



ANTWERP BRITISH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION vzw

Maandelijkse Newsletter –februari 2023

Verschijnt niet in juli

Verantwoordelijk uitgever:

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CONTENTS

<i>Dates for your diary</i>	2	<i>Vermeer Exhibition</i>	9
<i>From our Chairman</i>	3	<i>Sea Wolves</i>	10
<i>Membership matters</i>	4	<i>Oysters</i>	11
<i>Subscriptions reminder</i>	4	<i>Mediaeval Valentine</i>	12
<i>Subscriptions paid</i>	4	<i>Sudokus</i>	13
<i>Valentine Outing on 18th Feb.</i>	5	<i>February Quiz</i>	14
<i>The Origin of Beer</i>	6	<i>February Crossword</i>	15
<i>Advance Notice</i>	7	<i>Useful Information</i>	16
<i>The English Gardener</i>	8		

Dates for your diary



ABCA events in **BOLD** type

FEB	
3rd	Roma: an evening with Randy Newman
16th	Fever "Candlelight Concert", zaal Athenai, Antwerp
18th	ABCA Visit to de Koninck brewery and dinner
18th-19th	BATS pantomime "Treasure Island"
22nd	ABCA : no open evening !
MARCH	
8th	International Women's Day
26th	ABCA guided visit to Town Hall
29th	ABCA open evening
APRIL	
9th	Easter Sunday
16th	ABCA Easter lunch
26th	ABCA AGM & open evening

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,

Thankfully this latest cold spell we've just had seems to have subsided – and with a bit of luck most of us can just sit out the rest of the Winter until Spring comes.

To all our members sick at home or in hospital – get well soon and keep in touch.

The outing this month is a guided tour of De Koninck brewery, what a treat.

Keep warm,

With best wishes,

Mary Ann Marinus
Chairman

Thought for the month

February is for doers...It is the month of lasting change....”

Marc Parent

Membership matters



As the Highlander is closed the second half of February there will be no open evening on the 22nd. George and Elaine are having a well-deserved rest and we wish them a happy holiday.

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

From 20 December 2022 to 20 January 2023

Peter & Hilde Best-Vandendungen
Bob & Mary Ann Chambers-Marinus
Ivo & Julie Daniels-Thompson
Godelieve Dijkers-Larsen
Suzanne & Rod Finucane-Margretts
Heather Hartung
Harry Lovett

Madeleine Richardson
Dina & Ernest Saeys-Roelants
Robert S. Thompson
Marc & Rosalind Tulfer-Athernought
Jack Van Sprang
Roger Wils

Valentine Outing on 18th Feb.



The Valentine outing on February 18th will be a guided tour (in English) of the newly renovated Brewery de Koninck followed by dinner at the Merode brasserie, just a short walk from the brewery. We start at 4pm at the entrance of Brewery de Koninck, parking is not so best in that area but the Brewery is just a stone's throw from the Harmony tram stop.

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. We've split the outing so those who wish to join one event and not the other are also welcome. Please be aware that outings are non-refundable.

Brewery visit : €14

Dinner : €40 for members, €42 for non-members.

Menu : Belgian Stoofvlees with chips; Dame Blanche/noir;
2 gl. wine or beer and/or water; coffee

Payable to the ABCA Bank Account number : BE11 2200 3243 8048 and let MaryAnn (0486 646 941) know you are coming. Note : your payment to be received by the 12th.



The Origin of Beer



Beer is one of the oldest drinks humans have produced. The first chemically confirmed barley beer dates back to the 5th millennium BC in modern-day Iran, and was recorded in the written history of ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia and spread throughout the world.

As almost any cereal containing certain sugars can undergo fermentation due to wild yeasts in the air, it is possible that beer-like drinks were independently developed throughout the world soon after a tribe or culture had domesticated cereal. Chemical tests of ancient pottery jars reveal that beer was produced as far back as about 7,000 years ago. This discovery reveals one of the earliest known uses of fermentation and is the earliest evidence of brewing to date.

The precursor to beer was soaking grains in water and making a porridge or gruel. Ancient peoples would heat the gruel and leave it throughout the day. A benefit to heating the gruel would be to sanitize the water and the temperature required to denature grain proteins would also denature disease microbes. Leaving the gruel to sit would trigger fermentation with a change in taste and effect. Yeasts would settle on the mixture and rapidly consume the oxygen in the mixture. The low oxygen would force the yeast to digest sugars by anaerobic respiration. Then the yeast would release ethanol (alcohol) and carbon dioxide as by-products and, hence, the forerunner of the humble pint was born.

In Mesopotamia, the oldest evidence of beer is believed to be a 6,000-year-old Sumerian tablet depicting people consuming a drink through reed straws from a communal bowl. A 3,900-year-old Sumerian poem honouring Ninkasi, the patron goddess of brewing, contains the oldest surviving beer recipe, describing the production of beer from bread made from barley. The invention of bread and beer has been argued to be responsible for humanity's ability to develop technology and build civilization.

Today, the brewing industry is a global business, consisting of several dominant multinational companies and many thousands of smaller producers ranging from brewpubs to regional breweries.

Advance Notice



March 26 : Guided tour (in Dutch this time) of the restored Antwerp City Hall. During this guided themed tour (105 minutes) to view the restoration and renewal of the Antwerp City Hall, you will discover parts of this recently completely renovated monument that you cannot visit on more traditional tours. It does mean we're up and down a fair number of stairs. Details in the March newsletter.

April 16 : Easter lunch at hotel de Basiliek.

April 26 : AGM & open evening.

The English Gardener



Spring is on the way and with it thoughts of gardening. On **February 6 1783**, the greatest English landscape gardener, **Lancelot “Capability” Brown**, passed away. His work lives on throughout some of the great estates of England. ‘Capability’ Brown was baptised in 1716 in the tiny Northumbrian village of Kirkharle and in 1732 he was appointed apprentice gardener at Kirkharle Hall. It is estimated that Brown was responsible for more than 170 gardens surrounding the finest country houses and estates in Britain.

His landscapes were at the forefront of fashion. They were fundamentally different from what they replaced, the well-known formal gardens of England which were criticised by Alexander Pope and others from the 1710s. Brown’s style of smooth undulating grass, which would run straight to the house, clumps, belts and scatterings of trees and his serpentine lakes formed by invisibly damming small rivers were a new style within the English landscape, a 'gardenless' form of landscape gardening, which swept away almost all the remnants of previous formally patterned styles. Blenheim Palace is possibly Capability’ Brown’s masterpiece with over 2,000 acres of landscaped parkland. Noted as “the most beautiful view in England”; the Palace is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



The Hedge Maze at Blenheim Palace .

Vermeer Exhibition



Johannes Vermeer (October 1632 – 15 December 1675) was a Dutch Baroque Period painter who specialized in domestic interior scenes of middle-class life. During his lifetime, he was a moderately successful provincial genre painter, recognized in Delft and The Hague.

Vermeer worked slowly and with great care, and frequently used very expensive pigments. He is particularly renowned for his masterly treatment and use of light. His modest celebrity gave way to obscurity after his death and his work was thus omitted from subsequent surveys of Dutch art for nearly two centuries. In the 19th century, Vermeer was rediscovered. Since that time, Vermeer's reputation has grown, and he is now acknowledged as one of the greatest painters of the Dutch Golden Age.

Vermeer subjects offer a cross-section of seventeenth-century Dutch society, ranging from the portrayal of a simple milkmaid at work, to the luxury and splendour of rich notables and merchantmen in their spacious houses.

Johannes Vermeer was baptized within the Reformed Church on 31 October 1632. His mother, Digna Baltens (c. 1596–1670) was from Antwerp. On 15 December 1675, Vermeer died after a short illness aged 43.

This will be the largest retrospective exhibition of Johannes Vermeer paintings ever. The Vermeer exhibition, in cooperation with the Mauritshuis in Den Haag, will include loaned works from all over the world and will be on view from **10 February to 4 June 2023 in the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam. Rijksmuseum tickets with timeslot reservations for the Vermeer exhibition are on sale from late 2022. Admission is €30 including both the Vermeer exhibition and permanent collection.**

Sea Wolves



The coolest animal in Antarctica is the Orca. While Orcas are found in every ocean there are an estimated 70,000 in the Antarctic. Orcas have been in the news recently as attacking sharks and ramming small sailing craft. Often called killer whales, this is a misnomer from centuries ago. Orcas in fact belong to the Dolphin family and are one of the most powerful pack animals with legendary hunting skills. Even the Great White Shark can't compete with a pod of these apex predators on the hunt. As large carnivores they have a keen intelligence and are easily identified with their distinctive black and white patterning. Orcas have good eyesight above and below water, excellent hearing, and a good sense of touch.

Orcas are the largest of all carnivores on earth that feed on a wide variety of foods. They are found in almost all oceans, from the tropics to the Arctic and Antarctic where they will go deep into the pack-ice to hunt seals and penguins. They are commonest in coastal waters and in cool temperate and sub-polar seas. When a pod of orcas is feeding, they will co-ordinate their movements by a continual stream of clicks and calls, though becoming silent in the final approach to intelligent prey such as seals. They will even follow ice-breakers at the start of the season as they cut paths through the ice to reach deeper and get to seals and penguins that were beyond their reach. They will break through sea ice from below to surprise seals and penguins, or seeing them on ice-floes, push upwards on the floe to tip the prey into the water. Alternatively two orcas may rush at an ice floe which is then washed over by a large wave to dislodge the seal or penguin. Not for nothing are Orcas called "wolves of the sea". The good news is that, unlike sharks, they don't attack humans. However young Orcas have been known to channel their inner Moby Dick by ramming the rudders of sailing boats, apparently in play.



Orca Selfie

Oysters



February means St Valentine's Day and foods to put you in the mood for love. Perhaps no food has as strong a reputation as the oyster.

The notion that oysters are an aphrodisiac is legendary. In Greek mythology, when Aphrodite, the goddess of love, emerged from the sea, she emerged on an oyster shell. And then she gave birth to Eros, the god of intimate, erotic, romantic love. Roman emperors believed in the power of oysters and paid a fortune for the sea food including having some shipped to Rome from Cancale, France! Giacomo Casanova, the paragon of promiscuous lovers, reportedly ate fifty to sixty raw oysters a day, with a dozen for breakfast being a restorative. (Some people also believe raw oysters are a great hangover remedy, providing lots of B12, zinc, dopamine, and electrolytes, as well as protein, to quickly recharge oneself.)

Casanova who confessed to seducing a total of 122 women in his native Italy, in Paris where he lived, and in Europe where he travelled, had one novel suggestion on how to eat an oyster: "I placed the shell on the edge of a woman's lips.....". There is not yet compelling scientific proof of oysters' aphrodisiac powers, but there is an often-cited 2005 American-Italian scientific study that discovered that oysters are rich in two kinds of amino acids associated with increased levels of hormones.. So, who knows? An added bonus is that you might chance upon a pearl. A cheaper alternative to oysters is chocolate.



Botticelli's The Birth of Venus

Mediaeval Valentine



Between March and April
When sprays begin to spring
The Little Bird in bird-song
Delights and longs to sing.
And lost in love I cling
To the sweetest, fairest thing.
Blisses may she bring
To me, her bonded one!
Grace and glorious luck are mine,
And sure their sending is divine;
My love has left all womankind,
And lights on Alison

Bright hair and body slender,
Tawny eyebrows sweet;
Her eyes of black show tender
When my own they meet.
Unless she takes me straight
To be her own true mate,
I shall be felled by fate
My earthly life foredone.
Grace and glorious luck....

At night-time, tossing, waking,
(My cheeks turn pale for you),
For your sake, Lady, aching,
I feel desire anew.
No wizard's words will do
To give her praises due:
Ah, neck of swan-like hue,
Fairest beneath the sun!

Sudokus

February puzzles

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

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

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

January solutions

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

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

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

February Quiz

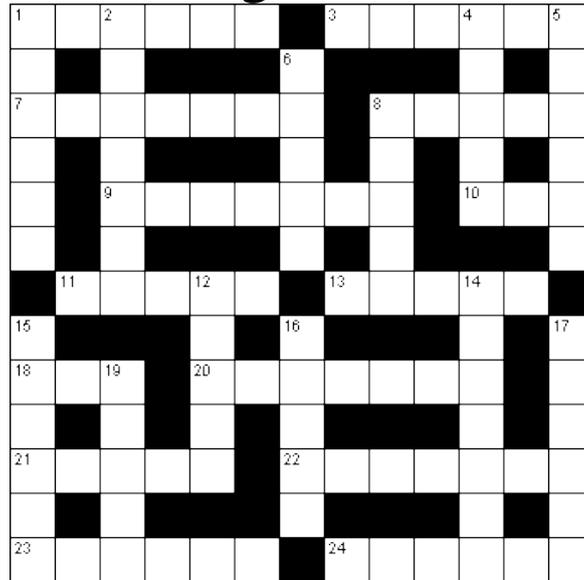


1. What is the name of the 1976 film about the Watergate scandal, starring Robert Redford and Dustin Hoffman?
2. Which comedian was the second permanent host of Never Mind the Buzzcocks after Mark Lamarr?
3. Which popular video game franchise has released games with the subtitles World At War and Black Ops?
4. In what US State is the city Nashville?
5. Which rock band was founded by Trent Reznor in 1988?
6. What is the currency of Denmark?
7. Which Tennis Grand Slam is played on a clay surface?
8. In which European country would you find the Rijksmuseum?
9. How many films have Al Pacino and Robert De Niro appeared in together?
10. What was the old name for a Snickers bar before it changed in 1990?
11. Who was the head of state in Japan during the second world war?
12. What is the smallest planet in our solar system?
13. Who wrote the novels Gone Girl and Sharp Objects?
14. Which legendary surrealist artist is famous for painting melting clocks?
15. Which football club plays its home games at Loftus Road?

January Answers

1. Emily, Elizabeth, Charlotte, Anne and Maria;
2. The Shining;
3. John Ronald Reuel
4. Don Quixote;
5. Suzanne Collins;
6. Charles Bingley;
7. Margaret/Meg, Josephine/Jo, Elizabeth/Beth and Amy;
8. Simon Armitage;
9. Go Set a Watchman;
10. West Egg;
11. Margaret Atwood and Bernadine Evaristo;
12. Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire;
13. Maya Angelou;
14. Greece;
15. Oscar Wilde

February Crossword



Across

1. Capital of Spain (6); 3. New York lake, sounds tranquil (6); 7. Falls and honeymoon resort (7); 8. Austrian province (5); 9. Washington's largest city (7); 10. Country, initially (3); 11. Augusta is the state capital (5); 13. Florida resort (5); 18. Australian capital, initially (3); 20. Reykjavik is the capital (7); 21. Europe's longest river (5); 22. Australian river (7); 23. South American river (6); 24. Capitol of Zimbabwe (6)

Down

1. Monarchy on the French Riviera (6); 2. Saltwater lake on the border between Israel and Jordan (4,3); 4. Italian isle (5); 5. Texas city (6); 6. Island country south of Sicily (5); 8. Famous fountain in Rome (5); 12. Currency of Nigeria (5); 14. Funchal is the capital of this Atlantic island (7); 15. Riga is the capital of this Baltic country (6); 16. Tenerife's volcanic peak (5); 17. Capital of the Czech Republic (6); 19. City in North Eastern Oklahoma (5)

January Solution

P	E	R	P	E	T	U	A	L		B
A		E		N				E		A
D	A	M		D	I	A	M	O	N	D
R		O		U		T				G
E	R	R	O	R		T	A	S	T	E
		S		A	C	E		U		
S	T	E	I	N		M	A	R	K	S
C				C		P		G		T
A	N	C	I	E	N	T		E	G	O
R		U				E		O		R
E			P	S	E	U	D	O	N	Y

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

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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/Suzanne van Eersel

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 LevensbeschouwingenAntwerpen” Multifaith Antwerp guide, published by the StadAntwerpen.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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