the port of Antwerp. It was on these docks that the Corvilain ammunition factory was situated and where, on 6 September, 1889, all hell broke loose.

A shipment of gun cartridges had arrived from Spain – about 56 million pieces, each containing 30 grams of gunpowder. The company would dismantle the patterns to recover the gunpowder and the metal.

What exactly went wrong in the Corvilain plant isn't entirely understood, but a huge explosion blew the entire factory to smithereens. A massive inferno followed. Cartridges shot in all directions, one explosion after another. The fire brigade arrived



quickly but couldn't do anything because of the hail of bullets shooting from the blaze. It took them hours to get the situation more or less under control.

The blast was so ferocious, the city of Antwerp itself suffered damage, and the smoke from the fire could be seen in Brussels, 50 kilometres away.

New landscape

Only when the fire subsided did the scale of the disaster become clear. Of the factory, only a huge crater remained, and the village of Oosterweel had been almost completely wiped off the map. It must have been a gruesome scene, with the town's residents charred or riddled by bullets. The disaster took the lives of 95 people, who were buried together in the Kielkerkhof, where today a small memorial marks the accident.

It was not this catastrophic accident alone that was responsible for the village's disappearance. When the

port underwent a major expansion in the 1960s, the polder villages of Wilmarndonk, Oorderen, Lillo and what was left of Oosterweel were evacuated and demolished. Villages that had been inhabited for 800 years were swept away and buried under a new industrial landscape.

Only the church, a protected monument, was spared. The name of Oosterweel lives on, too, as it is this village after which the now infamous Oosterweelverbinding ring road project has been named.

Further north in the port, another building stands as a silent reminder of the vanished polder villages. Among the stacks of containers between the Churchill dock and the sixth harbour dock arises the tower of the former church of Sint-Laurentinus of Wilmarndonk. Here, even the church was demolished, with only the Gothic tower preserved: a silent witness of how the brute force of industrialisation changed the face of the land forever.



The church tower of Oosterweel, adrift among the port's industry; the Gothic tower of the former church of Sint-Laurentinus of Wilmarndonk

Visitors can access the church of Oosterweel at the junction of Oosterweelsteenweg and Kastelweg. The Wilmarndonk tower is between

Wilmarstraat and Nietweg. It is not accessible to the public, but there is a good view of it from Wilmarstraat

CAMP TOPHAT

The silence of the forest makes it hard to imagine that once it was a very, very busy place. But here in the forest of Sint-Anna in the Antwerp district of Linkeroever once stood an enormous US military camp: APO 562, better known as Camp Tophat.

It is 1945. Germany has surrendered, the Second World War is over, the many thousands of American soldiers are returning home. To manage the demobilisation, the US military constructed staging areas: large camps where soldiers were assembled. One of these was in Antwerp, a port that had come out of the war relatively unscathed.

After German prisoners of war had cleared the area of mines, a huge tent camp was set up with, for that time, unprecedented levels of luxury. The Americans built paved roads, 500 buildings, 2,500 tents and sewers. The daily

work in the camp was done by German prisoners and Belgian staff, but boredom was not an issue. Cinemas, bars, a library, a church – everything was provided for the Americans.

Every day the soldiers used up to 34 tons of food and drank 3,000 litres of coffee, and the camp even had its own ice cream factory. It only existed for 10 months, but in that time, 272,000 Americans passed through. There were 20,000 people there at any given time. After the last soldiers went home, Camp Tophat – named after a Belgian cigarette brand – was razed. Today, little trace of it remains. Only the lanes through the forest date from that period, as well as some concrete structures and sewage pits.

The Sint-Annabos lies on the left bank of the Scheldt, near Charles De Costerlaan. Here and there, if you look closely, some concrete structures are visible along the paths.

THE PLAGUE CEMETERY



The "floating" crosses of the plague cemetery

Identification and enough money to buy a loaf of bread: In days gone by, anyone who did not have this in their pocket was, according to Belgian law, a vagrant. And vagrancy was punishable until not so long ago.

The government decided to establish a reformatory to keep vagrants off the streets. Before Belgian independence, the Dutch had built a colony for vagrants in Merksplas, and this was chosen as the location. "Colony", though, is a euphemism for what was actually a prison. From 1870, as many as 5,000 vagrants would be held at Merksplas at any one time, all of them

obliged to work.

Anyone who died while in custody in Merksplas was buried there, anonymously, with only a small numbered lead plate on the cross. Opposite the cemetery there is a second graveyard, known as the "plague cemetery". As the legend goes, the crosses there float in the air. Do the dead find no rest in their graves? The plague cemetery was called into use in the First World War. As well as vagrants, the colony was full of refugees from West Flanders, and the Spanish flu epidemic of 1918 claimed many of them as victims. They

were buried at night in the plague cemetery by torchlight, in layers because there was not enough room. With up to 50 people a day dying, the crosses continuously had to be moved, giving rise to the myth of the floating crosses.

The Merksplas colony is still partly a prison; the rest is a museum. Every second Sunday of the month guided tours are organised, including of the two cemeteries. (For more on Merksplas, see *Flanders Today*, 27 March, 2013)



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Happy holidays

Short on ideas for kids' activities this summer? Our handy guide has the answers

Alan Hope

Every year it's the same problem: nine weeks of school holidays, and enough ideas to fill maybe one of those weeks, not counting the family holiday that's going to ensure we have to work 80-hour weeks the rest of the year. How do you fill the endless parade of days, some summery and many not, between the beginning of July and the first Monday in September? As usual, we went digging in the really quite extensive list of what's going on across Flanders, and came up with some suggestions for the main cities.

Brussels

One of the main laments of parents nowadays, and especially city-dwellers, is how hard it is to find places where children can simply be set free to play, in their own little world, as it suits them and those they're playing with, without too much interference from grown-ups. That's the sort of childhood idyll that De Buiteling is trying to replicate, with its summertime Play-Weeks organised (in Dutch) for children aged two-and-a-half to 12, at five locations in Brussels – Kogelstraat, Nieuwland and Sint-Joris (Cellebroersstraat) in the centre, Sint-Joost in the north and Vorst in the south. The programmes are jam-packed, with for example theme weeks on Italy or Australia, outdoor activities in the woods in Molenbeek and the Warandepark, cycling, picnics and cookery classes. The available places, however, are quickly snapped up. Everything is, of course, closely supervised, so while it may not be the fancy-free Huck Finn summer play you remember from your own childhood, it's as close as city kids these days are going to get.

► www.debuiteling.be

Also in Brussels

- Summer stages in the magnificent rabbit warren of Bozar for children in three age-groups: six to seven, eight to nine, and 10 to 12. The stage (in French or Dutch) lasts a week and isn't cheap – €132 per child – but it covers everything.

► <http://tinyurl.com/BozarSummer>

- One of the most fascinating and overlooked sights in Brussels is the underground streets on Coudenberg, part of the city now covered over by the Royal Palace. It's also the scene of a treasure hunt for the Golden Fleece of the Emperor Charles V, for children over six.

► www.coudenberg.com

- No review of activities in Brussels would be complete without a mention to the Natural Sciences Museum: dinosaurs, live insects, an exhibition on baby animals (pictured), and a free trail through the museum for witches and wizards aged six to 12.

► www.naturalsciences.be



Kids can unleash their wild side at the hands-on Baby Animals exhibition at the Natural Sciences Museum in Brussels

Ghent

It's free, it's open to everyone, and you don't even have to go out of your way to enjoy it: It's the Pretbisiklet, a cargo bike (otherwise known as a "long john") loaded with playthings, which will be coming to your area this summer if you live in Ghent. The initiative by the city council is designed to fill in the gaps for those families who perhaps aren't able to take the kids somewhere special. Instead, the "somewhere special" comes to you. The Pretbisiklet (from *pret*, fun and *bicyclette*, French for bicycle) covers six locations – Brugse Poort, Sluizeken, Muide, Watersportbaan and Macharius – and offers the equipment for bowls, football, water games and more for children aged four to 12. It's all free, there's no need to book anything, and even if you don't live in one of the areas they visit, you're welcome to come along. There's also the Pretkamjonet (from French *camionette*, van) which is more far-ranging, and of course carries more stuff, but which works along the same principle: Sit tight and they'll bring the fun to you. That includes go-karts, bouncy castles, costumes, parachutes, skateboards – you name it. Also entirely free.

► <http://tinyurl.com/Pretbisiklet>

Also in Ghent

- There are nine dragons hidden in the garden of the House of Kina (pictured), and if you find them all, you win a diploma. Amusement for children during the Gentse Feesten, 20 to 28 July, no reservations, free.

► www.dewereldvankina.be

- Also during the Genste Feesten, boat trips with Maat Piraat, a pirate, and Hanneke Tanneke, a witch.

► www.debootjesvangent.be

- The 12th Youth Circus Festival is what it sounds like: circus produced by young people, showing free for

four days from 21 to 24 July in the Baudelohof. There are also free circus workshops for any kids who feel the draw.

► www.circuscentrum.be/JCF

Antwerp

Antwerp is this year's European Capital of Sport, and there are hundreds of sporting events organised throughout the city during the year. Obviously, children and young people don't miss out. The sports on offer range from petanque on the riverside quays (all day, every day to 30 September, bring your own *boules*) to the

sports beach on Quay 28 at Rijnkaai with free beach-sports terrains, to the Europark, transformed for the season into a sports arena offering hockey (Tuesdays for 11- to 13-year-olds), street tennis (Saturdays for ages eight to 12) and more. There's also a sports arena in Sint-Andriesplaats and sports weeks for one or several sports, in several locations including Park Spoor Nord and Luchtbal.

► www.sportingA.be

Also in Antwerp

- Staying with the sporting theme, get them started early with gymnastics for toddlers and pre-school children every day at the Little Gym in Wilrijk.

► www.thelittlegym.eu/antwerpen

- The Breeven sports centre in Bornem is offering five-day sports camps in July and the second half of August for the very democratic price of €45 all-in, €35 if you're a resident.

► www.bornem.be/sport

- Finally, there's a dance-week in Merksem for over-10s, culminating in a performance for family and friends, all for €65.

► <http://tinyurl.com/Merksemdance>

► www.flanders today.eu/content/last-hurrah
► www.uitinvlaanderen.be



The House of Kina in Ghent offers plenty of pint-size distractions during the Gentse Feesten

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Visions of power and darkness

Flemish artist's work takes psychiatry as a metaphor for modern-day control

Daan Bauwens

Ghent's Dr Guislain museum has always excelled in offering art trips along the boundaries of what is considered mentally normal. Its collection of outsider art – works by psychiatric patients offering a glimpse of their inner world – has become world-renowned over recent years.

The exhibitions at the museum – a psychiatric centre, a museum on the history of psychiatry and an art centre – often question the role of mental institutions in the contemporary world. This summer the museum hosts Gideon Kiefer's *Science Conceals Madness*.

In this new series, selected from his oeuvre by the Guislain curators, Kiefer shows a world where everyone and everything is under control. Nurses, doctors and psychiatrists control apathetic patients. Large and sinister figures outside the frame control everything happening within. Science is the pretext for a groundless balance of power that strips the individual of his or her uniqueness.

For Kiefer, medicine and psychiatry are only metaphors to explain what is at hand in the world today. "The drawings show strange scenes," he explains on a tour around the show. "Psychiatrists and doctors are not necessarily people who have good intentions, and the terms insanity and science have been misused a lot over time."

Shock doctrine

One of the largest drawings in the exhibition is a portrait of Ewen Cameron, a Scottish psychiatrist who, in the 1960s, experimented with intensified electroshock therapy to erase people's ability to withstand brainwashing. Kiefer: "This man thought of the following scheme: completely erase a patient's memories with shocks, bring him into a state where he doesn't know where he is, who he is or what is happening. Then fill the void with new ideas that you want him to have."

Opposite, visitors can see a depiction of the rabbit hole from *Alice in Wonderland*. It might not seem like it at first, but this also refers to electroshock therapy. "In *The Shock Doctrine* by Naomi Klein, she describes how Cameron's psychiatric findings were translated into a theory for societal and economical change," explains Kiefer. "Countries and societies have been repeatedly brought into a state of confusion through shock so governments can pass controversial reforms. Just like in the book, my rabbit hole stands for the state of confusion. We still see the same thing happening today, with drastic cuts everywhere because of the economic crisis."

The abuse of science to control society seems to be one of the central themes in Kiefer's work, though he admits that some of his works are purely personal.

"The drawings you see here are works which have a clear link with the museum," he says. "I wouldn't dare



Gideon Kiefer's "Lawyers of €10,000 per Exam"

to say that all my works originate from a societal commitment. But on the other hand, it is true, invisible powers are a recurrent theme, as well as the use of psychiatry as a symbol of wielding power over people."

In Kiefer's work, characters with power are always drawn much larger than those subjected to it. "In my eyes, it is not about people having power over other people. Normal people are too small to notice that they are subjected to dark forces. They just don't know about them."

In perspective

Another recurrent element in his drawings is the use of black or blue lines, sometimes numbered, dividing and schematising the work. Does that stand for the tendency of science to always measure and objectify?

Kiefer: "Not really. My work is very figurative. That's why it's easily characterised as 'academic'." He believes the academic world always tries to prescribe what art should look like, and rebels against this prescriptive attitude.

"I start a drawing with perspective lines. When I paint they disappear. But in the end phase I draw them on again, sometimes even with a ballpoint. That's my middle finger to the academic world. It's the same with the work of Francis Bacon: He used to work on a painting for days and at the end he would splash a streak of white paint over the finished work."

"It's an act of self-destruction which I think is quite amusing. You actually do it to put yourself in perspective. But on the other hand, the lines have become a symbol of the web that has imprisoned the characters in the drawing. They cannot get out of the web. It adds a certain level of abstraction."



It might not be a surprise that Flemish artist Gideon Kiefer suffers from nightmares

These figures are caught in a web, a situation of powerlessness they cannot get out of. That sounds a lot like the structure of nightmares – something Kiefer knows all about. "I suffer from a sleeping disorder called *pavor nocturnus* or night terror," he says. "I am troubled by terrible nightmares that make me come out of bed at night, running away from unknown beings chasing me. It's not life-threatening, even

though once I threw myself out of the window running from something that was coming up the stairs. "I've been suffering from it since a very early age. It is very tiring as well; every night I lose about a quarter of my normal sleep. You can do nothing about it. Over the years I have written a lot of them down in a night book. I suffer from the disorder, but at the same time it is a major source of inspiration for me."

UNTIL 6 OCTOBER

Dr Guislain Museum

Jozef Guislaanstraat 43, Ghent

► www.museumdrguislain.be

WEEK IN ARTS & CULTURE

The Belgian Brewers have launched the campaign Respect16 to remind summer festival staff not to **sell beer to anyone under the legal age**. "We want to help everyone who faces being asked for beer by under-16s to say no in a respectful way, without losing the positive contact we have with young people," said Belgian Brewers director Sven Gatz.

VRT produced **more hours of Flemish TV** in 2012, although the percentage of the output fell, the public broadcaster reported last week. VRT made 2,700 hours of local productions, compared to 2,348 in 2011. But because the broadcaster opened a new channel in 2012, the share of Flemish productions fell from 66.4% to 61.8%. The two main radio stations, meanwhile, failed to reach their quotas of Dutch-language music: Radio 1, with a quota of 15%, broadcast 12.7% songs in Dutch, while Radio 2 missed its 30% quota by 2.3 percentage points.

The Pukkelpop rock music festival in Hasselt has pledged to **pay compensation to nature conservancy organisation Natuurpunt** for the use of fields around the festival site as camping grounds for a period of three weeks. The exact sum has not been disclosed. Festival director Chokri Mahassine said waste would be sorted and recycled and energy consumption limited where possible. The new campsite would also mean less disturbance for local residents, he said.

Stieve, the mobile app supported by the main Flemish broadcasters, has successfully completed a test phase and will be rolled out to the public later in the year. Stieve allows programmes to be watched live or up to 36 hours later on a tablet.

A baby giraffe born last Wednesday in the Bellewaerde amusement park near Ypres **has been named Albert after the king**, who announced his abdication the day of the birth. "It seemed very fitting," a spokesperson said.

Fashion designer Dries Van Noten, one of the famous Antwerp Six, will be the **subject of a solo exhibition** next year in Paris' Museum of Decorative Arts. Noten will also choose selections from the museum's permanent collection he finds inspiring for the show. It's the first major exhibition devoted to the work of the Flemish designer and will run for six months.

Music, hair and attitude

Bob Gruen: Rock Seen

Tom Peeters

It is one of the most iconic pictures ever taken of a rock star: John Lennon wearing a New York City T-shirt standing on a rooftop backed by the Manhattan skyline. New York-born photographer Bob Gruen took literally thousands of photos of the singer and never really understood why people loved this one so much. "It says New York City, and John was originally from England!" But over the years, he's come to understand: It's an image about freedom. "For me, rock'n'roll is music, but it is also haircut and attitude," says Gruen, at the opening of an exhibition of his work at Fort Napoleon in Ostend. "It also has to do with the look. It's about the freedom to express yourself, as loud as possible."

Gruen, who became friends with Lennon, actually gave him the T-shirt he's wearing in the photo as a gift one year before he took the picture in 1974. "I used to wear those T-shirts almost all the time. I gave them to several of my friends." That's not such a big surprise. "In the '70s, New York was the arts and cultural capital of the world. Everything was happening here: punk rock, disco, rap, Andy Warhol, graffiti artists, Merce Cunningham..." Gruen, now 68, was both a photographer and a music fan who saw it all happening in his backyard. Wandering through the archways of the ancient Ostend fort, you notice immediately that New York is one of the underlying themes of the exhibition. The vibrant city is



not only prominent in the Lennon (and Yoko Ono) photos – the couple moved from England to the city in 1971 – but is also a backdrop for a new emerging punk and art rock scene. Gruen made visible the energy of the New York Dolls, Iggy Pop, Patti Smith and The Ramones.

Driving the car

I especially like the grainy black-and-white photo of The Clash driving around New York in what we would call now an old-timer. It was an era when hanging out with bands was still possible: Spending lots of time travelling and having drinks with The Sex Pistols and The Clash was part of the job. "I was always driving the car," he smiles. "Sometimes I would bring a band from [music clubs] CBGB to

Max's to meet another group, and I would take a picture. Being part of the situation is still the best way not to be considered an intruder. Above all, I am a fan first. I'm not just observing because an editor asks me to take a picture." His close friendship with the bands led to another one of his iconic pictures: The Sex Pistols slurping cocktails, pretending they are sniffing coke with a straw. "It all happened very spontaneously. You know, we had nothing to copy back then. There was no MTV or YouTube. I just saw them sitting together at a table and suggested I take a picture. They started making jokes 'cause basically they were such funny guys – and a real band, not a bunch of individuals."

Until 15 September | Fort Napoleon, Vuurtorenweg, Ostend | www.angels-ghosts.com

SPECIAL EVENT

Day of the Flemish Community

On 11 July 1302, a force of Flemish rebels defeated the French army. It didn't launch a national movement then and there, but the Battle of the Golden Spurs would later be adopted by the modern Flemish Community as its national holiday. Many towns across Flanders have celebratory events for Vlaanderen Feest, which culminate with massive, open-air concerts in Aalst (10 July) and Antwerp (11 July).

The capital, meanwhile, has something else planned. Brussel Danst hopes to bring all of the city's residents together to celebrate the Flemish holiday. The free programme is spread out between the Muntplein, the Brussels Parliament's Spiegelzaal and of course the Grote Markt, where the retro enthusiasts of Radio Modern host an all-day '50s-themed party with DJs, dance lessons and live music. **Georgio Valentino**



11 July | Across Flanders

www.11daagsevlaanderen.net | www.brusseldanst.be

MORE SPECIAL EVENTS THIS WEEK

Brussels

Brussel Bad 2013: Many hundreds of kilos of sand cover cobbled streets to create this annual beach party in Brussels featuring cocktail bars, concerts, beach volleyball and more **Until AUG 11 on Akenkaai**

www.brusselbad.be

Kortrijk

Kortrijk Congé: BUDA art centre presents this free festival that takes you on a trip to a secret location for a flurry of concerts, installations, film, food and parties; registration required

JUL 13 17.00-1.00 from Parking Appel, Magdalenestraat

www.kortrijkconge.be/2013

CONCERT

Crosby, Stills and Nash

One of pop music's first super-groups, Crosby, Stills and Nash brought together members of three of the most popular groups of the 1960s: The Byrds, Buffalo Springfield and The Hollies. The sporadic participation of folk-rock loner Neil Young made for an occasional quartet, logically operating under the name Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young. When it worked, their combined forces churned out hit songs and pitch-perfect harmonies. But professional and personal differences made it a volatile marriage. Although they never really "broke up", the band's history is full of schisms and extended hiatuses. The core duo of David Crosby and Graham Nash have visited Belgium frequently in recent years. They welcomed Stephen Stills back into the fold last year and are currently touring Europe as CSN once more. **GV**



11 July, 20.00 | Kursaal, Ostend | www.kursaalooostende.be

MORE CONCERTS THIS WEEK

Antwerp

Volksliedes: Free concert featuring folk songs by Flemish rock guitarist Axl Peleman and Maandacht

JUL 12 20.30 at Openluchttheater Rivierenhof

www.ccdeurne.be

Ghent

Earthless, Atomic Bitchwax and Mirror Queen: Three old-school psychedelic hard rock bands from the label Tee Pee Records

JUL 12 19.30 at De Centrale, Kraankindersstraat 2

www.decentrale.be

Maldegem (East Flanders)

Jelle Cleymans: Maldegem celebrates Flemish Community Day with a free concert by the Flemish actor and singer-songwriter

JUL 11 11.00-12.00 at Markt

www.maldegem.be

FESTIVAL

Gent Jazz Festival

Gent Jazz has come a long way. Originally conceived in 2002 as the Blue Note Festival, it has grown into one of the biggest genre festivals in Belgium. Ghent is now plugged into the Europe Jazz Network and the International Jazz Festival Organisation. Indeed, the festival deserved no small share of credit when, in 2009, its host city was named Unesco Creative City of Music. This year's programme shows off the best of Belgium and beyond. Dozens of acts perform on the festival's two stages. International headliners include Diana Krall, Elvis Costello and, best of all, Bryan Ferry (*pictured*) featuring The Bryan Ferry Orchestra. In his latest project the English art-rock icon leads an old-school jazz band through a set of standards and re-imagined Roxy Music numbers. **GV**



12-20 July | De Bijloke, Ghent | ► www.gentjazz.com

MORE FESTIVALS THIS WEEK

Brussels

Brosella Folk and Jazz 2013: Annual festival near the Atomium featuring folk music on Saturday and jazz on Sunday

JUL 13-14 15.00 at Groentheater, Ossegempark

► www.brosella.be

Duffel (Antwerp province)

Natural Highs: Second edition of the free DJ festival in the countryside, featuring Redhead, Turntable Dubbers, Double U Jay and Cedex & Higher Underground, among others

JUL 12-13 at Franselei

► www.facebook.com/NaturalHighsFestival

Werchter

TW Classic 2013: Big names on one stage, this year featuring Bruce Springsteen & The E Street Band, Santana, Blondie and Balthazar, among others

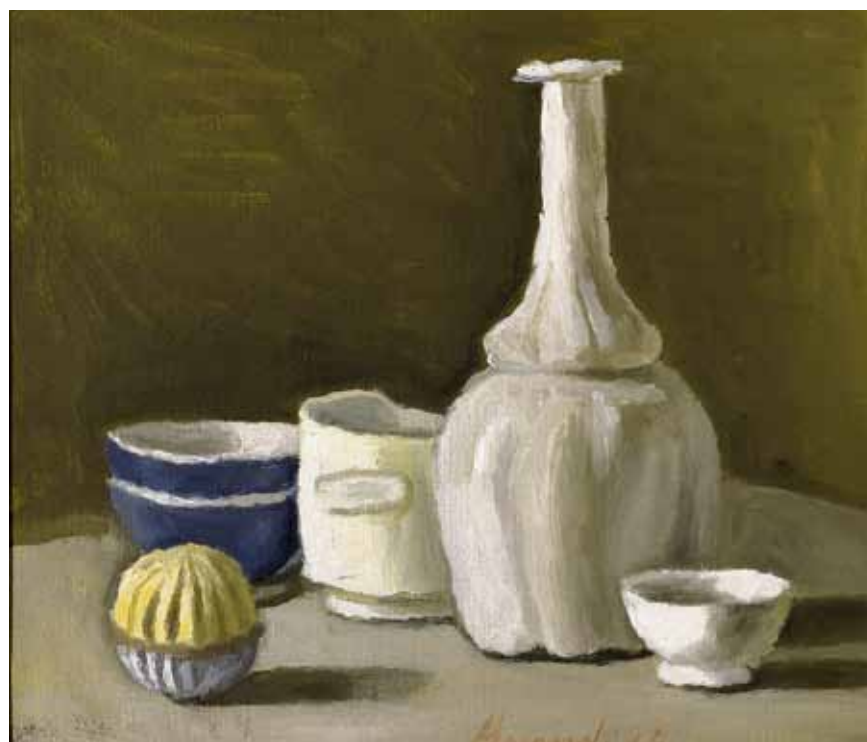
JUL 13 at Festival Park

► www.twclassic.be

VISUAL ARTS

Giorgio Morandi

Bozar honours one of the 20th century's most influential painters. Giorgio Morandi is known for his subtle still-life and landscape canvases, in which texture is king. These technical experiments were decisive in the evolution of European modernism. Morandi helped usher out the epic, figurative tableaux of the previous century and replace them with the understated (or even abstract) meditations that characterise modern art. The exhibition is curated by Italian art historian (and Morandi biographer) Maria Cristina Bandera and features 100 pieces in various media. You'll discover not just the famous oil paintings but also dozens of drawings, etchings and watercolours. To demonstrate the enduring influence of Morandi, contemporary Flemish artist Luc Tuymans was invited to present a series of works inspired by the maestro. The Italian giant's legacy is further explained in six essays included in the visitor's guide. **GV**



Until 22 September | Bozar, Brussels | ► www.bozar.be

MORE VISUAL ARTS THIS WEEK

Brussels

Dino World: Exhibition of more than 40 life-size animated dinosaurs

Until SEP 29 at Brussels Expo, Belgiëplein

► www.expodinoworld.be

Ghent

World Press Photo: The best photojournalist work from the past year, including the 2013 World Press Photo winner, Swede Paul Hansen, and Flemish photographers Stephan Vanfleteren and Frederik Buyckx, among others

Until JUL 28 at Sint-Pieters Abdij, Sint-Pietersplein 9

► www.sintpietersabdijgent.be

The Art of the Obsessions Collective: A selection of multi-media works from the collective founded by jazz musician John Zorn, part of Gent Jazz Festival's "Zorn at 60" celebration

Until JUL 28 at Zebrastraat Kunstenplatform, Zebrastraat 32

► www.zebrastraat.be

DUSK TIL DAWN

Ten Days Off

The Ten Days Off techno festival at Vooruit in Ghent needs very little introduction. It's the highlight of the summer for many (inter) national music lovers, gathering about a thousand of them every night. Ten Days Off is also one of the official festivals within the Gentse Feesten, the biggest city festival in Europe.

The techno fest kicks off on 18 July and will see about 50 DJs from all over the world behind the decks. The first night, Blende (UK) opens the dance floor with his robotic synths with rock'n'roll attitude. A couple of hours later, Norwegian super DJs Todd Terje & Lindström will give a live show filled with

their beloved house beats and chunky disco. The line-up is still being finalised, but Brussels-based trio Vuurwerk will definitely be there on day two. Also present that night is American songwriter Matthew Dear, who'll be doing a special DJ set. Day three introduces DJs from the UK, with, among others, Sophie and Deadboy. On Day four, British indie rock band Egyptian Hip Hop (UK) are on at 1.00 (but their music is nothing like what you might expect from a band with such a name. On day five, you'll meet Brazil's Gui Boratto and Germany's Michael Mayer.

After a break on 23 July, the party picks up again the next day with James Zabiela (UK).

Later days see an all-UK line-up (George FitzGerald and Dusky, to name a few); the Dutch/South African five-piece band SKIP&DIE (*pictured*), with their wicked African-inspired electro-punk; and the homegrown Ghent duo Juice Blenders.

On the last night, the party goes on until 10.00 the next morning; the soulful, sexy mixes of Ghent boys No Shit Like Deep closes the show until next year.

Tickets per night are €16 in advance, €20 at the door. A full festival pass is a bargain at €75.

► www.tendaysoff.be



Katrien Lindemans

BITE

Robyn Boyle

Roste Muis ★★☆☆

The Meetjesland region of East Flanders has a special atmosphere. Criss-crossed by low-lying polders, the flatness of the landscape allows for far-reaching views over the farms and tree-lined dikes that characterise the area. Such wide open space gives the impression that time has stood still here for hundreds of years. Then you come across a restaurant like Roste Muis, and you're convinced it has.

The white-painted brick façade and traditional red-tiled roof look promising from the outside, but then we enter to find an even cosier space than we could have imagined. The hotchpotch of dining areas all have low, wooden-beam ceilings and walls covered in antiques and the odd knick-knack. The oldest section dates back to 1690, when it was a secret smugglers' café.

Outside, a spacious terrace backs up to the meandering Waterland-Oudeman creek. Three little baby peacocks follow their mother around the only occupied table to catch a few crumbs. Despite this idyllic scene, my partner and I choose to sit inside on this chilly afternoon.

It's midday, but there's a candle burning at every table. We order a couple of beers, including a blonde Muizebier, locally brewed especially for the restaurant. Although tempted by starters such as ham with melon and cheese or shrimp croquettes, we decide to skip straight to the main course. Owner Peter Haegeman must be a good boss, as the servers are all notably cheery and helpful. One of them fields our questions about the various preparations of eel, finally helping my partner decide on the classic *paling in 't groen*,



featuring eel in a bright green herb sauce. My choice is much easier, as I've spotted my all-time favourite steak and fries, which I order with mushroom sauce.

The entrecote has a nice trimming of fat, lending to its rich flavour, while the thick sauce contains big chunks of mushrooms and fresh cream. The fries are hot and crispy. The house speciality eel does not disappoint, either. My partner polishes off the entire dish while raving about the tangy sauce. Typically made with myriad fresh herbs, this one

tastes strongly of sorrel, a sharp and vinegary herb. Although he'd prefer to have mashed potatoes with this dish, the fries are a worthy alternative.

After dinner, we notice the table next to us being served a round of coffees with scrumptious-looking pancakes and apple pie. Unfortunately, a lack of space prevents us from indulging, but we vow to come back another day to survey the tearoom portion of the menu.

We lay down €50 and head out for a stroll around the nearby Boerekreek.

► www.rostemuis.be

- 📍 Drijdijk 2, Waterland-Oudeman (Sint-Laureins); 09.379.85.60
- 🕒 12.00-22.00 Thurs-Mon
- € Mains: €19-€24
- 📖 Utterly charming old-world restaurant and tearoom specialising in eel, steak and sweet treats

TALKING SPORTS

Leo Cendrowicz

Flipkens fairytale is a tennis treat

Kirsten Flipkens is stunningly, charmingly ignoring tennis conventions as she defies time and injuries to savour her moment in the sun. Last week at Wimbledon, the 27-year-old reached her first ever Grand Slam semi-final, and though she lost the match in straight sets to eventual champion Marion Bartoli of France, she had already secured a berth in tennis lore. Indeed, Flipkens herself could hardly believe it; her broad, unforced smile reflected a dazed delight at her fairytale. Having grown up in the shadows of Kim Clijsters, in reaching the Wimbledon semi-finals Flipkens has now equalled one of her friend and mentor's records. The Flipkens story would be remarkable anyway, but her shocking near-death episode last year makes it especially notable. Stepping off a plane in Thailand in April, her calf muscle went into spasm, and it is likely only prompt medical attention prevented a fatal bout of deep vein thrombosis.

Geel-born Flipkens, junior Wimbledon champion in 2003, was then ranked 262nd, and not even eligible to enter the 2012 tournament. Yet the two-month absence that followed proved her making: With the help of Clijsters

and others she came back with renewed vigour and slowly climbed the rankings, eventually surpassing her pre-injury best. When the latest WTA rankings were announced on Monday, Flipkens had surged to 15th. She surely has further to go.

Meanwhile, spare a thought for Jurgen Van den Broeck, forced to pull out of the Tour de France last week after injuring his knee in a mass crash at the end of the fifth stage in Marseille. "He was crying like a little child this morning," his somewhat undiplomatic general manager Marc Sergeant said.

Van den Broeck felt he could make the podium this year after placing fourth overall in 2010 and 2012. But the Herentals rider also knew about the risk of crashing in the first week of the Tour, as he did in 2011 when he fell and broke his collarbone.

Another Flemish rider, Jan Bakelants, was also in the spotlight for more celebratory reasons as he claimed the second stage and – briefly – the race leader's yellow jersey. Bakelants, 27, from Oudenaarde, rarely reaches the podium, but he took his chance to break from the peloton and win the first stage of his professional career.



The last word...

Crime and punishment

"He was indeed standing in the mother's bedroom, but when she awoke, all he did was tell her to be quiet. He never threatened her. All right, he was breaking in, but legitimate self-defence doesn't apply when it's only your belongings that are in danger." Lawyer Thomas Vandemeulebroucke is filing a complaint for attempted murder against the young man who stabbed his client when he was caught breaking into a house in Snaaskerke in West Flanders

Affairs of state

"Where were you on 3 July, 2013 when you heard the news? That's what we'll still be asking ourselves in 20 years' time." For *Het Nieuwsblad*, the other important news of the week was reality star Astrid Bryan's divorce from husband John

Project Catwalk

"I'm going to try to pay for my last year myself, because my parents have already paid enough over the last three years. To keep costs down I'd love to find companies who could give me materials to work with." 22-year-old Yens Cuyvers from Retie is the only Belgian student in next year's intake for a fashion master's at Antwerp's academy, and needs support to complete the course

High anxiety

"Strong men had to take their place by the emergency exits to help open the doors. Some passengers started to cry. One woman began to hyperventilate and fainted." Passengers on a Thomas Cook flight into Zaventem panicked when the pilot had to abort his landing twice because of a problem with landing gear. The third attempt was successful

NEXT WEEK IN FLANDERS TODAY

Cover story

He's responsible for some of the most celebrated buildings in Flanders, and now Flemish architect bOb Van Reeth gets his own retrospective at Bozar in Brussels – in reverse order. The unusual approach sees the curators start with his most recent projects (Mechelen's Holocaust museum, the abbey of Westvleteren, the King Baudouin stadium) and end with his early student projects. Our correspondent speaks to bOb and gives his verdict on the exhibition.

News

The results of a major survey of Brussels' international community by the Brussels Europe Liaison Office have just been released, and they make interesting reading. Does the international community take part in local cultural life? Are expats more environmentally friendly than locals? Do they participate in local political life? What do they think about the city's cleanliness, safety and quality of life? We cast aside clichés to bring you the highlights

Tourism

For a few weeks last month, a family of beavers on the shores of the river Dyle in the centre of Leuven became a major attraction for animal lovers and nature photographers, attracting national TV crews and people from all over Flanders. But, frightened by partying pupils celebrating the end of school, they moved on. Inspired by these visitors, we learn about other once-endangered animals that are finding their way back to Flemish land- and cityscapes