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**Advance Notice:**

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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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Lange Vlierstraat 35, 2000 Antwerpen
Dear Members,

“Summer: the warmest season of the year -- oh boy wasn’t it just that, what a heatwave we’ve had! Let’s hope September will give us an agreeable Indian summer before we prepare for Autumn.

Sadly Covid 19 is still with us and our diary of events is down to the bare minimum. However, let’s keep our spirits up as even with the restrictions imposed there’s still some entertaining things we can do.

Keep safe and healthy,

Mary Ann Marinus
Chairman

Thought for the month

A positive attitude causes a chain reaction of positive thoughts - Wade Boggs
As you might expect, we have been told of no membership changes in the last month.

Instead, here is a light-hearted thought for us all:
Yes it’s that time of the year again when you put on your thinking caps, turn off your mobile phones and refrain from cheating.

Once again the ABCA Challenge Quiz will be held at the Highlander. Come and test your general knowledge; the winning team gets a bottle of wine each and the losers go home clutching their pride and a huge bar of chocolate.

Non-participants can follow the quiz but any strategic coughing will get you escorted to the bar upstairs.

Date: Sunday, September 27th
Time: 15:00
Venue: The Highlander, Stadswaag
Advance Notice

The Rivierenhof gallery is hosting an exhibition of paintings on silk and other textiles.

Silk, that most beautiful and luxurious of fabrics, has a very long history. The writings of Confucius and Chinese legend recount that, in about 3000 BC, a silk worm's cocoon fell into the tea cup of the empress Leizu. Wishing to extract it from her drink, the 14-year-old girl began to unroll the thread of the cocoon. She then had the idea to weave some of it, so she kept some for herself. Having observed the life of the silk worm on the recommendation of her husband, the Yellow Emperor, she began to instruct her entourage in the art of raising silk worms, known as sericulture. From this point, the girl became the goddess of silk in Chinese mythology.

Silk eventually left China via a princess who was promised to a prince of Khotan. This probably occurred in the early 1st century AD. The princess, refusing to go without the fabric that she loved, would finally break the imperial ban on silk-worm exportation.

In classical antiquity, most Romans, great admirers of the cloth, were convinced that the Chinese took the fabric from tree leaves. Pliny the Elder knew better. Speaking of the bombyx or silk moth, he wrote in his Natural History "They weave webs, like spiders, that become a luxurious clothing material for women, called silk."

ABCA is organising a guided tour of the gallery.
Date: Sunday, October 18
Although ABCA was not able to organise a guided tour to this exhibition due to the Corona crisis, some of you might still like to go on a Blind Date. This is certainly one with a difference. The Phoebus Foundation has teamed up with the Snyders & Rockox House in Antwerp to organize a unique exhibition devoted to the history of portrait art. The Foundation has selected the finest portraits from its collection, from the late Middle Ages through to the early modern era, to tell the fascinating story of this genre. The panels and canvases are accompanied by a rich array of objects and attributes, including rattles, jewellery and much more besides. In this way, history becomes tangible and the portraits come to life.

Are you ready for a dialogue with richly dressed ladies, a woolly kitchen maid, a bishop or a patrician? Don’t worry: they won’t answer back. But one way or another they will divulge their secrets.

Venue: Snyders & Rockoxhuis
Exhibition until end December 2020
Travelling abroad in the time of Corona is difficult. Fortunately there are lots of interesting places to visit nearer home. One such is **Modave castle**, listed as a major cultural heritage of Wallonia, it is well worth a detour. Built on a rocky hill in the province of Liège, it is said to date back to the Middle Ages.

The castle was the house of several famous owners, among them, the Count de Marchin to whom it owes its present appearance. It was also the residence of Maximillian-Henry of Bavaria, Prince Bishop of Liège, the Cardinal von Furstenberg and the families de Montmorency and Braqconier. In 1941 it was acquired by Vivaqua.

The castle was built in the Middle Ages, partly demolished in the 17th century and restored with a classical facade turning it into an elegant country house with formal gardens. Remarkable stucco work decorates the ceilings while the walls are covered in carved panelling, tapestries and paintings.

One of the rooms is dedicated to the hydraulic wheel built in Modave in the 17th century. This wheel was the model for the machine that brought water from the Seine to the palace of Versailles.

The castle can be reached via the E42 Namur - exit 7 direction Huy and Modave.

Address rue du Parc 4  
B-4577 Modave  
info@modave-castle>be
It seems as if time has stood still in Lissewege. With its lovely little canal, white-painted polder houses and expansive fields, it serves as a model for the way every Flemish village used to be: charming, nostalgic and romantic.

The brick Church of Our Lady of the Visitation is a textbook example of ‘coastal Gothic’. Its remarkable interior has a statue of the Virgin Mary (1625), an exceptional organ case and a beautifully sculptured rood loft and pulpit (1652). Anyone who makes the effort to climb the 264 stairs of the truncated tower is rewarded with a panoramic view over the polders, stretching as far as Ostend and Bruges. On a clear day, you can even see Walcheren (Zeeland).

Lissewege was already a place of pilgrimage in the Middle Ages. In a nearby creek, fishermen discovered the statue of the Virgin Mary and the church was built to house it. Pilgrims on the road to Santiago de Compostela stopped off in Lissewege and their gifts and donations helped to bring the village a certain prosperity.

In 1106, French Benedictines were approached to found an abbey in Lissewege. Due to their neglect, the land on which the Thosan Chapel stood passed into the hands of the Cistercians and it was they who built the famous abbey complex of Ter Doest. Many farms were constructed in the (wide) area around the abbey, often on land that the monks had reclaimed from the sea.

Sadly, of all the abbey buildings only the pigeon tower, the monumental gatehouse and the enormous 14th century abbey barn have withstood the ravages of time. You can read more about the ‘white village’ in the local visitors’ centre that also houses a delightful Saints’ Museum, with 120 antique statues of patron saints.
September Walks

September is a month where summer hasn’t quite gone and autumn not fully arrived. It is an ideal month for healthy walks in woodland. The Raspaillebos (with the adjacent Moerbekebos and forest reserve Karkoolbos) is a forest area in the Flemish Ardennes in the south of the Belgian province of East Flanders. The forest area of 50 ha is located on the territory of the municipality of Geraardsbergen near the provincial border with Galmaarden in Flemish Brabant. The Raspaillebos is managed by the Flemish public service Agency for Nature and Forests and by Natuurpunt. The nature reserve is recognized as a European Natura 2000 area (Forests of the Flemish Ardennes and other South Flemish forests) and is part of the Flemish Ecological Network. The area has been protected as a landscape since 1980 and is also recognized as a sanctuary. It is also a haven for wildlife.

Raspaille Forest once belonged to a forest called "Arduenna" by the Romans and known as "Coal Forest" in the days of the Franks. This name has its origin in the Iron Age, when charcoal was massively burned for iron production. The Kolenwoud formed a wedge between the rich cultural lands of South Flanders and Hainaut on the one hand and Haspengouw on the other. It consisted of large forest areas that were connected by smaller groves and thickets of grassland (wastine). From the 10th century onwards, different mining waves followed each other, with peaks in the 14th and 19th centuries. It is believed that the map of Ferraris of the mid-18th century gives a good indication of the afforestation rate around 1300. Although the Raspaille forest was only a shadow of the great Coal Forest at that time, it was still three times larger than it is today and extended to the walls of Beaupré monastery in Grimminge.
Early to mid-autumn is a time when trees come into their own in a blaze of colour. Down the ages certain tribes, such as the Celts, have regarded trees as an essential part of their religion.

The Celtic **Tree of Life** symbolized harmony and balance. The crosses of Celtic and Northumbrian origin incorporate tree symbols in their designs. The Celtic tree of life represents the forces of nature that converge to create harmony. These trees were so tall and expansive that they could actually form a whole forest with their branches. In the Celtic culture the importance of trees was decided on the basis of their geographical location and more importantly, their inherent qualities. You would find many different rituals associated with trees. Ancient Celts (Druids) believed that the tree of life possessed special powers. The tribes of Ireland while clearing a piece of land for human settlement, used to leave a tree in the centre; which they called the **crann bethadh** and under which they held assemblies. The tree provided food, warmth and shelter. It also provided nourishment for other forms of life such as animals, birds, insects, etc. Therefore, the tree was described as a force which took care of life on earth. The Celts believed that trees were actually ancestors of human beings and inhabited only those places where such trees were present. Teaching centres of the Druids too were located in the quiet and tranquil surroundings of oak groves.

They attributed the tree of life symbol to qualities like wisdom, strength and longevity for which they were worshipped. They also believed that their enemies would be defeated if their sacred tree was destroyed. The tree of life was the symbol of an entity which connects the upper and lower worlds. Roots of this tree penetrate the depths of the lower world. Branches grow upwards and stretch out to the heavens. The trunk of the tree of life remains on the earth’s plane. The Druids believed that the gods in the heaven used to communicate with humans through trees of life and that they possessed the power to bless people with prosperity.
I raked the leaves on our front lawn;
   It took all afternoon,
I started ‘round half past one,
   And said “I’ll be done soon.”

But once I saw how more leaves fell
   Each time I made a pile,
I quickly saw this outdoor chore
   Was going to take a while.

And so I did what my dad said
   A winner does to win:
I studied that great pile of leaves,
   And then I jumped right in.
Because of a major computer crash it is unfortunately not possible to provide the results for August’s Sudokus.

My apologies.
1. What does Au stand for in the periodic table?
2. Hamilton has become one of the biggest musical theatre shows of all time since it debuted in 2015 – but what is the name of the acclaimed star who wrote it?
3. Name the current Foreign Secretary.
4. Who won the Best Actress Award at the most recent Oscars?
5. Who sang the title song in the latest Bond film; No Time to Die?
6. How many permanent teeth does a dog have?
7. What is the most sold flavour of Walker’s crisps?
8. What is the full postcode of the Houses of Parliament?
9. What is someone who believes in antidisestablishmentarianism opposed to disestablish?
10. What does the Latin Tempus mean in English?
11. How many chukkers are there in a polo match?
12. On average how far away is the moon from the earth in miles?
13. What’s longer, a nautical mile or a mile?
14. Saying the name of what dried fruit used to be used to encourage people to smile before a photo in the 1800s, before the phrase “cheese?”
15. Which country in the world is believed to have the most miles of motorway?

August’s answers

1 Blackpool Tower; 2 Southend; 3 The Corrs; 4 True; 5 21June; 6 Julius Caesar; 7 Iceland; 8 St Swithin’s; 9. Ronald Reagan; 10 Donna Summer; 11 Bleak House; 12 Sirius; 13 Indian Summer; 14 Sonnet 18; 15 December
September Crossword

Across
1 Pub (6); 4. Take for granted (6); 9. Weird (7); 10. Take place (5); 11. Expiation (9);
12. Sense Organ (3); 13. Stage whisper (5); 15. Paragon (5); 20. Sphere (3); 22. Vortex (9).
24. Tine (5); 25. Ameliorated (7); 26. Cure (6); 27. Extremely bad (6)

Down
1. Tropical bird (6); 2. Asinine (7); 3. Ambit (5); 5. Yelled (7); 6. Relative (5);
7. Mistakes (6); 8. Varieties (5); 14. Injured (7); 16. Foreshorten (7); 17. Barrel maker (6);
18. Wild and savage (5); 19. Blot (6); 21. Flower (5); 23. Part of a play (5)

August solution

C A B A R E T
A A O R E N
R A D A R U P R I G H T
R G A C C O U E
I N E R T I A R U L E R
E I N A
D E S P O T C L E R I C
U C C A
A M P L E H A G G A R D
I P A T I V E
S P O R R A N C R O W N
L L L C I Z
E N T R Y E C H I D N A
Useful Information

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ABC recognition 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.

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work are welcome.

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aneedotes, 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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