



ANTWERP BRITISH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION vzw

Maandelijkse Newsletter –januari 2023

Verschijnt niet in juli

Verantwoordelijk uitgever:

Mary Ann Marinus, Frankrijklei 94/b14-15, 2000 Antwerpen

Afgiftekantoor 2000 Antwerpen 1

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CONTENTS

<i>Dates for your diary</i>	2	<i>New Year Crown Cake</i>	8
<i>From our Patron</i>	3	<i>Snow Dogs</i>	9
<i>Membership matters</i>	4	<i>Treasure Island.</i>	10
<i>Get Well Soon</i>	4	<i>11 January 1569</i>	11
<i>Subscriptions reminder</i>	4	<i>New Year Resolutions</i>	12
<i>Subscriptions paid</i>	4	<i>Sudokus</i>	13
<i>January Brunch</i>	5	<i>January Quiz</i>	14
<i>Advance Notice</i>	6	<i>January Crossword</i>	15
<i>The Grapes of Luck</i>	7	<i>Useful Information</i>	16

Dates for your diary



ABCA events in **BOLD** type

2023	Happy New Year !
JAN	
	Rivierenhof: Winter walks
11th	The Arts Society, Brussels - "Alfred Hitchcock's London"
	MAS : new expo "Thuis!" since December 22
22nd	ABCA New Year brunch at KasteelRivierenhof
25th	ABCA New Year's drinks
26th	Sportpaleis : Robbie Williams in concert
FEB	
3rd	Roma: an evening with Randy Newman
18th	ABCA Visit to de Koninck brewery and dinner

ABCA Antwerp British Community Association:
For payments, call Margaret du Maine on 03 651 32 24
Open Evenings: The Highlander, Stadswaag 21, 03 226 91 80

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From our Patron



Dear Members,

2022 was a momentous year. We celebrated Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in May and in September mourned her passing.

We emerged, thankfully, from Covid and reconnected in person.

War returned to Europe with Russia's brutal invasion of Ukraine. Energy prices and economic pressures caused hardship.

There was also much to treasure. My personal highlights include visits to Antwerp for the reopening of the magnificently refurbished Stadhuis and for the liberation commemorations organised by the city and the Royal British Legion in September.

I look forward to being back in Antwerp in 2023 and would like to wish all members of the Antwerp British Community Association a very happy New Year.

Best wishes,

Martin Shearman
United Kingdom Ambassador to Belgium

Membership matters



Get Well Soon

Martje Dequinze
and
Mark Tulfer

are both recovering from an operation
We wish them both a speedy and complete recovery.

Subscriptions reminder

The subscription for 2022 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

Every month we publish a list of those who have already paid: the lists only cover the latest month, so the names are not repeated every time.

Subscriptions paid ***to 20th December***

Bill & Jill Burgum-Barnard
Mark Coenen
Magda Meeues
Annie Van Daele
Chris Van Der Kaa
Fred & Gonda Vennen-Bal

January Brunch



In a change of venue the New Year Brunch will not be held at the Bourla in January but in the beautiful surroundings of Rivierenhof castle.

During the middle ages, the grounds that now hold the Rivierenhof Castle were a lush green farm land in the outskirts of the city. The farm land known as Hooftvunder soon grew to become the largest farm in the region. While the turn of the century saw a part of the farm sold to the Stercks, a wealthy banker family, the other part of it was purchased by yet another wealthy merchant who built a gorgeous country house and an orchard.

Unlike other castles in Antwerp, the Sterckshof castle was not destroyed during the wars of the 16th and 17th centuries, but it got neglected after a battle between heirs in the 17th century. In 1693 the Sterckshof castle was owned by the Christian order the Jesuits of Lier, but again it was sold in 1778 to banker Jan Baptist Cogels, which merged the castle grounds with the neighbouring Ter Rivieren estate.

As years passed by, the land was purchased by the Cogel Family who built, in place of the country house, an elaborate and opulent castle that stands to this day. Around this Castle was maintained a beautiful garden, which has now become the largest park in Antwerp.

So come and brunch in style on January 22, 2023, at 11.30am. Cost is €25 pp for members and €27pp for non-members, be advised this is non-refundable, to the ABCA Bank Account - the number is BE11 2200 3243 8048.



Advance Notice Valentine



The Valentine outing on February 18th will be a guided tour of the newly renovated Brewery de Koninck followed by dinner at the Merode brasserie, just a short walk from the brewery.

The price for the tour of the brewery is €14 pp and the price for the dinner is €40 for members and €42 for non-members. More information in the next newsletter.

Thought for the month

“JANUARY, The first month of the year, A perfect time to start all over again, Changing energies and deserting old moods, New beginnings, new attitudes.”- Charmaine J. Forde

The Grapes of Luck



The **Twelve Grapes festival** ("the twelve grapes of luck") is a Spanish tradition that consists of eating a grape with each strike of the clock that heralds in the New Year at midnight, December 31st. Each grape represents a month of the coming year.

This tradition dates back to at least 1895. Vine growers in Alicante spread this custom to better sell huge numbers of grapes from an excellent harvest. Traditionally eating the Twelve Grapes leads to a year of good luck and prosperity. In some areas, this practice was also believed to ward off witches and evil in general, although today it is mostly followed as a tradition to celebrate and welcome in the New Year.

There are two types of places where people gather to eat the grapes: at home with family members after the *Old Year* dinner, or in the main squares around the country, with the most famous being the Puerta del Sol in Madrid (where this tradition started). The

The Twelve Grapes have also been adopted in places with broad cultural links to Spain and Latin American countries, as well as Hispanic communities in countries such as the United States. The Philippines has adopted the tradition as well (sometimes replacing the grapes by segments of other fruits such as oranges or watermelon). This tradition is part of Hispanic Christmas festivities.

feliz año nuevo

New Year Crown Cake



Kransekake is a traditional Danish and Norwegian dessert made of cake rings that are layered in concentric rings to form a cone-shaped cake. The layers are "glued" together with sugary icing. Made with ground almonds, egg whites, and confectioners' sugar, kransekake has a light texture and nutty flavour that's impossible to resist. **The icing in this recipe contains raw egg which is not suitable for pregnant women, young children, the elderly, and the infirm..**

Ingredients

- 4 $\frac{1}{3}$ cups sifted confectioners' sugar
- 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups finely ground blanched almonds
- 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups finely ground unblanched almonds
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 3 egg whites
-

Instructions:

- Preheat the oven to 200 degrees C. Line 2 baking sheets with parchment paper.
- Combine confectioners' sugar, ground almonds, and baking powder in a large bowl. Mix in egg whites, one at a time, to form a firm dough. Knead dough for 2 minutes until it holds together and doesn't fall apart easily.
- Roll dough into 18 ropes the thickness of your index finger, each rope a little longer than the next. Shape each rope into a ring. Arrange rings on the prepared baking sheets.
- Bake in the preheated oven until golden brown for about 10 minutes. Watch smaller rings carefully, as they may finish baking before the larger ones. Let rings cool completely on baking sheets.
- To make the icing: whisk egg white until foamy. Gradually whisk in confectioners' sugar, a little at a time, until thickened; stir in lemon juice and vanilla extract. Pour icing into a piping bag fitted with a small tip.
- Pipe a thin ring of icing onto the base of the largest ring and adhere it to a serving plate. Pipe icing in a zig-zag pattern over the ring. Stack remaining cake rings on top, from largest to smallest, piping icing in a zig-zag pattern between each ring. Set aside to allow icing to set before serving.

Snow Dogs



Husky is a general term for a dog used in the polar regions, primarily and specifically for work as a sled dog. It refers to a traditional northern type of animal, notable for its cold-weather tolerance and overall hardiness. Modern racing huskies that maintain arctic breed traits (also known as Alaskan huskies), represent an ever-changing crossbreed of the fastest dogs. Huskies have continued to be used in sled-dog racing, as well as expedition and trek style tour businesses, and also as a means of essential transportation in rural communities. The term "husky" first came into usage in the mid to late 1700s. At this time, "Esquimaux" or "Eskimo" was a common term for pre-Columbian Arctic inhabitants of North America

Huskies are energetic and athletic. They are distinguished by their hardiness and cold-weather tolerance. Huskies typically have a thick double coat that may come in a variety of colours. The double coat generally protects huskies against harsh winters and, contrary to what most believe, they can survive in hotter climates.

The Siberian Husky is a descendant of Chukotka sled dogs bred and used by the native Chukchi people of Siberia, a people of Paleosiberian origin, around 2000 BC. The dogs were imported to Alaska in the early 1900s. Throughout the 1910s they were used as working dogs and racing sled dogs in Alaska. Siberian Huskies have been selectively bred for both appearance and pulling ability. It has been said that if you give husky sled dogs the wrong instructions they will ignore them and continue to navigate correctly.



A black and white Siberian Husky

Treasure Island.



Dead Chest Island as viewed from Deadman's Bay, Peter Island

The BATS pantomime to be staged in February is **Treasure Island**. The novel **Treasure Island**, originally titled **The Sea Cook: A Story for Boys**, is an adventure novel by Scottish author Robert Louis Stevenson, telling a story of "buccaneers and buried gold". And screeching parrots. It is considered a coming-of-age story and is noted for its atmosphere, characters, and action. It has since become one of the most often dramatized and adapted novels of all time..

Real pirates and piracy

Historian Luis Junco suggests that **Treasure Island** is a combination of the story of the murder of **Captain George Glas** on board the **Earl of Sandwich** in 1765 and the taking of the ship **Walrus** off the island of **La Graciosa** near **Tenerife**. The pirates of **La Graciosa** buried their treasure there, and were subsequently all killed in a bloody battle with the British navy; the treasure was never recovered.

In his book **Pirates of the Carraigin**, David Kelly deals with the piracy and murder of **Captain Glas** and others on board a ship travelling from **Tenerife** to **London**, by the Ship's **Cook** and his gang. The perpetrators of this crime also buried the considerable treasure they had stolen but most of it was later recovered. The pirates were all executed in **Dublin** in 1766. In his research, Kelly showed that **Stevenson** was a neighbour of the named victim in **Edinburgh**, and so was aware from an early age of these events, which had been a scandal at the time.



The Admiral Benbow in Penzance, reportedly an inspiration for Stevenson's Inn in Treasure Island.

11 January 1569



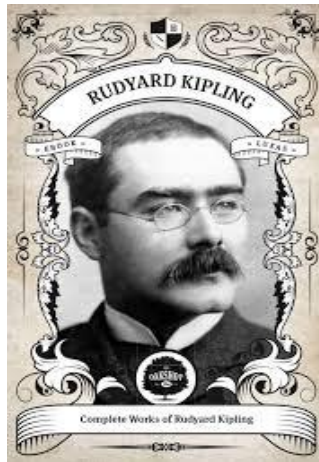
On this date Queen Elizabeth I held England's First Official Lottery

During the reign of Queen Elizabeth I, the first ever state lottery was held in England. Tickets could be purchased at the West Door of St. Paul's Cathedral in London. The idea of using a state lottery to raise money for infrastructure and other government projects was not new. While one of the first recorded lotteries was **held in 1446 by the widow of Flemish painter Jan van Eyck**, the state lottery dates back to ancient civilizations such as the Roman Empire and China's Han dynasty, which used money raised by a type of lottery called "Keno" to fund the building of the Great Wall. During the Elizabethan era, the idea of using lottery money instead of taxes to fund government projects took hold in Europe once again.

A little more than a century after the van Eyck Lottery, Queen Elizabeth I was looking for a way to raise money for several large public projects, in particular the rebuilding of ports and building new ships for the royal fleet. At the time, in 1567, she had two choices: levy a new tax on her citizens or hold a lottery. The Queen decided to go with the latter and established England's first State Lottery. This lottery was different in many ways from the modern ones partly because of the cost of a ticket. The Queen's lottery targeted the upper class—indeed, the majority of English citizens in the mid-16th century wouldn't have been able to afford the 10 shillings price per ticket and the pool was limited to 400,000 tickets. The lucky winner wouldn't just receive £5,000 in cash, but also goods like plate, tapestries and "good linen cloth."

To sweeten the deal even further, Queen Elizabeth announced that all participants would be granted immunity from arrest, so long as the crime wasn't piracy, murder, felonies, or treason. While the first winner's name has been lost to the history books, the Queen's raffle helped set the stage for the modern-day lottery system.

New Year Resolutions



I am resolved—throughout the year
 To lay my vices on the shelf;
 A godly, sober course to steer
And love my neighbours as myself –
 Excepting always two or three
 Whom I detest as they hate me

I am resolved – that whist is low
 Especially with cards like mine
 It guts a healthy bank-book so
These earthly pleasures I resign,
Except – and here I see no sin –
When asked by others to “cut in”.

I am resolved to sell my horses.
They cannot stay, they will not go,
 They lead me into evil courses
Wherefore I mean to part with – No!
 Cut that resolution – I’ll
 Try Jilt tomorrow on the mile

I am resolved that vows like these,
Though lightly made, are hard to keep;
Wherefore I’ll take them by degrees,
Lest my backslidings make me weep.
One vow a year will see me through;
And I’ll begin with Number Two

Abridged – Rudyard Kipling

Sudokus

January puzzles

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

December solutions

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

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

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

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

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

January Quiz

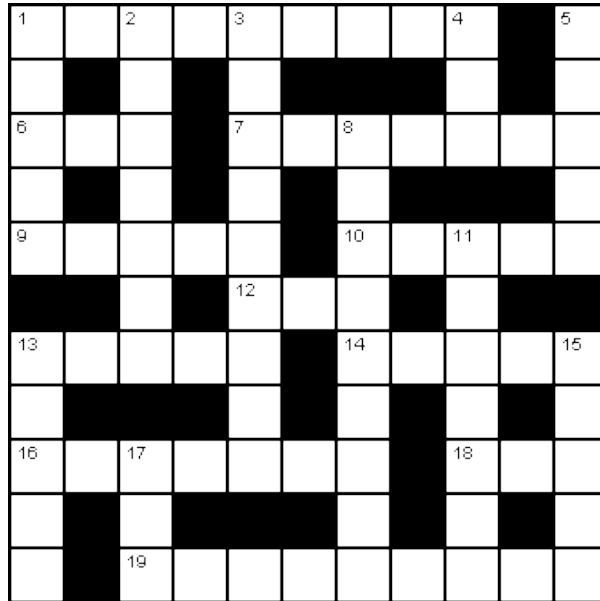


1. Name all five Brontë sisters.
2. Which Stephen King novel takes place mostly in the fictional Overlook Hotel?
3. What do Lord of the Rings author J.R.R. Tolkien's initials stand for?
4. What is the best-selling novel of all time?
5. Who authored The Hunger Games book series?
6. In Pride and Prejudice, who does Jane Bennet marry?
7. Name all four March sisters in Louisa May Alcott's Little Women.
8. Who is the current Poet Laureate?
9. What is the name of Harper Lee's second novel, published in 2015?
10. In The Great Gatsby, which Long Island village does Jay Gatsby live in?
11. Which two authors won the Booker Prize in 2019?
12. What is the name of the fourth book in the Harry Potter series?
13. I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings is the autobiography of which American writer and poet?
14. Which country is Aesop's Fables believed to originate from?
15. Who wrote The Picture of Dorian Gray?

December Answers

1. Facebook; 2. Sheffield; 3. Horse; 4. Central Intelligence Agency; 5. Avocado; 6. Bank of England. 7. Stephen King; 8. Robert Baden-Powell; 9. Scotland 10. Four, they are Eastern, Central, Mountain and Pacific; 11. Lake Superior; 12. Zloty; 13. Irvine Welsh; 14. Earth; 15. National Geographic

January Crossword



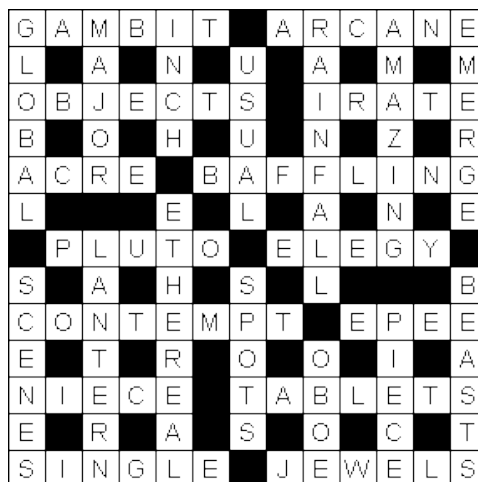
Across

1. Eternal (9); 6. Water barrier (3); 7. Precious gem (7); 9. Mistake (5); 10. One of the senses (5); 12. Expert (3); 13. Beer mug (5); 14. Score (5); 16. Very old (7); 19. Stage name (9)

Down

1. Military chaplain (5); 2. Compunction (7); 3. Survival (9); 4. Fifth sign of the zodiac (3)
 5. Emblem (5); 8. Tried (9); 11. Physician (7); 13. Frighten (5); 15. Tempest (5);
 17. Drinking vessel (3)

December Solution



Useful Information

Patron: Mr. Martin Shearman CVO, HM Ambassador to Belgium

Committee for 2022/2023

Contact via the ABCA e-mail - ABCA_Antwerp@yahoo.com

ABCA Website www.abca-antwerp.be

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Committee Member

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ABCA - Annual subscription

due 1stQuarter of the New Year: Single: € 20, Double: € 34.

ABCA Bank Account number isBE11 2200 3243 8048

Benevolent Matters

Dora Jolly

Donations towards our benevolent work are welcome.

Anglican Church, St Boniface Church, 2018 Antwerpen, tel: 03 239 33 39

ABCA 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

Newsletter

Editor: Madeleine Richardson

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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1/8 page: € 6.50 per issue/ ¼ page: € 11 per issue

½ page: € 16.50 per issue 1 page: € 30 per issue

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