

COMMEMORATIONS OF THE CENTENARY OF WORLD WAR I AT THE BELVUE MUSEUM.

On 10 and 11 November 2018, the BELvue Museum in Brussels will commemorate the centenary of the 1918 Armistice. Talks, guided tours and dramatised history will complement a visit to the exhibition *Brussels, November 1918. From war to peace?*.

The exhibition *Brussels, November 1918. From war to peace?*, which has attracted more than 4,500 visitors since the end of September, takes visitors back to the tormented final months of war and the direct consequences of the Armistice. Over the commemorative weekend, the BELvue Museum will offer a range of activities on this theme open to the general public.

Two talks by the exhibition's curators are scheduled on the Saturday, each focussing on a specific topic. A talk in French by the historian Chantal Kesteloot will look back over the tumultuous 10 days between the Armistice and the 'Joyous Entry' into Brussels by King Albert I and the Belgian Army on 22 November. And a talk in Dutch by historian Jens van de Maele will focus on efforts to manage the refugee crisis in Brussels in November 1918. Guided tours of the exhibition have also been lined up for Saturday afternoon.

On the Sunday, the Sandra Proes Theatre Company will put on an interactive historical dramatisation. Four actors will play characters from 100 years ago: a housewife turned nurse; a miner from Belgium's Eastern cantons, who was commandeered into the German Army and became a Belgian citizen after the Treaty of Versailles; the cultured, young pacifist teacher; and the upper-middle-class lady whose son had returned from the war with a disfigured face. The theatre company drew inspiration for its show from historical facts and actual accounts dating from the time. The show, entitled *14-18 and after*, is aimed at a broad audience and will plunge visitors back in time by enabling them to interact with flesh-and-blood characters.

The exhibition is also family-friendly, with a book of games available from reception for visiting children aged between 8 and 12.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Saturday 10 November and Sunday 11 November 2018, from 10:00 to 18:00

- FREE entry to the exhibition *Brussels, November 1918. From war to peace?*

- Guided tours

- Saturday 10 November at 15:00 in Dutch and at 16:00 in French
- Duration: 1 hour
- €4 per person – Please book in advance

- Book of games for children

aged between 8 and 12, accompanied by an adult (€1 per child)

- Talks**Chantal Kesteloot – *Les dix jours qui ébranlèrent Bruxelles (Ten days that shook Brussels)* – talk in French.**

On 9 November 1918, the Kaiser abdicated and a republic was proclaimed in Germany. Immediately, revolutionary disturbances broke out all over occupied Belgium. Brussels was no exception. Mutineers formed a 'Soldatenrat' (Soldiers' Council) there. Chaos reigned and the municipal authorities in Brussels feared that the situation might become uncontrollable. What happened in Brussels on 11 November when the Armistice was signed? When did the people of Brussels get the chance to celebrate wildly? Come and learn about the remarkable circumstances surrounding the liberation of Brussels.

- Saturday 10 November from 15:00 to 16:00 – in French
- Free, but please book in advance

Jens van de Maele – *De vluchtelingencrisis in Brussel aan het einde van de Eerste Wereldoorlog* (The refugee crisis in Brussels at the end of the First World War) – talk in Dutch.

In October and November 1918, Brussels experienced an unprecedented refugee crisis. After travelling more than 100 kilometres, more than 75,000 refugees arrived in Brussels, a figure equivalent to roughly 10% of the capital's population at the time. How did the inhabitants of Brussels cope and avoid a humanitarian catastrophe?

- Saturday 10 November from 14:00 to 15:00 – in Dutch
- Free, but please book in advance

- *14-18 and after*, a historical dramatisation by the Sandra Proes Theatre Company

Inside the exhibition *Brussels, November 1918*, four historical figures will share their feelings with visitors: a young teacher, a housewife turned nurse, a soldier and an upper-middle-class lady. This highly topical show, whose message will sound eerily familiar to visitors, will lead visitors through events that changed our society forever.

- Sunday 11 November
 - at 16:00 and 16:30 in French
 - at 14:30 and 15:00 in Dutch
- Duration: 1 hour
- €2 per person – please book in advance

OTHER EVENTS AROUND THE EXHIBITION

8 November – 09:30 to 15:30: visit + discussion with storyteller Ingrid Slabbinck (in Dutch) – please book in advance

27 November – 18:00: talk by the historian Sophie De Schaepdrijver :*Remembering the Great War in Public Spaces* (in English) – please book in advance

6 December: Late night opening from 17:00 until 22:00 with guided tours – Please book in advance

5 January 2019 at 15:00: Talk (in French) by historian Laurence van Ypersele. *Faire son deuil après la Grande Guerre: un combat sans fin* (Mourning after the Great War: an endless struggle) – Please book in advance

The exhibition *Brussels, November 1918. From war to peace?* has been organised by the Centre for Historical Research and Documentation on War and Contemporary Society (Cegesoma) and the State Archives of Belgium as part of the commemorations on the centenary of the Great War.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, SEE:

www.belvue.be

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