



British Embassy
Brussels

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**The Duchess
of Richmond's
Ball
23 June, 2012**

20 February 2012

Following the success of the Duchess of Richmond's Ball in June 2011, we are pleased to announce that the British Embassy will support the charity ball again this year.

The ball, which commemorates the Duchess's original ball in Brussels on the eve of the battle of Waterloo, will be held in the Chateau Saint Anne on Saturday, 23 June, 2012.

This will be another stepping stone towards the bicentennial of the Battle of Waterloo in 2015.

As Ambassador to Belgium, I am looking forward once more to hosting the event.

The 2011 ball at the British Residence raised over € 10,000 for four excellent charitable causes. The Community Help Service, the Royal British Legion, the Belgian Red Cross and the British Charity Fund. These organisations provide important help for the alleviation of distress and illness in the wider community as well as for British citizens and ex-servicemen.

In addition to our regular British causes, the 2012 Ball will help raise funds for l'Hôpital des Enfants Reine Fabiola. The Queen Fabiola Children's University Hospital in Laeken is the only Belgian Hospital entirely dedicated to Children, caring for over 11,000 children every year.

The 2012 ball will also be held in partnership with project Hougoumont (<http://www.projecthougoumont.com>) an Anglo-Belgian project to raise money for the reconstruction of the Hougoumont farm house, scene of the some of the fiercest fighting during the battle.

As well as bringing support to worthwhile causes, the Ball will be a chance to enjoy a black tie dinner, dancing and a lively auction.

I would strongly encourage you to give the Ball your support. There are many ways in which you can do so, singly or in combination; by taking up a sponsorship option; by offering prizes for the tombola or the auction; by providing publicity for the event or on the website (www.dorb.be); and by buying tickets or corporate tables for the Ball. All donations will be appropriately acknowledged and publicised.

We are keen to showcase UK goods and services, particularly luxury goods. So if you have ideas for sponsorship in kind, let us know.

The accompanying materials give you further details and contact information. The Brussels British Community Association has again played a key role in making the ball possible and I would like to congratulate them, and the many volunteers from other organisations involved, on their commitment to this effort.

I look forward to your support for the Duchess of Richmond's Ball, 2012.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jonathan Brenton". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned in the lower-left quadrant of the page.

Jonathan Brenton

British Ambassador