



ANTWERP BRITISH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION vzw

Maandelijkse Newsletter – januari 2021

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Dates for your diary



ABCA events in **BOLD** type

1 st January	New Year's Day
24 th January	ABCA : "The Madonna meets Mad Meg", audio tour, Maagdenhuis, Antwerp

Advance Notice:

13/14 February	ABCA : "Destination Sweetheart", exhibition at the Red Star Line

ABCA Antwerp British Community Association:
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From our Patron



Dear Members,

'It's a pleasure to wish all the members of the Antwerp British Community Association a very happy New Year. 2020 has been a challenging year and Coronavirus is still with us as we go into 2021. But with the first vaccine programme already underway in the UK (vaccine made in Belgium of course) and the prospect of vaccinations starting soon in Belgium, I'm hoping that we get back to a more normal situation before too long. Personally I am looking forward to being back in Antwerp and, I hope, to attending a delayed celebration of the centenary of the ABCA in the spring: 101 years surely merits an even bigger party than the round 100!

The end of 2020 of course also brings the end of the transition period following the UK's departure from the EU. That's an important change. But the UK and Belgium remain neighbours, friends and allies, and the bilateral relationship and all the two countries share will continue to matter deeply on both sides of the Channel.

My best wishes for 2021 to you and your families!'

Martin SHEARMAN

HM Ambassador to Belgium

Thought for the month
Out of difficulties grow miracles
Jean de la Bruyere

Membership Matters



Subscriptions reminder

The subscription for 2021 is due from the 1st of January.

Single subscription: €20

Double (2 at same address): €34

Please transfer to the ABCA bank account BE11 2200 3243 8048

Madonna Meets Dulle Griet



Fouquet's Madonna

The cancelled visit to the Mayer van den Bergh's latest exhibition, **Madonna Meets Dulle Griet** is on again.

Florent van Ertborn (1784–1840) and Fritz Mayer van den Bergh 1858–1901) were passionate collectors of paintings, sculptures, manuscripts and other art objects. Their acquisitions were often bargains, sometimes investments and occasionally brilliant discoveries. Some of these are now included in a new exhibition.

The Madonna

This painting by Fouquet is said to be a portrait of **Agnès Sorel**, known by the sobriquet Dame de Beauté (Lady of Beauty), who was chief mistress, of **King Charles VII** of France. Also included is Jan van Eyck's **The Madonna at the Fountain**.

Dulle Griet

The highlight of the collection is the recently restored *Dulle Griet* ('Mad Meg') by Pieter Bruegel the Elder.

Date: 24th January 2021

Venue: Museum Mayer Van den Bergh, Lange Gasthuisstraat 19, Antwerp

If you are interested, please mail/phone Mary Ann for tickets, at the latest by the 12th January.

Destination Sweetheart



Advance Notice

To celebrate St Valentine's Day, ABCA is arranging a tour of the Red Star Line's latest exhibition, **Destination Sweetheart**. Migrants for love leave their homes, family and friends to build a future with their loved one. Destination Sweetheart is an exhibition about emigrating for love from the era of the Red Star Line to the present day. Letters, interviews and personal objects offer an insight into these love stories.

Sailor René jumps on his Vespa in 1958 to ask for the hand of the Italian Silvana after only several meetings. She leaves her country behind for him, and follows him to Belgium. Anna joined Roger in America via a Red Star Line crossing, convinced by his written marriage proposal. In the passenger lists on her arrival, the authorities pen the word 'Sweetheart' under the 'Destination' column. Anna's story is the inspiration for this expo.

'Destination Sweetheart' gives you a chance to follow a handful of emigrants of the heart. Listen to their outpourings, and allow yourself to be carried away by their stories, sometimes confrontational and shocking, often moving and intimate. Because often, love is not something that comes easily. In the expo, you will also be able to enjoy the catchy installation 'Between us and everybody else' by artists Kim Snauwaert and Anyuta Wiazemsky Snauwaert, who ask questions about privacy, intimacy, marriage and the state. Whether it's about moving to be close to an Erasmus love, a casual meeting on a trip that becomes more, or a marriage proposal to someone outside their home country, migrating for love comes in all shapes and sizes. Discover what it means to go to the ends of the world for love in 'Destination Sweetheart'.

Details in February's newsletter.

Revolutionary Jewellery



D I
V A

Andrew Grima (1921-2007), Brooch, 1969, gold, watermelon tourmaline, diamonds, Courtesy of the Cincinnati Art Museum, Collection of Kimberly Klosterman,

The Jeweller's Art. Revolutionary jewellery from the 1960s and 70s at the DIVA Museum in Antwerp. The swinging London of the 1960s triggered an explosion of innovation in the jewellery industry, which spread to the rest of Europe and the USA. Besides jewellery, the exhibition showcases **fashion, music and design** from that vibrant period. The timing of the exhibition could hardly be more up-to-date given that the 1960s and 70s are right on-trend at the moment. Remember The Beatles, The Rolling Stones, Twiggy? At the same time and in the same city, a new generation of jewellery designers burst onto the scene. Goldsmiths flouted the rules of jewellery and experimented with new techniques, materials and influences. You can relive that vibrant period at ***The Jeweller's Art*** exhibition.

The 100-plus items of jewellery on display all come from the private collection of Kimberly Klosterman, who amassed an extensive collection of jewellery from the 1960s and 70s. They include pieces commissioned by Bulgari, Cartier, Van Cleef & Arpels and Masenza and designed by illustrious names like Andrew Grima, Arthur King, Cesare De Vecchi, Charles de Temple and David Webb, whose work features in several museum collections. Also showcased are items by the Belgian pioneer in modern jewellery art Fernand Demaret. Never before have these items been on display together. This exhibition is organized by the Cincinnati Art Museum, Cincinnati, Ohio and produced by DIVA, museum for diamond, jewellery and silver, Antwerp, Belgium

The museum is due to re-open on December 21st and runs until mid-March. Tickets can be ordered online.

<https://divaantwerp.be/en/visit/events-exhibitions/the-jewellers-art-revolutionary-jewellery-from-the-1960s-1970s>

New Year with the Pharaohs



The ancient Egyptians celebrated New Year with five consecutive festivals. **First came the Wepet-Renpet Festival or the Opening of the Year.** This was the New Year's Day celebration and was kind of a moveable feast as it depended on the inundation of the Nile.. It celebrated the death and rebirth of Osiris, and by extension, the rejuvenation and rebirth of the land and its people. Feasting and drinking were a part of this festival, as they were for most, and the celebration would last for days; the length depending on the time period. Solemn rituals related to the death of Osiris were observed as well as singing and dancing to celebrate his rebirth. The call-and-response poem known as **The Lamentations of Isis and Nephthys** was recited at the beginning to call Osiris to his feast.

Finally came the Tekh Festival or The Feast of Drunkenness: this festival was dedicated to Hathor ("The Lady of Drunkenness") an Egyptian version of the Greek god Dionysis. Participants would lessen their inhibitions and through copious amounts of beer and experience the goddess intimately upon waking to the sacred drums.



When Christmas was cancelled



Those of you who have had a challenging Christmas, which is probably all of us, can take comfort from the fact that England in 1644 was worse. Christmas was actually banned by Act of Parliament when Oliver Cromwell came to power. Puritans primarily believed that the welcome of heaven would come only if you worked hard in life. Very hard. Enjoyment for the sake of enjoyment was disapproved of in the strongest terms. Sports, singing, dancing and other activities with no apparent purpose were, in many cases, seen as the devil's work. A 12+ day celebration with food and copious amounts of alcohol and revelry, with work by and large at a standstill, was a non-starter.

Christmas slowly evolved into an enforced day of fasting to enable people to repent for previous years of revelry. All shops and markets were to stay open on Christmas Day and any who were found to be closed faced large fines. Soldiers patrolled the streets, especially in London, to put a stop to people enjoying themselves. Anyone found to be holding, or even attending, a Christmas Church service landed in serious trouble.

The Battle for Christmas: The arguments for and against Christmas were circulated much like newspaper articles today. Puritans used newsletters to spread the message against Christmas, arguing that Christmas was full of “pagan rites” used by “heathens”, full of “riotous drinking” and “dancing” as well as “pagan sports”.

However despite proclamations and Acts of Parliament, despite soldiers roaming the streets and shops being held at sword point to stay open, the ban on Christmas was hated by so many that riots sometimes occurred. In Canterbury, the “Plum Pudding Riots”, which began on Christmas Day in 1647 after Puritans tried to shut down a Christmas service, led to disturbances which saw the town in complete revolt, ruling itself independently from Parliament for a month until three thousand soldiers arrived to restore order. Even when riots did not occur, Christmas was still observed. Quietly, households up and down England did what they could to keep Christmas, as they knew it, alive.

After the restoration Christmas was reinstated and we still celebrate it today.

An Afternoon in Spain



Spanish music is a treasure full of inspiration that reaches far beyond its borders. The Russian Rimsky-Korsakov wrote an unparalleled hit with his Capriccio Espagnol, the French composer, Ravel, paid homage to his Basque roots with the southern Alborada del gracioso and with the sun-drenched music of the Spanish composer, de Falla, you can imagine yourself in the land of castanets and flamenco.

Wim Henderickx's Cello Concerto, Sangita, written for the Antwerp Symphony, Orchestra, will be conducted by Basque conductor, Jun Märkl and played by cellist Victor Julien-Lafferrière, winner of the first edition of the Queen Elisabeth Competition for cello in 2017. They will bring this work to Belgium for the first time, after a successful world creation in Amsterdam.

After such a dreary year who doesn't need a touch of Spanish sunshine?

Programme:

Ravel - Alborada del gracioso ; **Henderickx** - Celloconcerto, 'Sangita';
de Falla - El amor brujo (suite, 1925); **Rimsky-Korsakov**; Capriccio espagnol, opus 34

Venue: Elisabethzaal, Antwerp

Date: March 6 at **15h00**

Tickets from Euros 15



Tiger Mountain



Throughout human history, the diverse peoples who populated the vast Asian continent have had one thing in common: They feared and revered the tiger. Throughout this cat's range, their stealthy, illusory habits—suddenly appearing and disappearing in dense forests, often at night—elevated them to the status of otherworldly beings.

For millennia, the largest of the world's cats has been an iconic symbol of power and courage, woven into culture, religion, folklore and ritual. In legend, tigers brought food to men and women lost in the forest; tigers fought the forces of evil, protecting tribes, holy men, babies; tigers acted as a potent agent of fertility—and provided passage between the worlds of the living and the dead. Neolithic cave paintings are the earliest existing depictions, etched into rock walls across the Indian subcontinent 8,000 years ago.

Tribal cultures everywhere deified this cat. The largest of them all, the **Amur**, roams the snowy wastes of Siberia. The Siberian tiger very rarely becomes a man-eater. According to the Japanese Police Bureau in Korea, in 1928 a tiger killed one human, whereas leopards killed three, wild boars four and wolf packs killed 48. .

An ancient Udege legend says that somewhere deep in the forest, there is a sacred mountain and that all Amur tigers go to the top of that mountain to meet the end of their days there. Scientists have been investigating this legend for many years but indigenous inhabitants of the Far East refuse to disclose their secrets and disturb the spirit of the master of Taiga even under pain of death. They see the Amur not as a predator, but as a deity to be worshipped and feared.

New Year's Resolutions



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Last year I did some rotten things, this year I will be better.
Here are some resolutions I will follow to the letter.

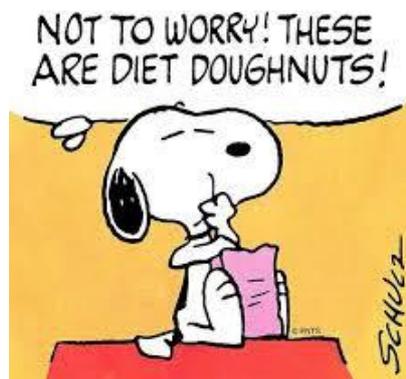
I won't make dumb excuses when my homework isn't done,
When the truth is that I did not work, cause I was having fun

I won't fly paper airplanes when the teacher isn't looking,
I won't sneak in the kitchen to taste what they are cooking.

I will not twist the silverware to see how far it bends,
I will not pinch the chocolate bars from lunch bags of my friends.

I will not skateboard down the hall or skateboard down the stairs.
I won't run over teachers and I won't crash into chairs

I will not do these rotten things. My heart is full of sorrow.
But I have got some brand new tricks to try in school tomorrow.



Sudokus

January puzzles

1								
	4	2				5	1	
			9	1			7	
9		4		3		2		
7			1	5		3		
5		9		2	1	4		
4	2				6	8		
			8				5	

2	5	8						6
			6	1				
3		5		9				
		2				8		
		4						
9						3		7
				4	1	7		
	6							5
	7		5		2			

7			3				4	
	8			1				
9			4					
				3	9	6	1	
	1	7				3		
			8	7				2
4	8							3
	6					5		9

December solutions

9	3	5	8	1	2	6	7	4
7	2	6	5	4	9	3	8	1
1	4	8	6	7	3	9	2	5
2	5	1	7	8	6	4	9	3
8	6	7	3	9	4	5	1	2
3	9	4	1	2	5	7	6	8
6	8	3	9	5	1	2	4	7
4	1	9	2	3	7	8	5	6
5	7	2	4	6	8	1	3	9

1	3	5	4	9	8	7	2	6
7	6	8	3	1	2	5	4	9
4	9	2	5	6	7	1	8	3
9	5	3	1	2	4	6	7	8
2	1	6	7	8	9	3	5	4
8	4	7	6	3	5	9	1	2
3	7	9	8	4	1	2	6	5
5	2	4	9	7	6	8	3	1
6	8	1	2	5	3	4	9	7

5	6	2	3	7	9	4	8	1
7	3	8	6	4	1	5	9	2
1	4	9	2	5	8	3	7	6
9	1	4	7	2	6	8	3	5
8	5	7	1	3	4	2	6	9
3	2	6	8	9	5	7	1	4
6	7	1	4	8	2	9	5	3
2	9	3	5	1	7	6	4	8
4	8	5	9	6	3	1	2	7

January Quiz

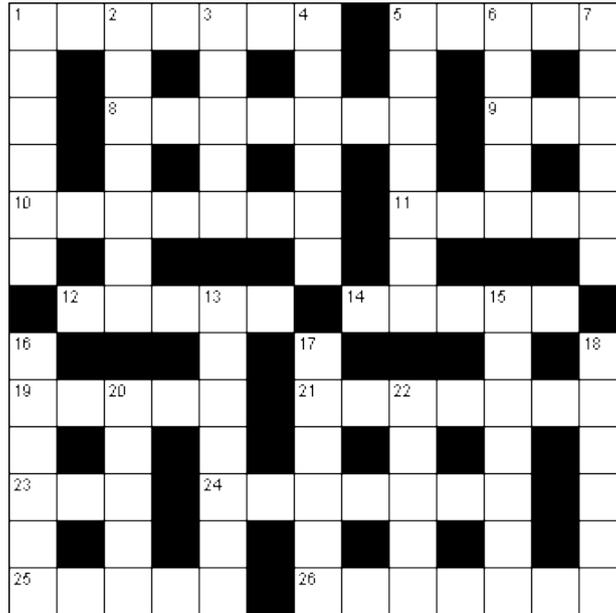


1. What's the biggest animal in the world?
2. How many times has Andy Murray won Wimbledon playing singles?
3. Which country is brie cheese originally from?
4. In what franchise would you find the character Katniss Everdeen?
5. What year was Heinz established?
6. What is the capital of Iceland?
7. What does IPA stand for?
8. Who painted the Mona Lisa?
9. Which planet is closest to the sun?
10. What is Queen Elizabeth II's surname?
11. Who plays Delboy Trotter in *Only Fools And Horses*?
12. What is the largest country in the world?
13. How many valves does the heart have?
14. In *Harry Potter*, what is the name of The Weasley's house?
15. Typically, what four ingredients go into a cosmopolitan cocktail?

December's answers

1. Special Executive for Counter-intelligence, Terrorism, Revenge, Extortion.
2. Four (Bernard Lee, Robert Brown, Judi Dench and Ralph Fiennes);
3. 2006 (Casino Royale)
4. Francisco Scaramanga
5. Tina Turner
6. Alexander Fleming
7. George III
8. York, Lancaster
9. Catherine Parr
10. 1999
11. Elizabeth Tower
12. Israel
13. Green
14. 1973
15. Hawaii

January Crossword



Across

1. Requested the presence of someone (7); 5. Prominent (5); 8. Closest (7);
 9. Compete for something (3); 10. Expressed mirth (7); 11. Scope (5); 12. Started (5);
 14. Mentally responsive (5); 19. Inexpensive (5); 21. Imaginary creature (7);
 23. Pasture (3); 24. Bulwark (7); 25. Pay out (5); 26. Proposition deducible from
 basic postulates (7)

Down

1. Models of excellence (6); 2. Speculation (7); 3. Impart skills or knowledge (5)
 4. Is afraid of (6); 5. Actual (7); 6. Corvine bird (5); 7. Cricket team (6); 13. Had a lofty
 goal (7); 15. Adult male chicken (7); 16. Weighing machine (6); 17. Pinnacle (6);
 18. Apprise (6); 20. Efface (5); 22. Visual representation (5)

December solution



Useful Information

Patron: Mr Martin Shearman CVO, HM Ambassador to Belgium
Committee for 2020/2021:

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Webmaster: brian.paul.edwards@gmail.com ABC A Website: www.abca-antwerp.be e-mail address: ABC A_Antwerp@yahoo.co	ABC A recognizes the diversity of belief in contemporary British society and accordingly directs members wanting to contact other faith groups to the “Gids Levensbeschouwingen Antwerpen”/Multifaith Antwerp guide, published by the Stad Antwerpen. Information on www.antwerpen.be -tel 03 338 3115.	

ABC A Bank Account number is BE11 2200 3243 8048.

Annual subscription: Single: € 20, Double: € 34. Donations towards our benevolent work are welcome.

Please feel free to submit items for inclusion in the newsletter, such as poems you particularly like, anecdotes, stories about Antwerp, hints, suggestions. **Items must be submitted to the editor by the 20th of the month for inclusion in the next edition.**

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