

International get-together photos

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The international group visiting one of the museums in Warneton, Belgium.



From left to right: Jan Verhelst (BE), Dietrich Arbenz (DE), John Mulrane (IRL), Daniel Castrijck (museum owner, BE), Andy Grant (UK), Andy Emmerson (UK), Alain Groult (FR) Source: Alain Groult.

Some social pictures can be seen at <http://fotos.kulentuur.be/#!album-54>

It was interesting to see that people got in touch. On the right you see:
Left: Frank Garnier (Holland) has a chat with Andy Grant (England)
Right: Arwin Schaddelee (Holland) is discussing a special phone setup with Henning Dürkop (Germany).



Cover photo: Gower-Bell Telephone restored – see article on Page 10

First West-European get-together of telephone collectors

Jan Verhelst

In Belgium there is no organized collectors club like THG or TCI, but all the collectors are known to each other and they co-operate in the transfer of information and ideas for the preservation of telephone history.

Leo De Boeck, the owner of a private telephone museum (www.leofoon.be) came up with the idea to organize a get-together of everybody who is involved in telephone history in Belgium. Jan Verhelst suggested inviting also people from the neighboring countries. Invitations were issued and thirty-two persons including twenty-three Belgians: (Fourteen collectors and nine partners) and nine people from neighboring countries three from Germany, two from the Netherlands, two from the UK, one from Ireland and one from France attended the get-together at the Leofoon museum at Steenhuffel, Belgium on August 31st, 2019.

People, who knew each other by mail, met each other for the first time in real life. Much was discussed and ideas were exchanged.

Andy Emmerson (UK) gave a demonstration of an electronic version of a speaking clock, with samples of a great number of speaking clock voices from all over the world. An ideal tool for every telephone museum, since the electromechanical speaking clocks are difficult to maintain in working order.

Frank Garnier (The Netherlands) gave an explanation about C*NET, the international telephone network superimposed on the internet, to connect telephone collectors worldwide.

Several international visitors were interested in visiting telephone museums and collectors in the neighborhood. In the days prior to the get-together, a guided tour to several museums was organized.

These people were present:

Andy Emmerson, UK, President and founder of THG,

Dietrich Arbenz, Germany, Member of the board of the German club SIG,

John Mulrane, Ireland, Vice-President TCI and Editor of the THG Journal,

Alain Groult, France President French club "Association A. Cochéry."

Andy Grant, Telephone collector from London,

Under guidance of Belgians Stefan Biese-mans (TCI and THG member), Fons Vanden Berghen (world expert on 19th century telegraphy, THG member) and Jan Verhelst (TCI and THG member) four museums and one famous collector were visited.

The pictures are displayed inside the front cover on P2.