



ANTWERP BRITISH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION *vzw*

Maandelijkse Newsletter –mei 2021

Verschijnt niet in juli

Verantwoordelijk uitgever:

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Dates for your diary



ABCA events in **BOLD** type

22nd/23rd May	ABCA : visit to the expo Steve McCurry, Waagnatie If you are interested, please mail Mary Ann to check date and time, at the latest by 13 th May.

Advance Notice :

	With a little luck our programme of events will go ahead - watch this space !
20th June	ABCA : lunch at the Basilek hotel
30th June	ABCA : AGM and open evening at the Highlander
21st July	ABCA : annual BBQ and Summer party
29th August	ABCA : annual mussels lunch

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,

ABCA sent a letter of condolences to HM the Queen on the death of Prince Philip. It's devastating losing a loved one but more so when life together spanned 7 decades.

As more and more people are getting vaccinated we can see the return of some form of normality, albeit baby steps!

Once again we have had to find an alternative for this month's event as both the restaurants and the asparagus plantation we had hoped to visit are not open to groups yet.

Take heart, keep well,

Mary Ann Marinus
Chairman

Thought for the month

Count your blessings, and if life is difficult,
count them louder. Anonymous

Annual donations to Charities

We welcome your suggestions for suitable charities for 2021. The Committee has selected a few but would like to hear from you first.

Membership Matters



R.I.P.



It is with great regret that we have learned of the death of **Father Brian Douglas Millson**, Port Chaplain, Mission to Seafarers Antwerp. Father Brian had been Chaplain at the Mission to Seafarers in Antwerp since Christmas 2012. He was also Associate Priest at Saint Boniface, Antwerp, and Branch Chaplain of the Royal British Legion, Antwerp Branch. He was married to Kit and had two daughters, Victoria and Selina. He will be fondly remembered by his family, colleagues past and present, especially by the Mission to Seafarers, seafarers and friends all over the world.

To Kit, Victoria and Selena we extend our deepest condolences.

Change of Address

Kit Millson

Franslei 5/Bus 1

2950 Kapellen

Email: Kitpmillson@gmail.com

Subscriptions paid

22 March to 21 April

George & Elaine Thompson

Bob & Jackie Cools

ABCA Events



Due to Covid restrictions, changes have had to be made to our original schedule.

proposed event for May: Exhibition “the World of Steve McCurry”, Waagnatie.

Steve McCurry is one of the most iconic figures in contemporary photography. He has taken unforgettable images on seven continents and in countless countries. His oeuvre encompasses conflict, endangered cultures, ancient as well as contemporary traditions but always manages to preserve the human element that made his celebrated image of the Afghan girl such a powerful one. This exhibition takes you on a long journey through The World of Steve McCurry: from Afghanistan to India, from South-East Asia to Africa, from Cuba to the United States, from Brazil to Italy.

Waagnatie, 22nd or 23rd May 21

If you are interested, please mail Mary Ann to check price, date and time, at the latest by 12th May.

Flying a Kite



In Japan, kite flying is traditionally for children's play during New Year holidays and in the **Boys' Festival in May**. In some areas, there is a tradition of celebrating a new baby boy with a new kite. There are many kite festivals throughout Japan. In the Kite Festival in Hamamatsu, Shizuoka, more than 100 kites are flown in the skies over the Nakatajima Sand Dunes, one of the three largest sand dunes in Japan. Parents who have a new baby prepare a new kite inscribed with their baby's name and fly it in the festival.

Kites were invented in Asia. The oldest depiction is from a mesolithic period cave painting in Muna island, Indonesia, which has been dated from 9500–9000 B.C. Stories of kites were first brought to Europe by Marco Polo towards the end of the 13th century, and kites were brought back by sailors from Japan and Malaysia in the 16th and 17th centuries. By the 18th and 19th centuries they were being used as vehicles for scientific research. In 1752, Benjamin Franklin published an account of a kite experiment proving that lightning was caused by electricity. Kites were also instrumental in the research of the Wright brothers, and others, as they developed the first airplane in the late 19th century. Kites are now mostly used for recreation. Kite festivals are a popular form of entertainment throughout the world. They include large local events, traditional festivals which have been held for hundreds of years and major international festivals which bring in kite flyers from other countries to display their unique artistry and to demonstrate the latest technical kites.



Festival of the Snake Catchers



The **Festival of the snake catchers (or snake-charmers)** (*Festa dei Serpari di Cocullo*) is an annual festival in Cocullo, Italy in honour of St. Dominic, patron saint protector against snakebite and toothache. Its origins date back to paganism and have roots in an ancient celebration in honour of the Roman goddess **Angitia**. The festival involves a procession carrying the statue of St. Dominic, draped with live and writhing snakes, through the streets of the village. After Mass, the statue of St. Dominic, plus snakes, is brought out and paraded through the streets, followed by the Serpari (a hereditary brotherhood of local snake-charmers) who are also draped with snakes.

This festival has pre-Christian roots and is related to a much older rite. In pagan times, the snake-charmers were the priests at the sanctuary of Angitia and the snakes were associated with healing. Cocullo was the territory of the Marsi tribe, known for their magic arts and power over serpents.

Angitia was a goddess among the tribes of central Italy. She was associated in antiquity with snake-charmers who claimed her as their ancestor. Angitia's myths vary. According to Gnaeus Gellius, Angitia was one of the three daughters of Aeëtes, along with Medea and Circe, two of the most famed sorceresses of Greek myth. Angitia is named in three inscriptions from the "Sacred Grove of Angitia." The earliest, a dedication to the goddess "on behalf of the Marsic legions, dates to the late 4th century BC. The Romans derived her name from anguis, "serpent," hence the form Anguitia.

As snakes in antiquity were often associated with the healing arts, Angitia is believed to have been mainly a goddess of thaumaturgy (working through magic). She had powers of witchcraft, magic and medicine which were all regarded as complementary in the ancient world and was a master in the art of miraculous and herbal healing, especially when it came to snakebites. She was also attributed with a wide range of powers over snakes, including the power to kill snakes with a touch. She was also identified as Medea, the wife of the Greek hero, Jason.

The Most Stolen Masterpiece



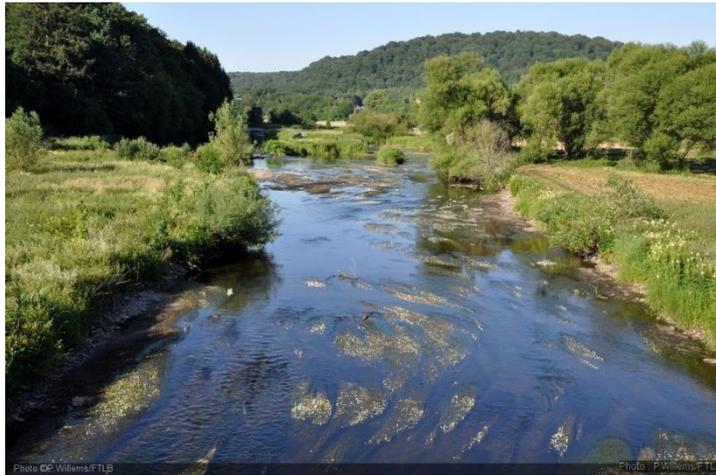
The Ghent Altarpiece behind bullet proof glass

The **Van Eyck** polyptych altarpiece, with its famous Mystic Lamb, is the most stolen work of art in the world and has been moved several times over the centuries. Art historian Noah Charney describes it as one of the most coveted and desired pieces of art, the victim of 13 crimes since its installation, and seven thefts. After the French Revolution the altarpiece was among a number of art works plundered in today's Belgium and taken to Paris where they were exhibited at the Louvre. It was returned to Ghent in 1815 after the French defeat at the Battle of Waterloo.

During World War I, other panels were taken from the cathedral by German forces and returned after the war ended. In 1934, The Just Judges and Saint John the Baptist panels were stolen; the Just Judges panel is still missing. In 1940 while en route to the Vatican, the painting ended up in France, and was stored in a museum in Pau supposedly for the duration of the war. However in 1942, Adolf Hitler ordered the painting to be seized and brought to Germany, the work eventually being held in the Altaussee salt mines, which greatly damaged the paint and varnish. In 1945, the altarpiece was recovered by the Allied group Monuments, Fine Arts, and Archives program and returned to Belgium.

A program of restoration at the Museum of Fine Arts, Ghent began in October 2012. Restoration of the five lower panels, which took three years, was completed in January 2020, and they were returned to St Bavo's Cathedral. The uncovering of the original face of the Lamb of God was a notable change; the original Lamb has unusually humanoid features, with forward-facing eyes that appear to look directly at the viewer of the panel.

Spring in the Semois Valley



With better weather on the horizon, it's time to explore the beauties of Belgium. One such is the Semois Valley with access via roads cut through greenery and forests to enter beautiful woodland with its stags and wild boar. Hundreds of kilometres of signposted footpaths take walkers and hikers from famous rocks to footbridges strung above the water.

That small stream of water running through two basins in the rue Sonnetty in Arlon becomes, after travelling for almost 200km, the beautiful Ardennes river that flows into its big sister, the Meuse, at Monthermé. On its journey, it crosses the Vance marshes, the Sinémurienne ridge, Belgian Lorraine and then the Ardennes.

The River Semois also flows past hundreds of magnificent landmarks, including the famous **“Giant’s Tomb” at Botassart**: the legend says that a giant is buried under the huge, wooded, barrel-shaped hill squeezed into a large meander of the river. From the hills above Rochehaut, the river offers a panoramic view of the hill and also of the delightful Frahan hamlet.

Famous castles, such as **Herbeumont, Bouillon and Sedan**, tell the history of this region, criss crossed down the ages by the world’s most powerful armies. Majestic road and rail bridges and more modest footbridges thrown between the two banks lead you to the unexpected.



Bouillon Castle



Bouillon Castle is a medieval castle in the town of Bouillon in the province of Luxembourg, Belgium. **Godfrey of Bouillon** (18 September 1060 – 18 July 1100) was a French nobleman and one of the pre-eminent leaders of the First Crusade. He was the first ruler of the Kingdom of Jerusalem from 1099 to 1100. Godfrey only ruled Jerusalem for one year before his death in 1100 when he was succeeded by his brother **Baldwin**, who was crowned the first King of Jerusalem. Cinema buffs among you may remember Baldwin as a character in the historical epic drama from 2005, **Kingdom of Heaven**.

The castle is entered over three drawbridges. The main courtyard then leads to the ducal palace with its 13th century Salle Godefroy de Bouillon. From there visitors climb up to the top of the 16th century Tour d'Autriche for a breathtaking panorama of the town and river, before they make their way back via the torture chamber, cisterns and dungeons, and past the 65m/213ft deep well shaft.

You can visit the castle which should be open from May. Falcons played a great part in medieval life. Besides the visit to an educational exhibition on hunting with raptors, you can enjoy, at specific times, an interactive show with these birds of prey. The falconer will come to you with owls, eagles, hawks, vultures and, of course, falcons. He will tell you about their habits and let the raptors show off their amazing flights.

Performances in the courtyard at 11:30, 14:00 and 15:30.

Tel: +32.61.46.62.57 / +32.61.46.82.73.

Ship Ahoy



Sailing with the Seastar

After months of lockdown few things are more appealing than a trip at sea. The Seastar can take you on a journey round Nieuwpoort or a trip on the Ijzer between Nieuwpoort and Diksmuide.

Harbour tour - embark on the Seastar for a fun trip through one of the most beautiful port cities on the Belgian coast. Along the nature reserve 'De IJzermonding', you will sail through the beautiful marina. The Nieuwpoort marina is the largest in Northern Europe! Discover Nieuwpoort from the sea and get a stunning view of the King Albert I monument and the Goose Foot. The trip takes one hour **and be sure to watch out for the seals**, because you can often spot them!

Trip between Nieuwpoort and Diksmuide - The hinterland of the coast is certainly worth a visit. Sail into the Westhoek along the beautiful Yser. The great thing about this tour is that you can combine it with a cycling trip. Pedal at your leisure along the beautiful roads and car-free paths between Nieuwpoort and Diksmuide (the Frontzate) and sail back with the Seastar. Note: you can choose where you board the boat and you can take your bike with you.

More information from Seastar in Nieuwpoort. <https://seastar.be/en/contact-us.html>

Take a trip with the Water-taxi service in Blankenberge. There are various trips on offer but one of the loveliest is the **Magical Sunset Cruise**. Sunset looks at its most beautiful and romantic at sea. Prices are very reasonable and include a bar.

Information: <https://www.water-taxi.be/>



The Prettiest Name



All the months have pretty names
But I like the name of May the best.
It makes me think of meadowlands
In all their spring gowns neatly dressed.
Their bonnets are of marigolds
For buttons they use daisy eyes,
And for a sash they use a brook,
Bluer than even Maytime skies.
The word October calls to mind.
Maple leaves a fiery red.
December makes you think of snow,
And woolly blankets on your head.
But May! That sweet name makes me think
Of music on a springtime night!
I think it is the prettiest of all,
Just made of blossoms, pink and white.

Leonore Hetrick



Sudokus

May puzzles

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

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

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

April solutions

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

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

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

May Quiz

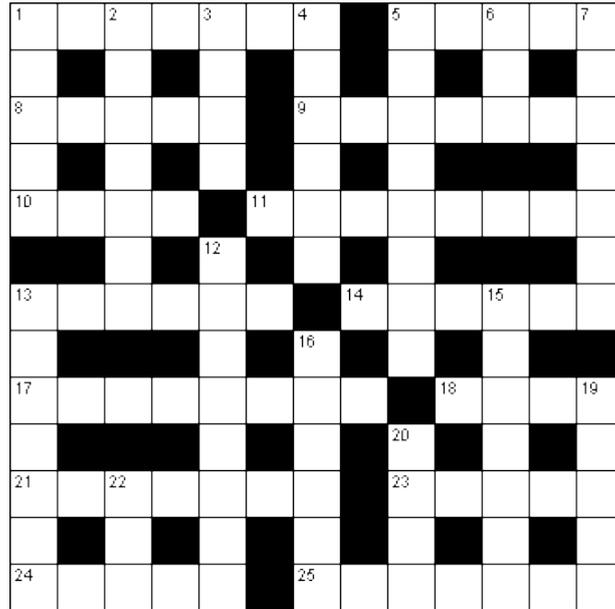


1. What colour are the seats in the House of Commons?
2. What colour is found on 75% of the world's flags?
3. What is the name of Wendy's dog in Peter Pan?
4. What year was Heinz established?
5. Which seaside is home to the longest pier in the UK?
6. The song 'How Far I'll Go' features in which Disney film?
7. Which new British military force was established in 1918?
8. Who discovered Penicillin?
9. What is Keir Starmer's constituency?
10. What is the most spoken language in the world?
11. What is the name of the head teacher in Roald Dahl's Matilda?
12. In what year was the Chernobyl disaster?
13. In tennis, what piece of fruit is found at the top of the men's Wimbledon trophy?
14. Who was the first female Prime Minister of Australia?
15. What colour is a giraffe's tongue?

April Answers

1. Knee ; 2. Iago; 3. Tin; 4. All the President's Men; 5. Call of Duty; 6. Tennessee;
7. Krone; 8. The French Open (Roland Garros); 9. Netherlands 10. Four (Godfather Part 2, Heat, . Righteous Kill, The Irishman) 11. Marathon; 12. Emperor Hirohito
13 Mercury; 14. Salvador Dali; 15. Queen's Park Rangers

May Crossword



Across

1. State capital of Wisconsin (7); Lombardy city (5); 8. The Friendly Islands (5);
 9. Spanish city (7); 10. Muscat is the capital (4); 11. Capital of Malta (8);
 13. Capital of Turkey (6); 14. World's largest desert (6); 17. West Indies island group (8);
 18. Portuguese folk music (4); 21. State capital of Georgia (7); 23. Capital of Ghana (5);
 24. One of the Lesser islands in 17 across (5); 25. Grand Canyon state (7)

Down

1. Paris underground railway (5); 2. Scandinavian country (7); 3. Former name of Thailand (4); 4. Capital of the Bahamas (6); 5. Strait between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans (8); 6. Currency of Bulgaria (3); 7. Falls between Canada and USA (7); 12. Formerly known as Ceylon (3,5); 13. Montgomery is the capital (7); 15. Corsican town and birthplace of Napoleon (7) ; 16. Carson City is the capital (6); 19. Nebraska city on the Missouri (5); 20. Indonesian island (4); 22. Currency of Romania (3)

April Solution



Useful Information

Patron: Mr Martin Shearman CVO, HM Ambassador to Belgium
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Webmaster: brian.paul.edwards@gmail.com ABCA Website: www.abca-antwerp.be e-mail address: ABCA_Antwerp@yahoo.co	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 -tel 03 338 3115.	

ABCA 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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