



ANTWERP BRITISH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION *vzw*

Maandelijkse Newsletter – oktober 2021

Verschijnt niet in juli

Verantwoordelijk uitgever:

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Dates for your diary



ABCA events in **BOLD** type

23rd October	ABCA: Centenary reception at Felix Pakhuis
27th October	ABCA open evening at the Highlander, Stadswaag

Advance Notice :

14th November	ABCA : Antwerp Challenge Quiz at the Highlander
12th December	ABCA : Christmas lunch at the Basiliek hotel
22nd December	ABCA : mince pies & mulled wine at the Open Evening at the Highlander

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 Chairman

Dear Members,

The days have started drawing in – time to prepare for autumn and sadly put all the summer stuff away for another year.

Soon it's Poppy time again. There is a Poppy collection box at the Highlander, as well as at a number of other locations in Antwerp.

Remember to put your clocks back at the end of October.

Look after yourselves and hope to see you soon,

See you soon,

Mary Ann Marinus
Chairman

Thought for the month

*When I was young, I used to admire intelligent people;
as I grow older, I admire kind people.*

Abraham Joshua Heschel

Membership Matters



Change of phone number

Mabel Baker, Secretary

No longer has a landline, her GSM number is 0496 067 139

ABCA Centenary Plus One

100 Years of ABCA which should have been celebrated in April in 2020 will finally take place **on Saturday, October 23.**

The first General Meeting was held in Antwerp on October 21, 1920. ABCA at that time was a very much more structured society with a number of different sections within the club. According to the first (handwritten) minutes the Object of the Meeting was “To consider the election of the Standing Committee of the British Colony.” “The Committee would also render service to the Community in considering the problems connected with the well-being of the younger section, especially in connection with sports.”

Sections were: • Shipping Section • Industrial & Commercial Section • Banking Section • Sports Section There were also: • Representing Consulate Staff • Ex- Officio Members A decision was made to appoint an Assistant Secretary at a salary to be agreed. The Consul General kindly offered to put a room at the office of Consul General at the disposal of the Committee which was accepted with thanks.

For the past hundred and one years ABCA has been a great charitable and social club, not just for British expatriates but also for its Belgian members.

HAPPY BELATED BIRTHDAY ABCA



ABCA's Centenary Reception

VENUE: Stadhuis @ "Felix Pakhuis",
Brouwersvliet
2000 Antwerpen

DATE: Saturday, 23rd October 2021

TIME: 14:30 – 16:00

COST: €6 for members
€15 for non-members
(members will be given priority)

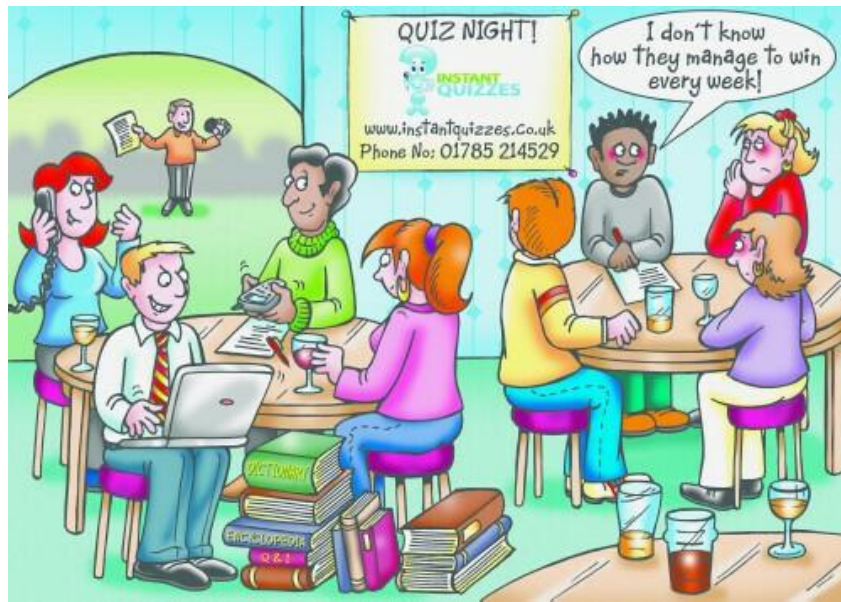
For security reasons your attendance is to be registered no later than 14th October 2021.

Please register by e-mail or phone to **Mabel Baker, Secretary**
Details: mabel1baker@gmail.com ,or tel n°: 0496 067 139

Registration details below

1. ABCA members: name and telephone number.
2. For non-members: name, telephone number and address.
3. **AND credit ABCA account BE11 2200 3243 8048 with the appropriate amount, mention "*anniversary reception xx members and xx non-members*", by 14th Oct. 2021.**

The Antwerp Challenge Quiz



Admit it - you've all been dying to show off your general knowledge and this will be the first Antwerp Challenge Quiz for two years. So brush up on your Shakespeare or whatever and line up at for the annual Pub Quiz in the cosy atmosphere of the **Highlander pub**. As usual there will be prizes for the winners while the losers can console themselves with a glass of wine or three. Spectators are more than welcome (no entry fee required) as long as they promise not to give their team any hints, and keep quiet at really serious moments such as when a tie breaker is being decided. Who can enter? Anyone who can put a team together, 4 members per team. And when you've put your team together, let us know so that we're ready with the right number of tables, pencils and paper.... and questions. Contact Mary Ann on 0486 646 941 (evenings), or mail at maryann.marinus@hotmail.com.

Date: November 14th at 2,30pm

Advance Notice:



Christmas Lunch (doesn't time fly?) will be held at the ever-popular Basiliek Hotel in Edegem on Sunday, **December 12**. More details in November's newsletter.

New Kid on the Block



Due to Covid the English-speaking theatre has suffered badly since March 2020. Enter **The Bridge** in Brussels

The Bridge Productions ASBL is a not-for-profit organisation established in February 2021 by Edward McMillan and Dot Zacharias - two Brits living in Brussels with solid experience in theatre-making and running a business. Edward and Dot are supported by a team of enthusiastic volunteers.

The Bridge is an **inclusive, sustainable** and **locally-integrated** theatre, connecting multilingual Brussels to English-language talent. It will use the power of theatre to promote social cohesion and progressive values. The Bridge will produce and receive thought-provoking and relevant plays that respond inter-culturally to the diverse Brussels populace.

The Bridge is more than just a venue and a producing house. It will interact with the local community through a learning and participation programme, linking **workshops** in schools and in the community with productions to introduce children and adults to English-language theatre. The Bridge will also provide **performing arts classes**.

The theatre will be complemented by a Cafe and Bar. Members of the public will be welcome to come in and enjoy the public bookcase or temporary art collection. The Bar will be able to transform into a casual live music venue during the evening for local upcoming musicians. Workshops are planned as well as a show in the beautiful Vaudeville Theatre (Galeries de la Reine) in November. Anyone can sign in for an audition. More information on Twitter: **The Bridge, Brussels @thebridge_bxl**

The Feralia



In ancient Rome, when a person died, the rites and rituals surrounding the departed were not to help them on their way to the after-life – but to keep them well away from the land of the living. For death polluted. The dead were buried outside city walls, in their own cities. After a funeral, a family was impure until they had ritually cleansed both themselves and their homes. The Romans held their dead in great respect. They were *di manes*, the ‘good’ dead, honoured ancestors never to be forgotten. As such, it was customary for living relatives to visit family graves on the deceased’s birthday, to celebrate the day and remember the life of the departed loved one. However, Roman society as a whole also honoured the dead publicly, during two months of the year.

During this eight-day festival, which was closed by a one-day festival known as the *Feralia*, life paused while families observed the rites of remembrance for their ancestors. Feralia celebrated the Manes (Roman spirits of the dead, particularly the souls of deceased individuals). Roman citizens were instructed to bring offerings to the tombs of their dead ancestors which consisted of at least "an arrangement of wreaths, a sprinkling of grain and a bit of salt, bread soaked in wine and violets scattered about."

Ovid tells of a time when Romans, in the midst of war, neglected Feralia, which prompted the spirits of the departed to rise from their graves in anger, howling and roaming the streets. After this event, tribute to the tombs were then made and the ghastly hauntings ceased. To indicate public mourning, marriages of any kind were prohibited on the Feralia, and Ovid urged mothers, brides, and widows to refrain from lighting their wedding torches. Magistrates stopped wearing their insignia and any worship of the gods was prohibited as it "should be hidden behind closed temple doors; no incense on the altar, no fire on the hearth."

Terror At Sea

Some of you may have seen the recent BBC series **The Terror**, on the ill-fated Arctic expedition led by Captain Sir John Franklin that departed from England in 1845 aboard two ships, HMS *Erebus* and HMS *Terror* during which all crew members died. The series was given an added supernatural twist with a lurking snow monster ready to tear crew members to pieces.

Belgium had its own nightmare at sea. The **Belgian Antarctic Expedition** of 1897–1899 was the first to winter in the Antarctic region. Led by Adrien de Gerlache de Gomery aboard the RV *Belgica*, it was the first Belgian Antarctic expedition and is considered the first expedition of the Heroic Age of Antarctic Exploration. Among its members were Frederick Cook and Roald Amundsen, explorers who would later attempt the respective conquests of the North and South Poles. In 1896 de Gomery purchased the Norwegian whaler *Patria*, which, following an extensive refit, he renamed *Belgica*. With a multinational crew the *Belgica* set sail from Antwerp on 16 August 1897. After charting and naming several islands from some twenty separate landings, the expedition crossed the Antarctic Circle on 15 February. However the expedition became trapped in the ice of the Bellinghousen Sea, near Peter I Island. Despite the crew's efforts to free *Belgica*, they quickly realised that they would be trapped for the duration of the Antarctic winter. There was a shortage of food, penguins and seals were hunted and their meat stored before the onset of winter. On 21 March 1898, Cook wrote: "We are imprisoned in an endless sea of ice"... Time weighs heavily upon us as the darkness slowly advances. Several weeks later, on 17 May, the perpetual darkness of polar night set in, and lasted until 23 July.

Several months of severe illness and hardship followed. By January 1899, *Belgica* was still trapped and another winter in the ice loomed. Open water was visible about half a mile away and trenches were cut to the water to allow *Belgica* to escape the ice. Finally, on 15 February, the crew managed to start slowly down the channel they had cleared. It took nearly a month to cover seven miles and clear the ice (using explosives). The expedition returned to Antwerp on 5 November 1899. Though the circumstances were severe, it had nevertheless managed to collect scientific data, including a full year of meteorological observations. This extraordinary feat of navigation and endurance is brought to life in American author, Julian Sancton's book **"Madhouse at the End of the Earth"** which reads like a thriller and has received rave reviews. A perfect book as the nights get darker and gales lash at the windows. Available from Amazon.co.uk



Haunted Belgium



It's not just the British Isles that resound to the clanking of ghostly chains in ancient castles. Belgium also has its share of haunting.

The Sonian Forest dates back to the early Middle Ages and was a popular hunting ground.

The Eyes In The Forest - *Deogen* is a strange fog that hovers in the Sonian forest, near Brussels. The fog has been described as greenish, but also as grey, orange or white. What's consistent in the descriptions are small, shadowy figures in the fog, and the sound of laughing children. The name *Deogen* is a misspelling from the original name *De Ogen*, which literally translates to 'the eyes'. It's called 'the eyes' because there is always 'something large' in the fog that stares at you. There have been reports of figures near the forest that dart in front of cars, and a bloody little handprint on the car window, that leaves as soon as the fog is gone.

Bruges' Legendary Haunted House - In 1498 in Bruges, there used to be a nunnery near the river Reie, in the house Den Noodt Gods. On the opposite side of the river, there was an Augustinian monastery. A monk from the monastery had fallen in love with a young nun named Hortence Dupont. When he found out there was an old tunnel that connected their two buildings, he used this to secretly visit her.

When Hortence tried to run away, the rejected monk stabbed her and buried her body. Their ghosts now wander through Den Noodt Gods. Some nights, Hortence appears as a snowy white figure. On other nights, the monk appears with a grim face. The story says the monk has been looking for Hortence to ask her forgiveness, but can never find her. Both ghosts disappear at midnight.

Trick or Treat?

We Bought a Lot of Candy Bars

We bought a lot of candy bars.
We thought it would be neat
to have a ton for all the kids
who came to trick-or-treat.

We bought them early in the month
when they were all on sale.
We dragged the bags in from the car
and set them on the scale.

The candy weighed a hundred pounds!
I'm sure we got enough.
In fact, we may have had too much
of all that yummy stuff.

It wouldn't hurt to just eat one,
or two, or three, or four.
We bought so much that we could
even eat a dozen more.

So every day we had a few;
a minuscule amount.
How many? I can't say for sure.
I wasn't keeping count.



Our pile grew smaller every day
by ten, fifteen, or twenty.
But, still, it didn't matter.
We were certain we had plenty.

When Halloween arrived we checked
the candy situation,
and found that we had given in
to way too much temptation.

A single bar was all we had.
We'd eaten all the rest.
So, if our lights are off tonight,
I think that's for the best.

— Kenn Nesbitt



Sudokus

October puzzles

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

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

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

September solutions

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

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

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

October Quiz

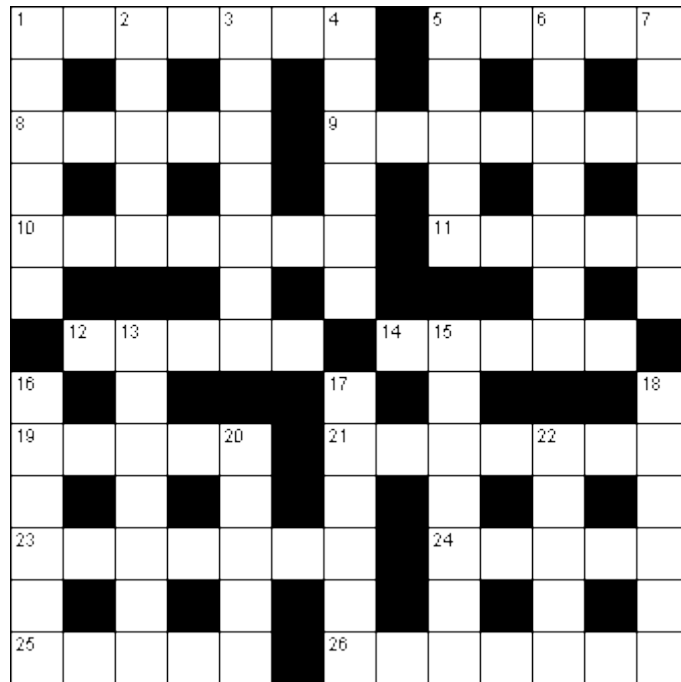


1. On which date does Hallowe'en fall?
2. What is the word Hallowe'en an abbreviation of?
3. What is a group of witches called?
4. What would you traditionally bob for at Hallowe'en parties?
5. Where did bobbing for apples originate?
6. What is the traditional name for a pumpkin with a face carved into it, when it is illuminated from within by a candle?
7. What were Jack O'Lanterns carved from before pumpkins were used?
8. Which song was a 1973 hit for Bobby "Boris" Pickett and the Crypt-Kickers?
9. Where do real vampire bats live?
10. List the signs that someone's a werewolf.
11. What is the traditional name for Herne the Hunter's shrieking band of witches, goblins and ghosts who ride through the skies on Hallowe'en?
12. What does the old English word "Hallow" mean?
13. By what name is midnight also known?
14. Who wrote the novel called "The Witching Hour"?
15. Name Anne Rice's famous blond, French vampire.

September Answers

1. Sting; 2. 88; 3. The tongue; 4. Supersonic; 5. Martin Peters; 6. Emily, Elizabeth, Charlotte, Anne and Maria; 7. The Shining; 8. John Ronald Reuel; 9. Don Quixote; 10. Suzanne Collins; 11. Saturn; 12. Leaf; 13. 118; 14. Ear; 15. 3

October Crossword



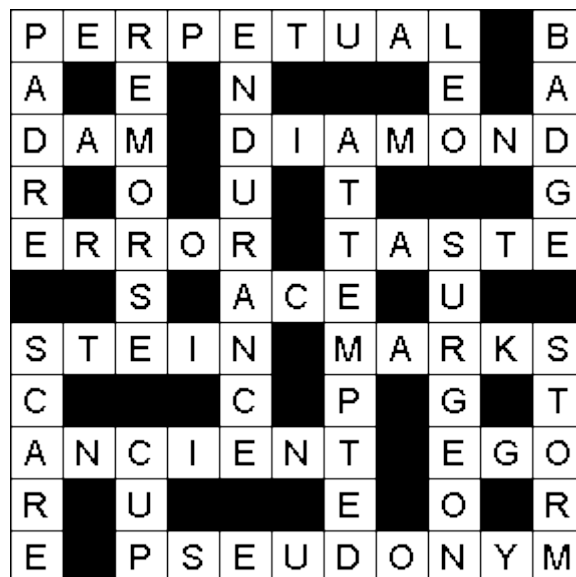
Across

1. Buccaneers (7); 5. African equine (5); 8. Serious (5); 9. Disregarded (7); 10. Abhorrent (7)
 11. Beer mug (5); 12. Intense (5); 14. Thicket (5); 19. Regular hexahedrons (5);
 21. Residence (7); 23. Greed (7); 24. Deportation (5); 25. Choose (5); 26. Journeyman (7)

Down

1. Rector (6); 2. Kind of puzzle (5); 3. Deluge (7); 4. Grabbed (6); 5. Regions (5);
 6. Edges (7); 7. Fervent (6); 13. Vegetable (7); 15. Remnant (7); 16. Abrasion (6);
 17. Photographic equipment (6); 18. Aft (6); 20. Change position (5); 22. Ways out (5)

September Solution



Useful Information

Patron: Mr Martin Shearman CVO, HM Ambassador to Belgium
Committee for 2021-2022 :

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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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