

the BEAM

MARCH - APRIL 2020



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BEAM TEAM MEMO

A very warm welcome to the spring edition of The BEAM!

As the arrival of spring in Singapore is not marked by any noticeable change in the weather, this edition of The BEAM features the feast days of the patron saints Patrick and George as well as Easter to anchor us firmly in the current season (Singapore, as we like to call it!)

In many of our home countries, however, spring heralds the arrival of baby animals and budding greenery so The BEAM has taken the opportunity to explore the flora and fauna of the Lion City. We look into the past, present and future of the Zoo, go on a safari of a different kind to check out animal sculptures across the island, exercise as animals do and get a pet's perspective on life in Singapore. We also climb to the rooftops to get a new angle on the green spaces in our City in a Garden.

We keep pace not only with the solar calendar but also the lunar one, first stepping into the stout walking shoes of the BA Photography Group to celebrate Chinese New Year on tour and then finding out where to spot the real life animals of the Chinese zodiac in the Little Red Dot. Further afield, we take the opportunity to spy on Komodo dragons while there is still a chance to see them in the wild.

The British Association was represented at two very different events that both addressed the importance of supporting each other and those who follow us in future generations. An Evening with Michelle Obama was hugely uplifting and inspiring for one BA member and Shelley Siu's initiative, The Singapore Shawl, showed how marginalised women can be supported as they develop skills and gain employment. Read more about both in this edition.

In our Sports and Activities features, we take a closer look at the games people play: Bunco (dice), May I? (cards) and Mah-jong (tiles). As well as testing the 'little grey cells', as Hercule Poirot would say, these games sessions are great social occasions. Please do get in touch with the respective activity leaders if you would like to join in the fun.

Our sincere thanks, as ever, to all our contributors (listed left) for the wealth of information on the experiences and opportunities around us. If you would like to contribute words and/or photos to a future edition of The BEAM, we would love to hear from you at the email address below.

ERRATUM: In the January/February 2020 edition of The BEAM, additional text was inadvertently added to a feature written by Davina Borton-Sutherland. The addition was not the opinion of the author and The BEAM apologises unreservedly for this oversight and any distress caused. The BEAM strives for continuous improvement in its working practices to prevent any such recurrence.

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The British Association needs a **Chair** to lead us through the next phase of our development as well as an **Honorary Treasurer** and a **Communications/IT Development Officer**.

We are also looking for volunteers to help with activities and events. Do you have a couple of hours a week to help out?

- ✓ Coffee morning hosts
- ✓ Event team members
- ✓ Charity coordinator
- ✓ Tour coordinator

Are you ready to sign up and support the British Association?

Please contact Edith for more information at bachair@britishassociation.org.sg.



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YOUR BA TEAM

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	Anne Roberts
Cinema Club	Siân Brook Gillies
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Golf	Edith Blyth
Golf (Beginners)	Carol Allen
Handicrafts	Jane McDermott
Joggers	Anne Brangan
Ladies' Night Out	Claire Abbasi
Mahjong	Jane McDermott
May I?	Jules Murphy
Newcomers	Jo Cockerill
Photography	John McGinn
Sketchers	Joanne Bull
Tennis	Davina Borton-Sutherland
Tours	Vacancy
Walkie Talkies	Miranda Thomas (Botanics)
	Julie Avery (East Coast)
	Tara Codling (Bay)



VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to our new British Association members and new readers of The BEAM magazine.

I am privileged to read The BEAM before it goes to print and I am delighted that this issue is packed with very interesting and informative articles, so much so that instead of editing, I was drawn into the content. Thank goodness there are eagle eyes on the BEAM team to bail me out.

I am not too keen to touch on this subject, but the 'run' on toilet rolls, pardon the pun, is not just here in Singapore. A friend in Hong Kong has reported the same there and visitors to friends in other places have been asked to pack some rolls in their suitcases. Fortunately, I find the supermarkets are well stocked now and the panic stock-piling has ended.

It is hard to know the full scale of how many cases of Coronavirus there are in the world, how it is spread and how it is being treated and contained. I have taken advice from the Singapore health authorities and the World Health Organisation, and will pass on to you any recommendations. As ever, the British Association has a full programme of events and activities and I extend my thanks to activity organisers and members for their fortitude during this time.

This month we say goodbye to Jules and Miles Murphy. It is a sad farewell as they have been instrumental in organising events. Miles was our Treasurer last year and did an excellent job preparing all our accounts for the audit. A heartfelt thank-you to you both and we wish you health and happiness for the future.

Friends in the UK are sending me pictures of floods and snow. It seems that the UK has suffered from quite a battering on the weather front. I hope all your families are safe in these times of adversity and that those returning to the UK are well stocked with thermal clothing.

The AGM is very important this year as it marks a landmark in recognising the different demographic of our membership and gives you the opportunity to help plan the future of the British Association. Please come along to vote in the Council for 2020 and to thank the volunteers who worked so hard on your behalf in 2019. We still need volunteers so if you would like to join a team, share some ideas or become a member of the Council, please don't be shy.

On behalf of the Council, I invite you to join us for refreshments before the business part of the evening and meet up with fellow members. Please register your intention to attend by emailing the office and, if you unable to attend, please consider the proxy voting option.

Easter is a very special time in the Christian calendar so as you enjoy your chocolate eggs, please say a get well prayer for those stricken by the Coronavirus around the globe.

I wish you all well.

Edith Blyth

bachair@britishassociation.org.sg

NEW MEMBERS

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF SINGAPORE WARMLY WELCOMES:

Andy and Niki Bruce	Hugh Little
Philip and Lynne Curran	Mankalan and Chandra Mohan
Philip and Christine Duckworth	Brad and Jill Pound
Nicole Gandhi	Mark and Ali Sterndale-Bennett
Sudhir Kumar and Amy Gandhi	Santhanam Sundaramoorthi and
Chris Laidlaw and Nicole Gooding	Sharmila Nagarajan
Andrew and Amanda Linstead	

If you are not a member yet, you can register online via our website www.britishassociation.org.sg. The annual membership fee is \$150.



How Singapore Got Its Zoo

By Rosalind Arwas



Singapore Zoo is one of the country's premier tourist attractions, ranked the number three zoo in the world by TripAdvisor and attracting 1.7 million visitors each year to experience its more than 2,800 animals. Construction is already taking place to ensure that, by 2024, it will become part of what has been described as a 'mega 5-in-1 safari', an integrated nature and wildlife reserve encompassing the existing Night Safari and River Safari parks, the Bird Park (relocating from Jurong this year) and a new Rainforest Park, plus two nature-themed indoor attractions, a range of accommodation options including an eco-resort, new restaurants and a wildlife bridge to allow animals to navigate safely across Mandai Lake Road.

Back in the late 1960s, however, when the idea of a national zoo was first mooted, its future was far from certain. It was the brainchild of Mr Ong Swee Law, Chairman of the Public Utilities Board (PUB), whose dream was to give newly urbanised Singaporeans more places to visit on family outings and greater proximity to animals, at a time when many had no experience with even dogs or cats. Ong Swee proposed freeing up more land in the protected water catchment areas to realise his 'open zoo' design, allowing animals to be viewed in enclosures mimicking their natural habitats instead of in cages, which was cutting-edge for the time. But zoos are expensive. In an interview with SG Magazine in 2017, Bernard Harrison, executive director of Singapore Zoo from 1981 to 2002, estimated that the start-up cost was US\$1.5 million per hectare. The Jurong Bird Park was already under construction and was considered by both the Deputy Prime Minister, Dr Goh Keng Swee, and Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew to be a more economical option.

'Birdseed costs less than meat', said Dr Goh, when questioned in 1968 about the possibility of a zoo.

Even after the government agreed to contribute S\$9 million towards the zoo's development, there were still setbacks. Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew was concerned about water pollution and his approval for the zoo project was conditional upon finding a solution to prevent animal waste from running into the Seletar Reservoir. PUB's chief water engineer was able to design a storm-water drainage system to channel run-off into the zoo's own sewage treatment plant, some of which remains in use today.

The Zoo opened to great fanfare on 27th June 1973 but was initially beset by unexpected problems. An escapee sun bear was accidentally shot by army volunteers called in to track down another runaway, a black panther, who later suffocated in a net designed to entrap it. Congo, a hippopotamus, went on the run (or on the waddle?) for 52 days. Worried about the hippo polluting reservoir water intended for drinking, Lee Kuan Yew threatened to close the zoo completely if he could not be recaptured, remembered Mr Vijaya Kumar Pillai, a director of zoology at Wildlife Reserves Singapore (WRS), in a 2015 interview. Eventually the hippo was coaxed into a crate with bananas and sweet potato and put in 'detention' for the next two months. Zookeepers were sent for special training overseas and the number of escapee animals dropped. The zoo-going public also needed educating. During the first year, staff continually had to remind people not to feed or throw stones at the animals.

The zoo owes much of its success to two animals whose superstar status brought in the marketing power of the Singapore Tourist Board. Ah Meng, an orangutan, was the key draw in the Breakfast with an Orangutan attraction, which opened in the 1980s whilst in 1990, Inuka made headlines as the first ever polar bear born in the tropics.





Photo credit: Julie Avery



Photo credit: Julie Avery



Lee Kuan Yew visited the Zoo many times, first with his children and then with his grandchildren and reportedly always took a keen interest in its progress. After reading about another zoo which was recycling animal waste by selling it as fertiliser, he proposed that Singapore should implement a similar scheme. The Zoo Poo idea became a victim of its own success, closing down when it became too large an operation for the zoo to manage. However, according to news reports last October, a similar plan is now being tested on the approximately 4,000 kg of dung produced every day in the WRS parks. Thousands of black soldier fly larvae are busy munching through a sample of the waste, with the aim of converting it to compost.

Since 2000, Singapore Zoo has been managed by Wildlife Reserves Singapore (WRS). Their annual reports, posted on their website, give fascinating insights into life behind the scenes. Training giant pandas to pee on command, fixing sealion and hippopotamus dental hygiene issues and the assisted hatching of a breech King penguin chick are only a few of the highlights captured in the 2018/2019 document. Other notable non-animal related achievements are the launch of the Rainforest Lumina multimedia night walk, in celebration of the Zoo's 45th birthday, and the replacement of all single-use plastic bottles with cans or paper cartons.

All of the above help to explain why Singapore's zoo achieved an 85% guest satisfaction score last year. When it opened in the 1970s, the principal focus for a zoo was to provide entertainment using animals. Today, a good zoo needs a conservation programme actively engaged in research, breeding and reintroduction into the wild, as well innovative schemes to promote animal welfare and sound environmental practices. Singapore Zoo has been able to recognise this, and adapt accordingly, for example, by reducing the performance element in their shows in favour of allowing the animals to showcase their natural behaviour.

As a result, the zoo today manages to unite both the current mission statement of Wildlife Reserves Singapore: 'To be a world-leading zoological institution that inspires people to value and conserve biodiversity', with Ong Swee's original desire to provide a fantastic day out.

MARCH – APRIL 2020

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Regular Events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walkie Talkies BA Joggers Special Events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9th March: Afternoon Tea 23rd March: Flower Arranging Class 27th April: Monthly Meander (see p30) 	Regular Events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walkie Talkies Sketchers Mahjong Special Events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7th April: Easter Quiz 28th April: Around the World Lunch 4 	Regular Events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walkie Talkies Mahjong 18-Hole Golf 	Regular Events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drop-In Coffee May I? Handicrafts 	Regular Events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walkie Talkies Tennis 9-Hole Golf Special Events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20th March: Smith's Fish & Chips 27th March: Around the World Lunch 3 27th March: Monthly Meander (see p30) 17th April: Comedy Night
SATURDAY/SUNDAY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7th/8th March or 14th/15th March: Yoga Wellness Weekend 12th April: Easter Sunday Brunch 		SAVE THE DATE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuesday 19th May: Around the World Lunch 5: Spanish Friday 12th June: Around the World Lunch 6: Thai Saturday 20th June: BA Summer Event 		

YOGA WELLNESS WEEKEND

Date: Saturday 7th March and Sunday 8th March OR Saturday 14th March and Sunday 15th March (depending on interest)

Venue: Masters' Yoga Sadhan, 77A Tanjong Pagar Rd, 088498

Time: 8.00am to 12.00noon

Cost: FREE



This is a FREE wellness programme over two days for all British Association members by Masters' Yoga Sadhan.

This weekend programme consists of yoga, meditation, detox and breathing exercises in order for you to feel good about yourself.

If you are interested, please contact Sharon McGinn on WhatsApp 9143 4805.

AFTERNOON TEA

Date: Monday 9th March

Venue: The Landing Point, Fullerton Bay Hotel, 80 Collyer Quay, 049326

Time: 3.00pm

Cost: \$50++ (please settle your own bill on the day)



The Landing Point stretches along an elegant indoor promenade paved with bespoke marble mosaics and gold hues. Its majestic 13-metre-long bar, lined with top shelf spirits from around the world, takes centre stage here. Sit back and enjoy your afternoon tea while taking in the panoramic sweep of Marina Bay's waterfront.

Please book via the BA website.

BA NIGHT OUT AT SMITH'S FISH & CHIPS

Date: Friday 20th March

Venue: Smith's Fish and Chips, 271 Bukit Timah Road, 256708

Time: 7.30pm

Cost: Please settle your own bill on the night



Did Friday night mean chippy tea when you were younger? If you love fresh fish in a crisp batter served with thick chips and a splash of vinegar and salt, why not join us at Singapore's very own authentic British fish & chip shop for some Friday night nostalgia? Smith's first opened its doors ten years ago and has become a hot favourite ever since.

Please book via the BA website.

FLOWER ARRANGING CLASS

Date: Monday 23rd March

Venue: Wing on Life Garden, 335 Bukit Timah Road, 259718

Time: 1.00pm to 3.00pm

Cost: \$70 members; \$75 non-members



A flower arrangement instantly brightens your home and it's even better if you can say that you did it yourself!

Let Esther help you put together a fabulous floral display. Esther will provide all materials apart from secateurs or scissors, so please bring those.

Please book via the BA website and check out the gorgeous photos from previous classes.

AROUND THE WORLD LUNCH 3: ITALIAN

Date: Friday 27th March
Venue: Al Borgo Italian
Restaurant & Wine Bar,
383 Bukit Timah Road,
259727

Time: 12.30pm

Cost: Please settle your own bill on the day



Join us for lunch around the world in 2020. We try a different restaurant each month from January to June, offering cuisine from different countries.

(If you manage all six restaurants, you will go into a fantastic prize draw).

Al Borgo is an authentic Italian trattoria situated along Bukit Timah Road. Its rustic interior will fly you to a traditional Italian family restaurant where you will enjoy your meal in a warm and cosy atmosphere. Lead by chef Tiziano with 20 years of experience in Italian cooking, Al Borgo serves home-styled dishes.

EASTER QUIZ

Date: Tuesday 7th April
Venue: McGettigan's CQ, 3A
River Valley Road,
Merchant's Court, Blk A
Clarke Quay, 179020

Time: 7.30pm for 8.00pm quiz start

Cost: \$10 members; \$15 non-members



After the success of the Christmas Quiz, we bring you a quiz for Easter. Why not put a team together and get your collective thinking hats on? If you aren't able to get a team together, fear not as we can add you to an existing team for some welcome extra brainpower.

Prizes for the winners, booby prizes for the team that comes last and fun for everyone!

Please bring your BA members' card for the McGettigan's 10% discount on your food and drinks.

Please book via the BA website.

EASTER SUNDAY BRUNCH

Date: Sunday 12th April
Venue: Edge Restaurant, Pan
Pacific Hotel, 7 Raffles
Boulevard, Marina
Square, 039595

Time: 12.00noon to 3.30pm

Cost: From \$128++ adults; from \$64 per child aged six to twelve



Round off the Easter weekend with an elegant Sunday brunch. The brunch menu at Edge has been given a grand refresh, featuring a sumptuous range of classic favourites elevated with contemporary flair, as well as signature dishes from Chef Howard Leong's collection of secret recipes inspired by his travels around the world.

Price includes unlimited servings of orange juice, iced lemon tea, coffee and tea.

Booking must be made through the BA website as we need to inform the hotel of numbers. Please settle your own bill on the day.

COMEDY NIGHT

Date: Friday 17th April
Venue: The Merry Lion, #03-00, 8B
Circular Rd, 049364
Time: 8.00pm
Cost: TBC after line-up announced



The Merry Lion Comedy Café and Bar is Singapore's home of comedy. It nourishes local Singaporean talent while also bringing in some of the funniest humans on the planet. Stephen K Amos, Glenn Wool and Shazia Mirza are all past performers who have also appeared in satirical comedy quizzes such as 'Mock the Week' and 'Have I Got News For You' on the BBC.

Start the weekend with the hilarious observations and pithy punchlines of some new comedic talent.

Please book via the BA website so that we reserve seats in advance.

AROUND THE WORLD LUNCH 4: INDIAN

Date: Tuesday 28th April
Venue: Shahi Maharani, 252
North Bridge Road,
#03-21B Raffles City
Shopping Centre, 179103

Time: 12.30pm

Cost: Please settle your own bill on the day



Join us for lunch around the world in 2020. We try a different restaurant each month from January to June, offering cuisine from different countries.

(If you manage all six restaurants, you will go into a fantastic prize draw).

Shahi Maharani was established in 1997 and relocated to Raffles City in 2001. Shahi Maharani is owned by Mr Kishore Mirpuri and it is run by his daughters. Recognised as one of the prominent Indian restaurants in Singapore, Shahi Maharani continues to deliver traditional Indian cuisine passed down from the yesteryears of the maharajas.

The events team would like to take this opportunity to thank Suzanne Bloor for all her hard work as previous events coordinator and valuable team member.

Please book online via the BA website or contact events@britishassociation.org.sg for further details.

All information is correct at the time of publication. To make sure you have the most up-to-date information on all our events and activities, go to the BA website at www.britishassociation.org.sg or sign up for the members' e-newsletter.

CURRY AND CARPETS

After an aromatically spiced buffet with complimentary drinks, the carpet auction got underway at the Singapore Recreation Club. Louis Cazeneuve spent a fair chunk of his (dad's) pocket money as he got to grips with the bidding process, having seen other BA members enjoying the action. Our thanks to GFC for the wines won in the prize draw and to Eastern Carpets for their generosity in offering cashmere scarves, salt bags and more as spot prizes as well as the bargain starting bids for some truly beautiful carpets.



LAUNCH OF LUNCH AROUND THE WORLD

Sharon Shields reviews her first restaurant for BEAM Voice: 'The Around the World Lunch sounded interesting; who doesn't enjoy good food? It seemed very appropriate to start with Singaporean cuisine from our host nation at Seong Wing Fatty's Restaurant in Bencoolen, located in a bustling shopping and eating district. We gathered as a merry band of six very friendly ladies and one rather brave gent, and the restaurant owner suggested a variety of dishes to suit all tastes, including those of non-meat-eaters like me. The food was well presented, very tasty and there was plenty for everyone to dip into. We chatted and ate, not noticing how quickly the time passed. Not only good value for money, but I met some very interesting new companions whom I look forward to seeing at our next gathering!'



BOWLED AWAY

A group of 16 BA members and guests met at the Kallang Bowl in Somerset for the BA Ten-Pin Bowling Evening in January. With plenty of food and drink to keep the spares and strikes ticking along, the competition for the highest scores was very close with the eventual winners being Miles 'Twinkle Toes' Murphy for the men's highest cumulative score and Nicole Gooding for the ladies. Well done to everyone who took part. Keep your eyes peeled to sign up for the next ten-pin bowling event in the coming months.

THAIPUSAM

It was a pleasure and a privilege to walk the route with Hindu devotees for Thaipusam on 8th February. The name Thaipusam is a combination of the Tamil month, Thai, and a star, Pusam. This star is at its highest point during Thaipusam and celebrations fall on the day of the full moon. In Singapore, this Hindu festival attracts thousands of devotees who fulfil their vows through a four-kilometre walk from the Sri Srinivasa Perumal Temple to the Sri Thendayuthapani Temple.

MACRITCHIE MEANDER

We were barely moments away from the meeting point when we saw our first monitor lizard amble down to the water for a morning dip. On the route around MacRitchie Reservoir, we kept our possessions out of reach of the macaques, and the lucky meanderers at the front of the throng spotted skins and a young boar before they disappeared into the undergrowth. Thanks to Miranda Thomas for even arranging good weather!



MODELLING THE SINGAPORE SHAWL

By Edith Blyth

The Singapore Shawl was founded by Shelley Siu in 2003 as a creative social enterprise that provides employment and additional skills development for marginalised women.



Shelley Siu with her Chinese New Year shawl

Her three tenets are:

- *Country* – to promote Singapore in the international arena
- *Community* – to help under-privileged women, especially the elderly
- *Environment* – the use of eco-friendly fabrics

The Singapore Shawl is an exclusive brand of unique, elegant and eco-friendly shawls, scarves and ponchos that feature the flora, fauna, history, art and cultures of Singapore in silk, light wool, cellulose, recycled soy, coffee and bamboo. The floral designs celebrate the orchid, rose and Joaquim amongst others.

I met this delightful lady at the Singapore Council of Women's Organisations launch of 'The Lives of Women' exhibition at the National Museum of Singapore. When Shelley asked me if I would be a model showcasing her shawls, I was out of my comfort zone but, hesitantly, I agreed! What an amazing experience it was.

I met the other models at Shelley's condo for afternoon tea and we chose the shawls and scarves we would like to model apart from the special one featuring the English rose that was to be mine.

One glimpse of the shawls was enough to see that they are extraordinary. Each hand-embellished piece has its own unique Singapore story to share through the details in its intricate designs.



Rack of shawls



L – R: Double Happiness Prosperity Pocket; Colonial Rose on a Ying Yang shawl, a design featuring the Rose of England and the colonial past of Singapore; Butterfly Park, a design which symbolises happiness, togetherness and everlasting love.

Not having modelled before, we then lined up for a practice, which was a great deal of fun. We walked, turned and learned to stand correctly, all the while holding our heads up and managing not to feel too self-conscious. I remember a lot of smiles and chuckles.



The day arrived and all the models breezed into The Law Society chambers in their black outfits. We had a quick twirl and then sat backstage ready for the first shawl run and then it was a quick change for our second and third runs.

Shelley had penned a brief history of Singapore depicting the arrival of the various settlers each with their own language, traditions and ethos. As she read from her script, each model paraded the shawl or scarf to the audience.



I was nervous when my time came to show off the beautiful English Rose shawl, but I also felt rather special wearing this beautiful creation and to have this opportunity to support Shelley's charity work.

Today, the Singapore Shawl has grown from humble beginnings to become a luxury brand retailed in several outlets in Singapore. However, the Singapore Shawl also actively participates in fundraisers through fashion shows and auctions. One of Shelley's 100% bamboo shawls (designed for Hong Kong Canto-pop singer Francis Yip) was auctioned for an amazing \$44,664 during Standard Chartered's 'Seeing is Believing' project, which helped to raise funds to prevent avoidable blindness in women and children.

I am delighted to have had this opportunity to support Shelley in her charity work and hope you will look out for The Singapore Shawl.

From Shamrock to Shangri-La

By Sinead Lynch and Carolyn Perkins

Going green means something a little different when celebrating Ireland's foremost patron saint.

With all legends, there is some debate as to how much truth lies therein but as Mark Twain, a man with Irish in his blood, famously said, 'Never let the truth get in the way of a good story.' The legends surrounding Saint Patrick are good stories so, while marking 17th March 461 CE as the accepted date of his death, we take a brief look at his legacy.

Significance of the Shamrock

Saint Patrick used the shamrock (from the Irish for 'young clover') to explain the perplexing notion of the Holy Trinity to pagans and the recently converted. How can there be one God when there is God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit? Saint Patrick's ingenious idea was to use the shamrock to illustrate that, while it is one plant with three leaves, it can also be regarded as one leaf with three parts in the same way as the Holy Trinity is one and three at the same time. Wearing a shamrock on 17th March in Saint Patrick's honour endures to this day.

Banishing Snakes

Although (whisper it) a third-century document survives indicating that there were no snakes in Ireland before Patrick was even born, he remains credited with banishing them from the country. In modern parlance, Saint Patrick was hangry

(hungry and angry): after completing a 40-day fast, he came down from the mountaintop to be met by a bed of snakes. Infuriated by their representation of evil so soon after and so close to his holy devotions, he chased them into the sea and away from Irish soil forever.

Leap Year Proposals

In this leap year, any woman who proposed on 29th February has Saint Patrick and Saint Brigid to thank. The legend is that they struck a deal. Saint Brigid wanted to help potential couples where the male suitor was too shy to propose. Saint Patrick originally agreed to allow women to propose once every seven years but Saint Brigid negotiated that down to every four. When the deal was done, Saint Brigid immediately went down on one knee and proposed to Saint Patrick. He turned her down with a chaste kiss on the cheek but gave her a silk gown to soften the blow. Even now, in the Irish tradition, any man who rejects a leap year proposal should offer a silk gown by way of consolation.

The legacy of Saint Patrick lives on, including in Singapore.



The St. Patrick's Society of Singapore – How It All Began

'There are no strangers here; only friends you haven't yet met.' WB Yeats



For the past 95 years, the St. Patrick's Society of Singapore has been the nexus of the Irish community and is very proud of its longevity and heritage here. The Society began in 1925 with the object of bringing Irish people together to celebrate their unique heritage and to create an Irish family in Singapore.

It all started one afternoon on 12th January 1925 at the Victoria Memorial Hall when a group of Irish expatriates decided to establish a non-sectarian and non-political association for Irishmen in Singapore. The first AGM followed on 23rd November 1925. With the exception of the name, the Society has encountered many changes over the years including the membership opening up to women and a change to the fees, which were once set at \$2 and \$5!

In 1942, the Society suspended its activities due to World War II and reconvened in January 1949 at Raffles Hotel. It decided to allocate all subscription fees accumulated during the intervening seven years to charitable purposes. Today, it has an exceptional reputation for reaching out to those in need – mainly local charities – with initiatives and contributions that reflect the spirit of caring and compassion that are the signature of the Irish people all over the world.

As it approaches its 100th year of operation, the Society is run by a dedicated committee of volunteers and allows the Irish community and friends of Ireland to celebrate culture and heritage through social gatherings and events. Find us on Facebook/stpatssingapore.

The St. Patrick's Ball originally planned for 7th March at the Shangri-La Hotel has been cancelled due to Covid-19. The Society is assessing if it will be rescheduled for later in the year.

SAINT GEORGE

By Helen Woodhall

According to popular legend, Saint George was a brave knight who saved a king's daughter from becoming a sacrificial offering to a terrible dragon, and thus converted the townsfolk to Christianity as a result of his courage and selflessness. Most sources agree that he was born during the reign of the Emperor Diocletian, towards the end of the third century, in Cappadocia, now situated in Turkey. He joined the Roman army but came into conflict with Diocletian, after the Emperor announced his intention to persecute Christians. Refusing to renounce his Christian beliefs, George was tortured, then beheaded on 23rd April 303 CE in Lydda, Palestine (now Lod, Israel). His torture and martyrdom inspired many conversions to Christianity and his place in the Christian hagiography was assured. It is easy to understand why this warrior-saint appealed to early English kings who admired his example of martial valour. There is evidence that he was already venerated before the Norman Conquest, although it wasn't until the fourteenth century that he was proclaimed the patron saint and protector of the royal family.

Saint George is not only the patron saint of England, he is also widely celebrated around the world. Georgia, although not actually named after Saint George, has 365 churches devoted to the saint, one for each day of the year. He is the patron saint of Ethiopia, Portugal, Brazil, Aragon, Catalonia and of the islands of Gozo and Malta, where he is said to have appeared alongside Maltese troops in battle. He is also celebrated in Russia, Bulgaria and Serbia and Montenegro. As if that weren't enough, he is the patron saint of farmers and shepherds, the military, boy scouts, and sufferers of syphilis!

The feast of Saint George is celebrated on 23rd April each year. To honour the saint in a uniquely Singaporean way, you



Tile depicting Saint George and the maiden. Aleppo, seventeenth century. Christie's, London.

could head to the church of Saint George at 44 Minden Road. Built between 1910 and 1913 as a church for members of the British military, it became a civilian church in 1971 and a parish church in 1973. Its original stained glass windows were reputed to have been hidden for safekeeping by the chaplain during the Occupation. Unfortunately, as the chaplain did not survive the war, their whereabouts remain unknown. New windows were installed in 1955. If, however, churches are not your style, you can often find George-themed celebrations in pubs and bars such as Oxwell & Co. or the Bull and Bear.

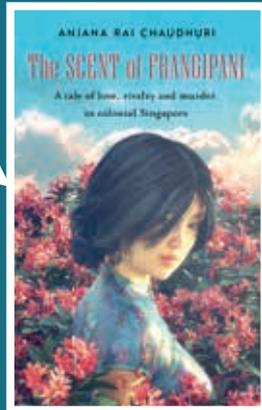


The interior of Saint George's Church, Singapore

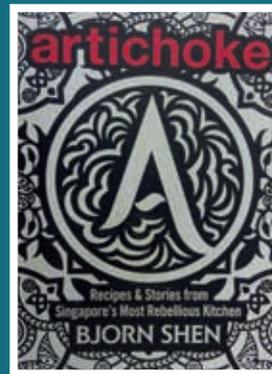
Book Winners

As the more observant reader will recall, we have had not one but two book giveaways in recent editions of The BEAM. We are delighted to announce the winners here, each receiving their prize from the Chair of the British Association, Edith Blyth.

Congratulations to **Caroline Kinner** who was first out of the hat to receive a copy of **The Scent of Frangipani** by Anjana Rai Chaudhuri. We hope you enjoy curling up one rainy afternoon with this tale of Chinese bondmaid, Mei Mei, and the love, rivalry and murder that shape her destiny in colonial Singapore.



Well done to **Claire Gorman** who wins a copy of Bjorn Shen's **Artichoke**. Have fun with the recipes and stories from Singapore's most rebellious kitchen and, if you need any guinea pigs (as in tasters, that is, not ingredients), there are plenty of BEAM readers who would be happy to volunteer!



Look out for more giveaways in future editions of The BEAM for your chance to win.

INTERNATIONAL WILLS

IT HAS BEEN SAID THAT MAKING OUT A WILL IS ONE OF THE BEST GIFTS YOU CAN LEAVE YOUR LOVED ONES IN THE EVENT OF YOUR DEATH.

The death of a spouse, partner or parent can be a tremendously traumatic event for those left behind. The lack of a Will and clear instructions on what you want to happen in the event of your death can make this suffering much, much worse.

By making out a Will you can name the people you want to sort out your affairs should you die. You can name the people who you want to look after your children, and give them guidance on how you want them to be brought up and you can nominate who will benefit from your estate and give guidance on how you want this to be distributed.

Making a Will out can seem a daunting task, especially for Expats with assets in different parts of the world, and most people do not know where to start.

We can talk you through all the issues you need to consider and help you draft a Will that is simple and easy to up-date and that will give you peace of mind.

For more information or to book an appointment call:

6225 5707 or email beam@chartwell-associates.com



Chartwell Associates Pte Ltd

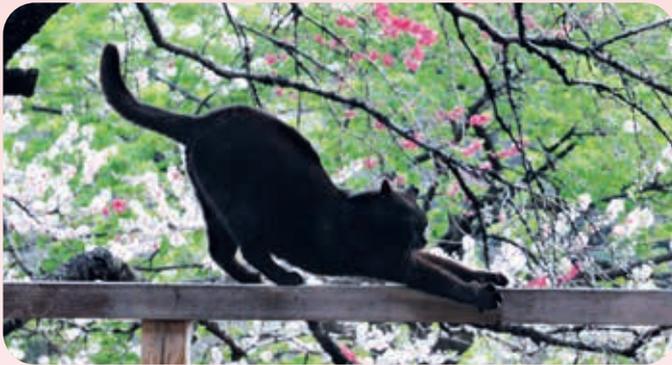
48A Circular Road, Singapore 049403 Tel: 6225 5707

ANIMAL EXERCISE

By Ishra Giblett

I have just returned from a visit to the UK where a trip to an animal sanctuary reminded me just how closely our lives and physiques are related to the animal world. Our muscles, like those of animals, have evolved to help us survive from day to day. Our way of life, however, has undergone enormous changes in the last one hundred years. Every day our bodies have to make it through the rigours and demands of modern living. Unfortunately, we have not had enough time to fully adapt, meaning that, if we are not careful, our activities can lead to wear and tear on muscles and joints, or injuries.

At the animal sanctuary, I observed the ways in which the animals moved and was impressed by how in tune they were with their natural environment. Animals are not continually pumped up and muscle bound. However, when they are hunting, or indeed, being hunted, suddenly their muscles become highly visible, as they work to do the jobs they were made for.



Watch a lion (or any other wild cat) running at full pelt, and notice how muscular and sinewy it appears. But look again at that same cat while it is resting and its shape has become sleek and sinuous as its muscles relax. When a cat or dog licks its back, it is wonderful to see the flexibility its spine has developed to allow even this most mundane of movements. And although it may look cute and lazy, a sloth hanging from a branch, 'smiling' passively as it takes in its surroundings, actually has some amazing muscles, working overtime to keep it from falling.



It is the same for us humans. Our 'normal' shape should be one of 'gentle' tone, and not a constant fully pumped version. Yet our exercise routines should be such that, when the need arises, our muscles can immediately 'switch on', to allow the Arnold Schwarzenegger version to appear. The exercises we do, or should be doing, can also take a lesson from the animal world. The more 'back to nature' we can get with our exercise routines, the better equipped our bodies will be to live a full and active life. This does not refer just to the names of exercises (such as Downward Dog) but to actual movements.



Functional training, for example, may sound like meaningless fitness speak but the intention is to help people strengthen the muscles and improve the movement patterns that they use for everyday activities like walking, picking up something from the floor, pushing open a heavy door or participating in sports. Another new fitness buzzword is Animal Flow, a bodyweight training programme with three ground-based 'animal forms': the ape, the beast and the crab. The goal is to move seamlessly between these different positions with fluidity, grace and control, according to Animal Flow Master Instructor Richard Scrivener. The movement's founder, Mike Fitch, claims that it provides 'movement medicine for people'.



Nature is the most wondrous, amazing phenomenon. Even though the flora and fauna in Singapore have diminished since pre-colonial times, we are still surrounded by natural miracles, existing in harmony with our city state. We should remember to make time in our busy lives to stop and figuratively 'smell the roses' and to learn from the animals around us.

Deities and Dragons

By John McGinn



As most of us who have been living in Singapore for a while will know, Chinese New Year brings an array of celebrations together with tradition, myth and the prospect of a prosperous beginning to the year ahead. This year was no different! This is one of the most important holidays in China and is celebrated by Chinese throughout the world. The celebration is tied to the Chinese lunar calendar and traditionally, it is a time to honour household and heavenly Deities as well as ancestors.

This year, to help celebrate the impending Chinese New Year (Year of the Rat), the British Association arranged a special tour, which took some of us along to the oldest and most important Hokkien temple in Singapore: Thian Hock Keng Temple located just off the heart of Chinatown in Telok Ayer Street.

The Thian Hock Keng temple was the creation of Mr Tan Tock Seng and Mr Si Hoo Keh who were leaders of the Hokkien clan back in the 1800s and with their foresight, wealth and energy

from early settlers, the construction was completed in 1840. The temple (in its early days), was located at the water's edge and welcomed southbound immigrants who had just landed on Singapore shores as well as serving as a stopover for northbound travellers heading back to China. History tells us that, as the early settlers landed here in Singapore after their long and often hazardous journeys, they gave thanks for safe passage to Mazu, Goddess of the Sea and, to carry on tradition, there is to this day an annual celebration in her honour. Additionally, placed within the temple are many statues of the various Deities, symbolic artefacts and shrines that brought and still bring many of the travellers and local and surrounding communities here to pray. It is indeed a living monument and an architectural masterpiece.

Our tour was led by one of the many informed temple guides who entertained us with fascinating details about the Deities. In addition to learning the unique story behind each Deity, and how they became symbols



of worship, we also learned that the artefacts linked to them have symbolic meaning.

As we watched people congregate within the temple, individual contemplation began as they moved from one Deity to another. Some of the sights were mesmerising to witness: the waving of joss sticks backwards and forwards and kneeling before the Deities as they gave thanks. Truly a moment of hope, love and respect through prayer. Our guide went on to explain about each Deity so that we could understand why the Chinese worship so many Deities, what the purpose of each was and the relevance bestowed upon them. Whichever faith or background you come from, this temple does not fail to impress.



Guan Sheng Di Jun

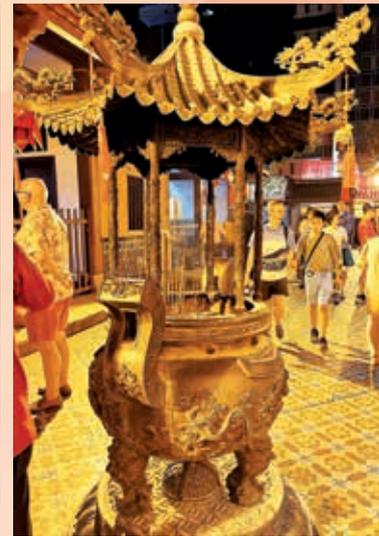
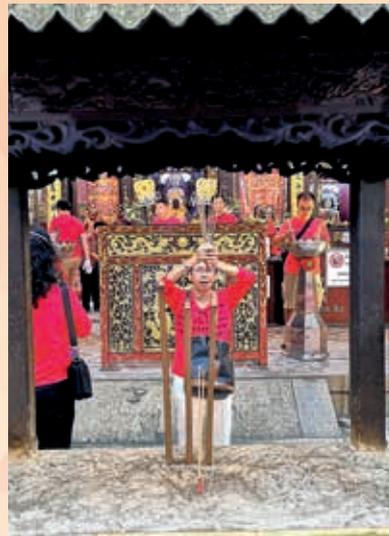
Yue Gong Niang Niang

One of the Deities we came across was called Yue Gong Niang Niang (The Goddess of the Moon Palace). It is believed that she fulfils the wishes of those who come here to worship her and in modern times, young girls pray to find a good husband while married women pray for a happy marriage. Another was Guan Sheng Di Jun. He symbolises loyalty within ranks, credibility between partners and courage in diversity. He was regarded as an honest and faithful man and also a great warrior. After his death, he was worshipped as a hero and is now regarded as the God of Protection.

As the Year of the Pig eased its way to a close, the festivities kicked in with the arrival of the Dragon. The Dragon Dance originated in China during the Han Dynasty (180–230 CE) as part of farming culture. The dragon is an amphibian, able to move on land, fly in the sky and swim in the sea. The dragon inspires in people a feeling of great respect and is often referred to as the Sacred Dragon. The purpose of the auspicious Dragon Dance during the Chinese New Year festivities is to bring good luck and prosperity where the dragon is seen chasing after a luminous pearl. The dragon is said to possess qualities such as great power, dignity and wisdom, and it is also said that it has a benevolent disposition. The longer the dragon is in dance, the more benevolent it is said to be.

Added to the celebrations were Chinese characters on stilts and, of course, The God of Fortune himself to ensure all have a prosperous year ahead.

This tour was educational, entertaining and most of all enjoyable. Diving into a festive celebration where history, culture, faith and community come together is what this tour was all about and I would highly recommend you put this one on your calendar for next year. One thing to note is that photographing some inner parts of the temple is frowned upon so if you visit, please be respectful.



ON SCULPTURE SAFARI

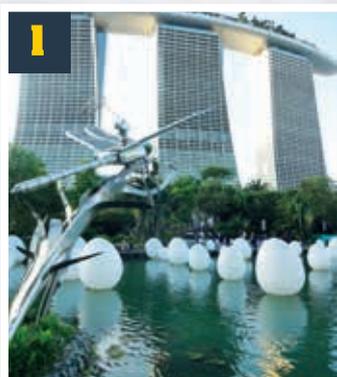
By Carolyn Perkins

The Merlion is the most famous ‘animal’ in Singapore, and, as there are several official sculptures of him dotted around Singapore, even the newest of newcomers has probably spotted one (although be quick if you still want to see the big one on Sentosa, scheduled for demolition in the near future).



An official merlion on Mount Faber with Reflections at Keppel Bay in the background

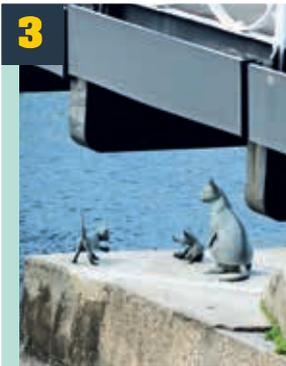
There are, however, numerous other animal sculptures around the Lion City with their own tale to tell. How much do you know about them and the places where they can be found? Take The BEAM’s Sculpture Safari Quiz to learn more. Answers at the foot of page 19.



1 An easy one to start. Not only is Dragonfly Lake one of the first things you see as you head here from the direction of the Marina Bay Sands Hotel but a dragonfly is also on the logo of this great park. What is its name?



2 This statue of birds in flight is thought to have been inspired by a graceful pair who were imported from Amsterdam. With which hugely popular ballet by Tchaikovsky does this stretch of water share its name?



3

Blink and you’ll miss this life-sized trio in bronze whose backstory is steeped in controversy. In 1975, a young female and two kittens were taken from Singapore to the United States, supposedly as the founding members of the new Singapura breed. It was later discovered that they were not, in fact, native to Singapore, having been imported from the US only the year before. The true Singapura breed (closer to a Burmese than to a local moggy) was later legitimately founded from a different litter. The sculpture is thus a tribute to all the cats of Singapore, whether Singapuras or strays. On which bridge linking Empress Place to Fullerton Square can you find this cat and kittens?



4

Not to scale (we hope) is this fine fellow measuring 245 x 310 x 250 cm. Called simply ‘Bird’, the sculpture is typical of the generously proportioned figures of Columbian artist, Fernando Botero. This

exaggerated corpulence signifies the joy of living life to the full and the power of optimism. Which bank showed its optimism about Singapore’s growth and prosperity by installing ‘Bird’ in front of its plaza near Boat Quay?

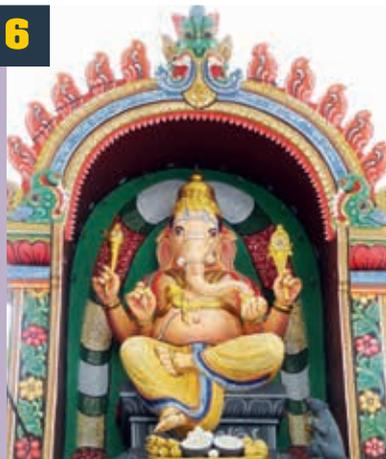


5

Known as ‘Skyscraper’, this blue whale is assembled from five tonnes of plastic waste collected on beaches in only four months. Made from washing-up bowls,

shopping baskets, bread crates and more, it serves as a reminder of the millions of tonnes of plastic that continue to be discarded in our oceans and calls upon humans to take action. As The BEAM went to print, Skyscraper had already moved on from the lotus-like ArtScience Museum to the next leg (flipper?) of its Southeast Asia tour. Do you know in which European city Skyscraper first appeared, looming out of a canal in the picturesque old town?

Photo credit: www.littledayout.com

6

On the corner of South Bridge Road and Pagoda Street is the oldest Hindu temple in Singapore, Sri Mariamman. Pagoda Street was named after this temple but some argue this was a misnomer as the colourful

tower above the entrance is not strictly a pagoda but a gopuram. Step barefoot through the entrance to the temple and contemplate this serene statue. By which name is the elephant-headed Hindu deity known?

7

Haw Par Villa is the very model of eccentricity. Built in the 1930s as a present from a wealthy philanthropist, Aw Boon Haw, to his brother, Aw Boon Par, it contains countless structures depicting oriental myths and legends such as the Ten Courts of Hell. Stepping away from gory portrayals of the afterlife for a moment, turn your attention to the gate as it provides a clue to your next question: what is the name of the ointment from which the brothers made their fortune?

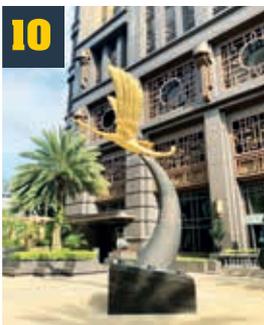
8

This wooden sculpture was discovered on the Local Treasures walk between the Botanic Gardens and Tiong Bahru, found in 'The Book

of Walks'. Roughly halfway through the walk, in the foothills of which former nutmeg plantation and army barracks can these horses be found?

9

It would be unfair to quiz you on where to find this impressive pair (Sakya Muni Buddha Gaya Temple on Race Course Road), as stone lions guard the entrance to temples, banks and other institutions all over the Lion City. Pairs are usually a male and a female. From the photographs, how can you tell which is which?

10

Parkview Square may be one of the finest buildings in Singapore but that doesn't stop locals dubbing it Gotham Tower after Batman's gloomy home city. There are several sculptures in the courtyard but in the centre is an elegant bird, setting its sights on mainland

China as it takes flight. Name this important symbol in Chinese folklore, and then reward yourself for reaching the end of The BEAM's safari with a well-earned cocktail in the decadent art deco-inspired Atlas Bar just behind it. Cheers!

ANSWERS

- 1 Gardens by the Bay
- 2 Swan Lake, Botanic Gardens
- 3 Cavenagh Bridge
- 4 United Overseas Bank
- 5 Bruges, Belgium – Skyscraper is also known as the 'Bruges Whale'
- 6 Ganesh or Ganesha
- 7 Tiger Balm
- 8 Dempsey Hill
- 9 Female (left) holds a cub; male (right) holds a ball
- 10 Crane

HOW DID YOU DO?

7 – 10 points: *Sculpture Vulture.*

You have keenly observed the many creatures great and small and know your way around the Lion City. Bravo!

4 – 6 points: *Sculpture Squirrel.*

You have amassed a fair bit of animal imagery but may enjoy gathering more in the coming months.

0 – 3 points: *Sculpture Skunk.*

You are an omnivore so you could be consuming a whole lot more sculpture culture. We suggest you get out there and gorge!

WHEN THEY GO LOW, WE GO HIGH

By Sharon Shields

An Evening with Michelle Obama left the audience buzzing with inspiration and positivity!

— AN EVENING WITH — MICHELLE OBAMA



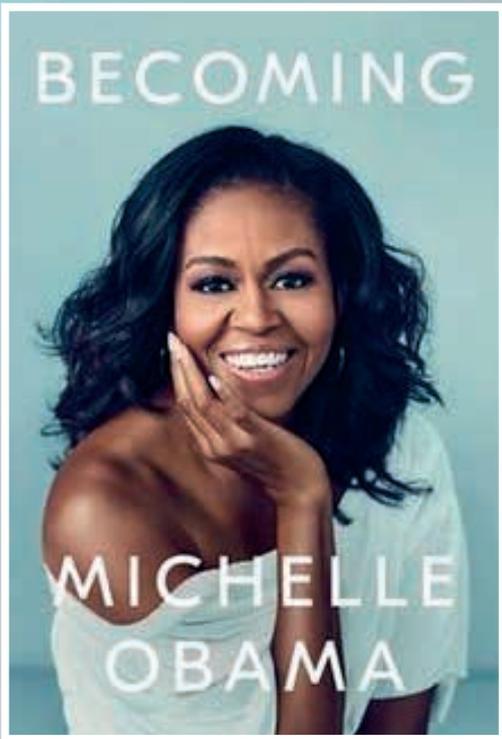
Having read in The BEAM that Ex-President and First Lady, Barack and Michelle Obama, were coming to Singapore in December 2019, I knew I wanted to take the opportunity to see this world-famous couple, who use their influence and magic to inspire audiences in business, political and social contexts. My interest was specifically piqued by the Michelle Obama interview because I had heard so much in the media about this amazing lady. Originating from a humble working-class background, she strived to become a lawyer, then met Barack, and eventually became his wife, after turning him down the first time he proposed! Not to mention being a mother to two daughters and the first African-American 'First Lady' in The White House.

The event was hosted at Expo and attended by an enthusiastic audience of 3,500, predominantly, but by no means exclusively, made up of women. There was a huge buzz of excitement as people took their places and the house lights went down. The stage was set for two and the conversation was directed by Corinna Lim, herself a former lawyer now working for AWARE. Michelle received a very warm welcome as she took her seat. During the hour and a half conversation many topics were covered, such as family, honesty, marriage and, of course, life in the White House.



Photo Credit: Theory of Constraints <https://toc.net/2019/12/15/spending-an-evening-with-michelle-obama/>

Michelle explained how her family values were her bedrock and a blueprint for the rest of her life. She has passed those values on to her daughters, to inspire a new generation to work hard, value yourself, treat people with kindness and decency, and not expect it back. These themes were reiterated throughout the interview. Michelle strongly believes that we should all be honest. We should talk openly about our journeys: the striving and the failing, not only the overcoming and success. To be role models we must develop resilience, coming out the other side stronger for the experience. We should talk, share and learn from one another.



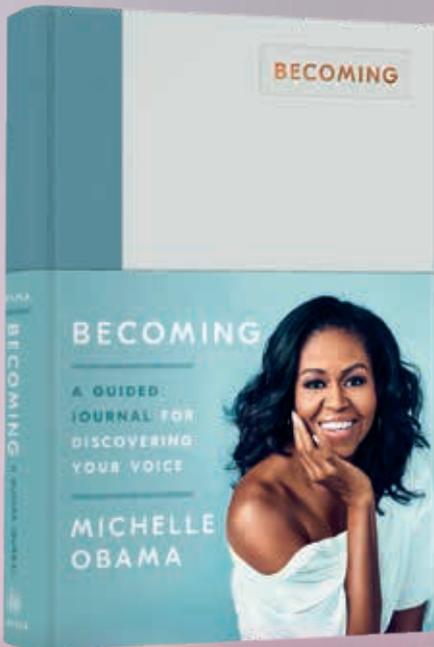
Treating people with decency is not something the tabloids are known for and Michelle told us how she suffered from negative press, personal attacks and racial abuse. During this difficult time Michelle became famous for a saying that is now widely quoted: 'When they go low, we go high!'

She saw her role as First Lady as a great privilege but also an amazing opportunity. She took the White House from 'exclusive' to 'inclusive' by warmly welcoming many families, from all walks of life, to enjoy a huge variety of activities there, from Easter egg hunts to growing carrots! She campaigned for better health and improved US school meals, reducing carbs and replacing them with more vegetables to educate and try to reduce childhood obesity. This, as Jamie Oliver also experienced, was a very controversial subject.

There were also problems in being a 'First Parent', which most of us never experience. Michelle was keen for her girls to enjoy the company of friends, but their friends' families had to understand that playdates came with a secret service surveillance team, police cars and dogs. She was also able to tell us how she had to put her girls first, to focus on them rather than herself, despite her own hectic work schedule. It was important to listen to her girls and make sure she attended key events in their lives.

She talked about her book 'Becoming', an interesting title, which illustrates her reflections on life and wisdom and is full of honest detailed accounts of her family and childhood. It would not have been possible if she had not been a keen diarist, recording facts, daily reflections and emotions over the years. She has also produced another publication called 'A Guided Journal for Discovering Your Voice', filled with thought-provoking questions and positive quotations. These made it an ideal gift for some of my friends dealing with turbulent times and uncertain futures, as it is full of prompts, reflections and positive messages to help them through their own personal journey. Many mothers bought a copy for their daughters.

The evening drew to a close with rapturous applause and left the audience buzzing with conversations. Strangers were talking to each other en route to the MRT, on the MRT, and at bus stops. Hopefully these conversations, about values, honesty, the sharing of our experiences and our journeys will continue, helping us support one other and those who follow in the next generation.



VISIT YOUR ZODIAC ANIMAL IN SINGAPORE

By Rosalind Arwas

Chinese New Year festivities are over and the Year of the Metal Rat should be delivering strength, prosperity and luck (as promised by www.thechinesezodiac.org/horoscope-2020). Your Chinese horoscope, however, is influenced not only by the now ascendant Rat but also by your own celestial animal and those of the people around you, meaning that all twelve heavenly animals are always important. Can you find their earthly versions here in Singapore?



Rat

Singapore appears too clean to harbour vermin, however the Rentokil website lists three common rat varieties: the brown (sewer) rat, the black (roof) rat and the house mouse. The Straits Times also cheerfully reports that pest controllers killed more than 20 rats in Pasir Ris last year. As rats enjoy lurking around bin centres and refuse chutes and BEAM readers generally do not, The BEAM advises you to visit the naked mole rat at the Singapore Zoo instead. This ugly but fascinating little animal has a CV that reads like science fiction. It can live up to thirty years longer than standard rats, secretes a cancer-beating sugar compound and lives in a colony dominated by an alpha female, the only one of her tribe allowed to breed.



Ox

(more commonly translated into English as cow)

Up in the far north-west of the island, dirt tracks, stray dogs and fruit orchards beckon from deserted winding roads, and small farms such as Dairy Folks and Viknesh Dairy Farm produce fresh milk and ice cream. They are working dairies, not open to the public, but once a year some of their animals are feted and paraded through the streets of Little India in honour of Pongal, a Tamil harvest festival. The next Pongal will take place between 13th and 16th January 2021, with a procession of cows, calves and goats on 14th January. Other 'Oxen' in Singapore are not real but sculpted. Outside the Fullerton Hotel, a patient ox, yoked to a laden cart, has been immortalised in bronze and colourful cow sculptures adorn Singapore's oldest Hindu temple, Sri Mariamman.



Tiger

In the mid-nineteenth century, attacks by tigers in Singapore were frequent and fatal and the government offered rewards for every tiger shot until the 1930s, when the last known wild tiger was eliminated. Nowadays Singaporean tigers are only found in art or cages. For example, outside the Sakya Muni Buddha Gaya Buddhist Temple on Racecourse Road, a majestic feline bares its teeth in a frozen roar. Alternatively, Pasha and Keysa, two beautiful rare white tigers, can be seen at Singapore Zoo.



Rabbit

Bunnies are popular pets in Singapore so hop on down to Rabbit Headquarters, near Serangoon, to browse their collections of Holland Lop, Netherland Dwarf, Mini Rex and Lionhead and learn about caring for rabbits. Rabbit rescue centres such as Bunny Wonderland and House Rabbit Society Singapore (HRSS) also offer previously neglected bunnies for adoption. Other opportunities to feed and interact with rabbits exist in the Buddy Barn at Kidzworld, Singapore Zoo and at The Animal Resort, a small petting zoo in Seletar West Farmway.



Dragon

The BEAM research team was unable to locate any real live dragons but there are several uniquely Singaporean alternatives. Singapore's only surviving Dragon Kiln, a traditional wood kiln built in 1940, can be found at the Thow Kwang Pottery Jungle. It is fired up three or four times a year to allow local potters to experiment with the now rare art of wood firing. Another much loved Singapore icon is the last remaining full-size Dragon Playground in Toa Payoh, designed in 1979 by HDB's in-house designer. For 'live' dragons, check out the dragonfish farm in Singapore's Wild (North) West. Dragonfish are small, elongated fish encased in bony rings of armour, with wing-like fins, native to Southeast Asia. Finally, the endangered Komodo dragon can be visited at the Reptile Garden at the Zoo, where in 2009, the first baby Komodo dragon was hatched outside of the reptile's native Indonesia.



Water monitor and dragonfly – two 'dragons' found in Singapore. Photo credits: Neil Perkins

100s Snake

Living in Singapore is shock therapy for ophidiophobes. Three-metre long pythons nap on Orchard Road, giant cobras slither along the trails at the Sungei Buloh wetlands, whisper-thin tree snakes glide along branches at MacRitchie and greenish black things sun themselves on walls in the street. The NParks website, terrifyingly, lists 66 snake species present in Singapore, including nine water or sea snakes. These include the King Cobra, the largest venomous snake in the world, which can grow up to 5.5m and 9kg and the Reticulated Python, the world's longest snake, which, although not venomous, can still deliver a nasty bite. Incidences of snake bite in Singapore are, however, rare.



Horse

Although it's a small island, with little open space, Singapore has several stables and riding schools. The Singapore Polo Club, established in 1886, is the oldest and one of the largest, with 220 horses and ponies, but horse riding is not only for the elite. The National Equestrian Centre was set up in 2011 as both a training ground for the national team and an outreach programme to educate the general public about horsey hobbies. Another way to interact with horses is to volunteer for Riding for the Disabled Association Singapore (RDA), a registered charity offering equine-assisted therapy to people with disabilities.



Photo credit: Norah Rahamin

Goat

Singapore's only goat farm, Hay Dairies, recently announced plans to quadruple the size of its ruminant population to 4,000, after it was awarded a government tender for a new plot of land. The farm sells plain and chocolate-flavoured goat milk, onsite or delivered to your door. Educational tours are available during which participants can feed and pet the goats and watch them being milked. Alternatively, many restaurants in Little India serve a tasty goat biryani!



fowl, although native to Southeast Asia, are considered endangered in Singapore. They are most famous for their loud morning or mating calls. The cockerels are territorial and live in a group with three to five females.



Photo credit: Julie Avery

Dog

With dogs required to be licensed and on a lead and banned from public transport, it's not easy to be a dog here. However, in 2016, the Straits Times reported 62,000 pet dogs in Singapore, with numbers rising steadily year on year. Smaller mixed breeds are the most popular. If you don't own a dog, top places to see them out for a walk are the Botanic Gardens, Tanjong Beach (where dogs can even swim in the sea) and K9 Park, a dedicated doggy playground on the roof of NEX in Serangoon.

Monkey

Approximately 1,500 native long-tailed macaques live in Singapore and are easily spotted in the Central Catchment Area, Bukit Timah Nature Reserve or Pulau Ubin. Although cute, monkeys are wild animals and NParks advises not to smile at them as this may be interpreted as a sign of aggression. Much more rare is the Banded Leaf Monkey (or Raffles' Banded Langur), only about 50 of whom are believed to be living wild in Singapore. They can occasionally be seen around the Thomson Nature Reserve.



Pig

According to NParks, the wild boar, an ancestor of the domestic pig, can weigh up to 100kg, live for more than twenty years and produce four to six piglets a year. It is native to Singapore and can be spotted almost anywhere as it has no natural predators, enjoys eating trash and can scale three-feet high fences. Although usually shy, they can become aggressive if provoked.



Rooster

Red jungle fowl are a common sight, strutting about the Botanic Gardens and other Singapore parks. Most are hybrids, having mated extensively with the domestic chicken. Pure red jungle

Diary of an Expat **D** **G**

By Helen Woodhall



And so we embarked on the convoluted process of animal importation, the ins and outs of which meant that, despite our best efforts, the dog arrived a full three months after we did. He emerged, slightly traumatised by ten days in a concrete quarantine box, and was ecstatic to find us waiting for him. As he raced around his new house, he promptly made his feelings known by peeing on the bed. Luckily I was able to whip off the sheets immediately, but if ever there was a marking of territory, surely that was it!

Quarantine or no quarantine?

If you are coming from a country with little or no rabies, such as the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand or the Republic of Ireland, no quarantine is required. This category also includes Hong Kong and Japan, and some European countries. Importing a dog from countries with a low incidence of rabies such as the USA, France or Germany requires ten days in quarantine. Thirty days of quarantine is reserved for countries with a high or unknown risk of rabies. Space in quarantine has to be booked three months in advance. If your pet misses its flight due to unforeseen circumstances (as ours did), there is no choice but to rebook the next available slot, which may be three months away.

There are so many things to take into account when facing a relocation to Singapore. To ship or not to ship all your belongings? What to do with your winter clothes? Will your antique furniture hold up to the climate? For those with pets, though, the most important is: should Fido come too?

For some, the decision is taken out of their hands. There is a list of proscribed species in Singapore, which includes all types of pitbull and some other breeds such as akitas and dogos argentinos. If your beloved family pet belongs to one of these, she will have to stay behind. If not, there are other factors to consider. If your dog is very old, will she make it here in good health? The trip can be a gruelling one, depending on how far you are travelling. In our case, our four-year old beagle was fit and well, but we worried if he would be able to adapt to the big city, having been used to the free-ranging country life of a farm dog. When the subject of leaving him behind or sending him to grandparents in the country was raised though, our twelve-year old left us in no doubt. If the dog wasn't coming, then neither was he!



As we tried to ease our dog into his new life, the most surprising thing was his reluctance, even resistance, to going for a walk. Previously a fan of strenuous hikes through the American countryside, he was now straining to go home after a mere five minutes of meandering. Caroline Kinner was kind enough to share her knowledge of doggy psychology during a BA Coffee Morning at Brunetti, which helped me to understand what was going on. With his sensitive snout, he was simply overwhelmed with the myriad unfamiliar smells of his new environment. It took a good few months for him to become comfortable enough with his new neighbourhood scentscape such that it could fade into the background. In the interim, Caroline recommended treats. Lots of them!



How dog-friendly is Singapore day to day?



If you want to get out and about with your canine friend, check in advance whether he will be welcome or not. You might be lucky enough to live near a dog park, which will provide a ready-made social life for both of you. If not, most National Parks are dog-friendly, although dogs must be kept on a lead. Dogs are, however, forbidden in Nature Reserves, for obvious reasons. Many people choose to walk their dogs in the Botanic Gardens. Members of the BA's Walkie Talkie Botanics Group are thus familiar with my dog as I bring him along if he has been cooped up at home for a while but there are a few areas within the Botanic Gardens where dogs are not allowed, such as the Jacob Ballas Children's Garden and the new Mingxin Foundation Rambler's Ridge. If you or your dog need refreshment after your walk, you can borrow a dog bowl at Casa Verde to give him water whilst you sip your coffee. Another popular place with dog owners is Tanjong Beach on Sentosa, and you can also take your dog for a run on the East Coast Beach. Wherever you are, remember to pick up after your dog. You can be fined up to \$1000 if you neglect to do so.

If you don't live within walking distance of a dog-friendly park, and have chosen to forego car ownership, it can be a challenge to get around. Pets are not allowed on any public transport and, whilst the drivers of some ordinary taxis will happily accommodate you and your pooch, others will not. It is safer to book a specialist service such as a GrabPet. You will pay more for the privilege, but you can be certain not to be met with refusal.

Singapore Specials

A Singapore Special refers to a dog that has evolved in the streets over generations. Their ancestors were often used as guard dogs for construction sites or warehouses. Also known as mongrels, pariah dogs or village dogs, the most typical 'look' is a medium-sized, short-haired tan dog that has pointed ears and a dark muzzle. However, because of their varied heritage, there are many others with very different characteristics. They are rescued from the streets by welfare groups or animal welfare societies. If you want to foster or adopt one, be sure to get recommendations for a reputable animal shelter or community group.



Rabbiting on about the Easter Bunny

By Carolyn Perkins

There is no mention of any fluffy-tailed, long-eared bringer of chocolate in the Bible, so how did the Easter Bunny become synonymous with one of the most important holidays in the Christian calendar?



It all made so much more sense. Just after I started school in London, my uncle came to stay while he was house-hunting so that his own family could eventually join him in the Big Smoke. Sometimes, when he came home from work, he would tell my sister and me that he had been to visit the Chocolate Hen and would produce from his briefcase chocolate eggs that the Chocolate Hen had laid that very day. We were mesmerised and yet, in our young minds,

this was entirely logical, much more so than a rabbit with a basket dispensing multi-coloured ovoids that might even contain (shudder!) egg.

Some say it was the Venerable Bede, the English Benedictine monk, who started it. He wrote that the obscure pagan goddess Eostre was celebrated in Eostre-month, which coincided roughly with April in the Gregorian calendar and thus Eastertime. However, although Eostre is mysteriously depicted in art with a hare, Bede never linked her to any animal and so the source of the Easter Bunny must lie elsewhere.

Another theory is that Eostre is the Anglo-Saxon for the spring equinox and translates as 'east shining'. In other words, the sun rises in the East on a new day and this in turn indicates birth and rebirth. It makes sense that Easter ('Ostern' in German) is Anglo-Saxon in origin as most other words for this holiday come from the Aramaic 'paskha', which originally denoted Passover. Even Danish and Dutch, which are in the same language family as English and German, use 'påske' and 'pasen' respectively.

Fine so far but what about the bunny? The spring equinox happens between 19th and 21st March and again roughly coincides with the paschal festival (ie. Easter), which moves each year according to the ecclesiastical full moon. Not for nothing do we have the phrase 'mad as a March hare' to apply to anyone behaving in an excitable and peculiar manner. This comes from the notion that March is peak breeding season for hares, who are known as energetic procreators at the best of times and whose activity is heightened in the spring. Thus the hare or Easter Bunny symbolises fertility and new life in profusion.

The popularity of the Easter Bunny extended to the United States around the 18th century when German immigrants settled there, mostly around Pennsylvania. They brought with

them their tradition of an egg-laying hare or 'Osterhase'. Other countries use other animals as the symbol of Easter: Germany's neighbour, Switzerland, has perhaps not so surprisingly the cuckoo (again a symbol of the arrival of spring and the rebirth of nature). Let's hope this cuckoo doesn't dish out eggs (yet another indication of new life) that he 'found' in other nests.

Depending on family traditions, the Easter Bunny either leaves eggs to be found during an Easter egg hunt or dispenses eggs in the nests or baskets left out by children who have been good. This is reminiscent of Saint Nicholas' gifts to the poor or leaving out a Christmas stocking for Santa Claus who knows if you have been 'naughty or nice'. Some traditions even require leaving out carrots (or nowadays carrot cake – see Singaporean recipe opposite)



for the Easter Bunny as they do for Rudolf the Red-Nosed Reindeer. Thus, although not inherently biblical, the children's customs at these two key Christian holidays echo one another.

While largely recognised as a pagan figure, the hare does have its place in Christian symbolism. In churches, there are sometimes 'three hares sharing three ears yet every one of them has two' as the old German riddle goes. These 'rotating rabbits' are said to represent either the Holy Trinity or the circle of life and rebirth through the Resurrection, which is, of course, central to Easter.



Dreihäsenfenster or Three-Hare-Window, Paderborn Cathedral, Germany.

Photo credit: Tourist Information Paderborn

Hares have gazed at many moons since the Chocolate Hen first came to London but either she or the Easter Bunny will find their way to you on 12th April – if you have been good.

EAST AND WEST

Would you like carrot cake or carrot cake?

By Helen Woodhall

You might be tempted to make a carrot cake for your Easter celebrations. You probably have a favourite frosted carrot cake recipe. But why not surprise your family and visitors with the other sort of carrot cake? Newcomers to Singapore are often bemused to learn that the famously delicious Singaporean carrot cake bears no resemblance to the tea-time favourite they had in mind. In fact, it doesn't even contain carrot! The main ingredient is the daikon, or white radish, which loosely resembles a white carrot and, grated and mixed with steamed white flour and water, forms the basis of this iconic dish. After it was brought to Singapore by early Teochew immigrants from the Chaoshan region of China, careless translation was responsible for the transformation of daikon to carrot and flour batter to cake. Originally a marinated rice cake that was cooked with eggs and oysters, it has evolved over the years to its current incarnation.

You can test out different versions of carrot cake at almost every hawker centre in Singapore for just a few dollars. The usual choices are white (chai tow kway) or black (char kway). The white is cooked with light soy sauce, the black with kecap manis, a thick sweet soy sauce. Some have added beansprouts or even prawns.



Singaporean Carrot Cake

To make the steamed cake

- ✓ **220 g** fine rice flour
- ✓ **625 g** chicken or vegetable stock
- ✓ **300 g** grated white radish or daikon
- ✓ **1 teaspoon** salt
- ✓ **1 clove** garlic, chopped
- ✓ **1 tablespoon** oil

To cook the cake

- ✓ **1 tablespoon** oil
- ✓ **1 clove** garlic, chopped
- ✓ **1 spring** onion, chopped
- ✓ **1 tablespoon** pickled radish or turnip (chai poh), optional
- ✓ **1 tablespoon** chilli sauce, Sriracha or other, to taste
- ✓ **1 tablespoon** Thai fish sauce
- ✓ **1 tablespoon** light soy sauce
- ✓ **3** eggs

If you are making the steamed cake yourself, start the day before. Otherwise just cheat and buy it in a store. Fairprice sells a large block for just \$2, in the section with the meat substitutes.

In a large bowl, whisk the flour and the salt into the stock to make a smooth batter. Heat the oil in a large frying pan or wok and add the garlic. Cook for a minute until golden brown then add the grated daikon. Cook for a few minutes until it starts to become translucent. Add the batter and cook for a few more minutes until it thickens up.

Pour the batter into a greased tray. Clean out the wok, put it back on the heat, add some water, and insert the steaming rack.

Cover and steam the radish cake for about one hour until it is set. Keep an eye on the level of water and top it up if necessary. The cake is done when it is solid but it will remain slightly sticky. Put the cake in the fridge overnight.

When you are ready to cook the carrot cake, take it from the fridge and cut it into small cubes.

Beat the eggs. Heat the oil in the wok or large frying pan and fry the cubes of carrot cake until golden. Try not to move them around too much to begin with because they will turn to mush if you fiddle with them. Don't worry if they stick a little. When they are cooked, add the garlic and spring onions, then the three sauces. Mix and cook for a minute or so, then push the mixture to one side and add the eggs. Scramble the eggs, then mix it all together and serve.

Delicious but, unfortunately, around 500 calories a serving. If you are looking for a lighter 'carrot cake' alternative to either the Singaporean hawker centre favourite or the British tea time staple (also around 400 calories a slice), try these raw vegan bites:



- ✓ **30 g** walnuts
- ✓ **1 tablespoon** sultanas
- ✓ **40 g** dates, chopped
- ✓ **130 g** grated carrot (about 2 medium carrots)
- ✓ **30 g** coconut, shredded
- ✓ **½ teaspoon** cinnamon
- ✓ **½ teaspoon** ginger
- ✓ Pinch nutmeg
- ✓ Pinch salt

In a high-speed food mixer, pulse the walnuts, sultanas and dates until you have a rough paste. Add the coconut, spices, and the grated carrot and pulse again until you have a thick but not totally smooth paste. Grease a small tin or shallow dish and pack the mixture in well, pressing down with the back of a spoon. Leave in the fridge for an hour or so before unmoulding it. If it is fragile, you can freeze it for an hour or two to firm it up before unmoulding it onto a plate and cutting into small squares. Sprinkle with grated coconut to serve.

KOMODO DRAGONS

By Philippa Jackson

Komodo dragons or Komodo monitors can only be found in their natural habitat on the group of islands of Komodo, Rinca and Flores known collectively as Komodo National Park and Archipelago. These giant monitors have no natural predators on the islands and have thrived here for centuries. In the wild, an average adult male will weigh 79 to 91 kg and measure 2.59 m, while an average female will weigh 68 to 73 kg and measure 2.29 m.

With the threat of the Indonesian government possibly stopping access to the Komodo National Park or increasing the cost of permits significantly, we decided that this trip was now a priority for a chance to see these giant monitors. The closure, proposed for 2020, has now been cancelled, but it is worth checking before planning a trip, as the situation seems to change on a regular basis.

There are several ways to get to the islands including boat tours from Bali. We opted to fly to Labuan Bajo on Flores and stay at the lovely Ayana Resort Hotel where there are regular trips. There are plenty of options from the hotel and the village nearby to suit available time and budget, from one day to staying on a boat overnight and cruising round the islands.

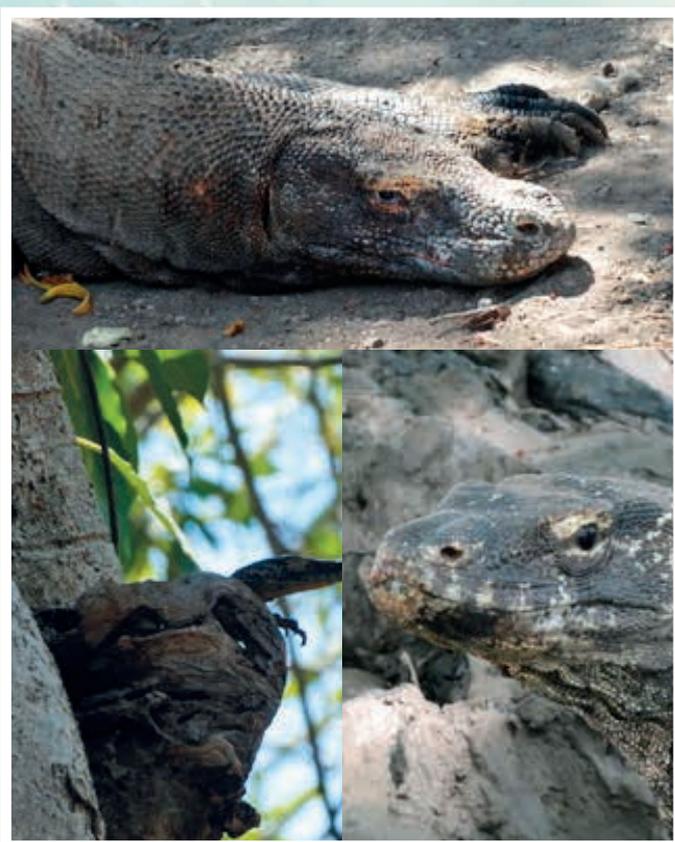
We went on a great one-day trip organised by the hotel from their jetty; it couldn't have been easier. The best time to visit this amazing area is between April and June or September and November when it is warm and relatively dry. We went in late November, with glorious weather.



On the day of our trip we set out early for Komodo Island and the National Park. A guide will take you around several trails on the island, with a chance to see these amazing creatures in their natural surroundings. We were able to see a female guarding her nest of 20 eggs which can take between seven and eight months to hatch. Once hatched they climb trees for protection until they are much bigger and able to fend for themselves on the ground.

After the visit to the dragons, we explored the other islands in the Archipelago. There are fantastic snorkelling and diving opportunities throughout the islands. Makassar Reef and the crystal blue waters of Manta Point gave us the chance to see lots of amazing fish, swim with giant manta rays and watch reef sharks swim along the bottom. I am not a diver, but snorkelling gave me the chance to see all of this and more. On Padar Island you can climb to the top and get wonderful views. It is also home to the famous Pink Beach which is made up of tiny pieces of coral (wet shoes are advised, as sand can be sharp), where the sea is very inviting to swim. Rinca Island is also another island stop to see the dragons.

There are also sunset cruises to see the indigenous bats of Kalong Island take to the air in their thousands and this is an amazing spectacle to watch while sipping a cool cocktail. I would highly recommend this great place to visit for a long weekend.



MAY I?

By Jules Murphy



I introduced the card game May I? to the BA two years ago. It was taught to me by the Brits Abroad group in Shanghai.

At the first session, five ladies showed up at my house for what was originally intended to be a bi-weekly event. After only the second meeting, the ladies asked if we could play weekly and by the third session our numbers had swelled to twelve.



How it all began

We have now evolved into a mixed group of ladies and gents, with twelve to twenty people showing up each week to play in the upstairs room at The Boomerang Bar, Boat Quay. Occasionally we also get together for socials at members' houses and every few months we meet up to play in the evening at McGettigan's Bar.



It is lovely to know that many of the players have gone on to teach the game to their own families and friends.

May I? is a card game similar to rummy but with twelve cards dealt to each person in each round and with twelve different rounds in a game. Two packs of cards are used for up to five players and three packs if there are six or more players in the group.

Outline of the Game During each round, the object is to get rid of as many cards as possible from your hand by playing them onto the table as melds. When one player has laid down all their cards, the cards remaining in the other player's hands score penalty points. The player with the lowest total of penalty points after the twelfth deal wins.

Melds As in most rummy games, the melds are sets of equal cards and runs of consecutive cards in the same suit. Wild cards may be used as substitutes for any cards in a set or run. Sets consist of three or more cards of equal rank, for example, three sevens or four queens.

Runs consist of three or more cards of the same suit in sequence, such as 3-4-5-6 of spades, or 9-10-J of diamonds. An ace can count as high (as in J-Q-K-A) or low (as in A-2-3-4), but not both (K-A-2-3 is not allowed). A player can meld two separate runs in the same suit, for example 4-5-6-7 and 8-9-10-J, or these eight cards could be melded as a single run: 4-5-6-7-8-9-10-J. Once melded, however, runs cannot be split up or joined together, only extended.

Wild cards Twos and jokers are wild and can be used in any set or run to represent any natural card. However, in the runs, a wild card's value must be specifically identified and may not be changed, unless replaced with the natural card that it represents. For example, if you lay down ♦4-♦5-♦6- with a 2 or a joker, you must specify whether it is a 3 or 7. A two can also be used as a natural card (i.e. representing itself) in a run such as A-2-3-4.



All this adds up to a fun, sometimes competitive but always friendly social get-together. Come along to find out more!

May I?, Thursdays at 2.00pm
The Boomerang Bar, Boat Quay
e-mail events@britishassociation.org.sg

March Monthly Meander: **ALONG THE RIDGES**

Date: Friday 27th March
Time: 9.00am–11.30am
(approximately depending on everyone's pace)

Length of walk: 10km

Meet point: Kent Ridge MRT Exit B

End point: HarbourFront MRT

Starting at Kent Ridge MRT, we walk through Kent Ridge Park, then beautiful Hort Park with its landscaped gardens, across Alexandra Bridge, through the Forest Walk and then cross the impressive Henderson Waves Bridge and on to Faber Peak, where we can stop for refreshments and admire the amazing view (don't forget to visit 'the loo with a view') before walking for 10–15 minutes down the hill to finish at HarbourFront MRT.

Things to bring: sunhat, mosquito repellent, sunscreen and some money for well-deserved refreshments. Walkers will also need to bring a water bottle but there are several places to refill along the way and it's an easy trail so trainers will be fine.

Please register through the BA website.

Closing date for registration: Monday 23rd March.



April Monthly Meander: **SINGAPORE WATERS**

Date: Monday 27th April
Time: 9.00am–11.30am
(approximately depending on everyone's pace)

Length of walk: 10km

Meet point: Bayfront MRT Exit D

End point: Rochor MRT

Taken from 'The Book of Walks' we first pass through the beautifully landscaped Gardens by the Bay and on over the Marina Barrage to the east side. We follow the waters

off the Kallang Basin, past the National Stadium and on to the track alongside the Rochor Canal to our destination in Jalan Besar. The walk is about 10km long but there are many transport options on the way for walkers to finish early if needs be.

Things to bring: sunhat, mosquito repellent and sunscreen. As usual, walkers will also need to bring a water bottle but there are several places to refill along the way and it's an easy, paved trail so trainers will be fine.

Please register through the BA website.

Closing date for registration: Friday 24th April.

Behavioural Finance – What’s your favourite bias?



What’s Behavioural Finance?

If you haven’t come across the term “behavioural finance” before, then it’s something I’d suggest that every investor gains at least a working knowledge of. In a nutshell, behavioural finance is the study of the effect of psychological traits on investor behaviour, countering the assumption inherent with traditional financial theory, that markets and investors behave perfectly rationally.

Why is it relevant to me?

If you owned a car which persistently steered to the left and stalled on hills, you would probably want to:

- 1) be aware of these potentially damaging tendencies, and
- 2) be ready to take evasive action by anticipating the behaviour.

In the “journey” of investing, our mental biases are comparable to such mechanical flaws, and may cause you to end up in a metaphorical financial ditch, if left to their own devices.

Biased? Me?

Let’s look at a few of my favourite biases in the “behavioural finance” space.

- 1) **Loss Aversion:** being so fearful of making losses, that your investing focus is predominantly on the avoidance of these, rather than on making gains.

Impact: this may result, for example, in not selling out of a losing investment (so as to realise a loss) when your expectation is that it will continue to fall.

Mitigation: utilise some of the traditional strategies available to lower the volatility/risk of your investment (e.g. hedging, investing in multiple asset classes, employing diversification).

- 2) **Anchoring:** defining a sense of value for an item based on the first information found, this becoming the “anchor” which has an undue influence over any subsequent data.

Impact: seeing a stock in ABC.com trade at \$100 on Monday and then \$120 on Tuesday, an investor may choose not to invest on the second day, placing too much store on the original price and feeling that they have, therefore, “missed out” already (only to genuinely miss out when it goes to \$150).

Mitigation: rigorous, critical thinking: determine the actual intrinsic value of any item to determine if it is worth buying at a particular moment in time.

- 3) **Framing:** the tendency to come to a decision based on how the information was presented rather than simply based on the facts.

Impact: being presented with an investment option which is “unique”, “limited time”, “only for the discerning few” etc may positively influence an investor to participate, regardless of the facts associated with the investment (which may well be in smaller print!).

Mitigation: recognise the framing; statements of opinion, judgements, assumptions etc which may be encouraging an irrational response.

Conclusion

In summary, the most common, and powerful way to avoid the effects of these cognitive biases in finance is simply to be aware that they exist.

When considering an investment, literally ask yourself: “Which bias might I be suffering from here?”, and, having identified it, act accordingly to mitigate the risk.

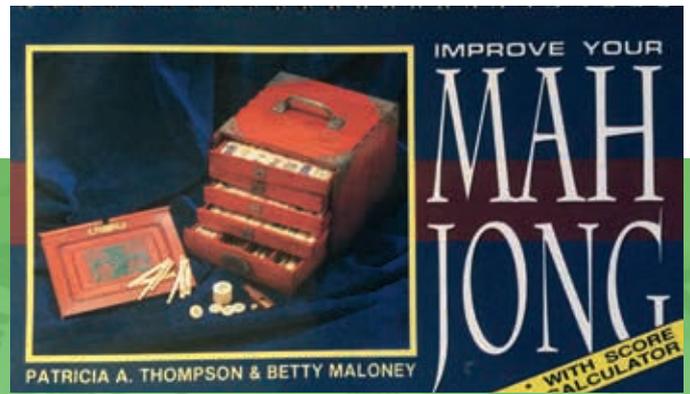
Better still, speak to your financial adviser, who should be adept at recognising and avoiding such biases. Remember: don’t just follow the herd (yes, that’s another bias!).

Article by: Michael Davidson, International Financial Advisor at GFC
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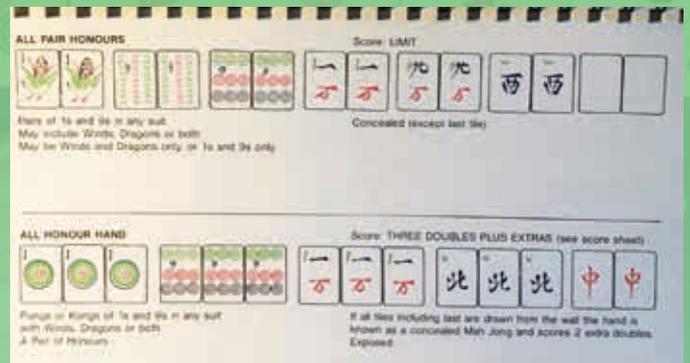
MAH-JONG

By Jane McDermott

The BA runs a sociable Mah-jong activity every Wednesday from 10.00am to 12.30pm at the Boomerang Bar on Robertson Quay. Players will often stay on for lunch. We welcome anyone who would like to learn, as well as experienced players. Please contact Jane McDermott on djmcd33@gmail.com or Joanne Bull on 9422 0832 for more details. Please do tell us in advance if you intend joining, as we need three to four people per table to play, or to ensure there will be someone there to teach you.



The game is one of skill, strategy and luck and, once learned, is fast-paced. The game also has several charming traditions and rituals that relate back to its Chinese origins. The Mah-jong set has 144 tiles, shaped like domino tiles, based on Chinese characters, with three 'suits' (bamboo, circles and characters), 4 winds (north, east, south and west), and dragon tiles (red, green and white).



Special hands

What is Mah-jong? Mah-jong is pronounced as it is spelled, with a hard 'j' as in 'joy' and the translation of the word means 'sparrows'. It's originally a Chinese game, which developed in the Qing dynasty in the 1880s, most probably in and around Shanghai (sets were produced by the Mah-jong Sales Company factory in Shanghai). Some say it is based on a much older card game from the Ming dynasty. The game has evolved over time and across various cultures, with the tiles acquiring Arabic numerals for western players as recently as the beginning of the 20th century. The United Kingdom adopted the game around the 1920s and exported the 'western game' back to India and Southeast Asia. The Straits Chinese brought the game with them from China, and there are many stories about well-to-do ladies passing the time with friends over a Mah-jong game.

At the start of play, the tiles are placed face down and then shuffled. This is referred to as the 'twittering of the sparrows' because of the noise the tiles make as they clack together. The player is dealt thirteen tiles and draws a fourteenth during the game to win a round (to 'make Mah-jong'). The idea is to collect four groups of three tiles and a pair of tiles in the same suit, or with groups of winds and dragons to make an 'ordinary' Mah-jong hand. There are also a number of 'special' hands incorporating a specific mix of tiles for those who graduate off the learner table.



The Mah-jong set

Mah-jong is a tile-based game, similar to the card game Rummy, preferably played with four players. There are several regional variations played around the world. The BA plays a western game, based on the rules in a book by Patricia Thompson and Betty Maloney: 'Improve your Mah-jong'.



Four 'pungs' and a pair - Mah-jong!

If you would like to learn to play, it's best to set aside three consecutive Wednesday mornings to master the game, after which you should be sufficiently proficient to join the more experienced players. We also have a group on Tuesday afternoons from 2.00pm to 4.30pm at the same venue. It's a fun game, and one that people enjoy in the many Mah-jong clubs all over the world.

It's How We Roll

By Anne Roberts

The game of Bunco is deeply ingrained into the history of America. Originally called 8-dice cloth, it began in 18th-century England and was introduced in the San Francisco area in 1855 by a gambler who made his way across North America, including multiple visits to California during the gold rush. By the time of the Prohibition in the 1920s and 1930s, the game was often played at speakeasies, which were raided by law enforcement teams known as 'Bunco Squads'. Bunco reemerged in the 1980s as a respectable family game and now the British Association has introduced the game of Bunco to its list of activities here in Singapore!

Bunco is a dice game generally played with twelve or more players, divided into groups of four, trying to score points while taking turns rolling three dice. A Bunco is achieved when a person rolls three-of-a-kind and all three numbers match the round number. It involves 100% luck and no skill! It is also a very social game as players move around after each round so you get to meet everyone playing during the evening. There are prizes too: the January prizes had a Chinese New Year theme.



We play on the second Monday of the month at the Boomerang Bar on Robertson Quay. We start at 7.30pm and the game lasts a few hours.



To play, please register on the website but also contact us so we can add you to the **Whatsapp group**: Anne Roberts 9011 0631; Jo Cockerill 9069 5748.

Come along and give it a try!



ROOFTOP GARDENS

Get away from it all at the top of the towers

By Helen Woodhall

The National Parks initiative, Skyrise Greenery, plays an integral part in the sustainable development plans of the City in a Garden. Encompassing green roofs, vertical greenery and rooftop urban farms, it aims to double the current 100 hectares of skyrise greenery by the year 2030. If you want to explore the green initiatives flourishing across the island, there are seven Skyrise Greenery Trail Maps covering different areas of Singapore, which you can download from the NParks website. Alternatively, read on for a small taster of the green rooftops available in the central area. Most are free and open to the general public. They are quiet oases during the day and can offer great sunset views.



Funan Mall

The recently reopened Funan Mall aims to be the perfect place to live, work and play. The rooftop is an integral part of this project and comprises a quiet place to stroll, relax on the swings, play Futsal, or visit the Urban Farm. The farm is operated by Edible Garden City and grows over 50 varieties of fruit and vegetable from papaya to microgreens to mushrooms.

Funan Mall

MRT: City Hall

107 North Bridge Road

7th floor, take lift from Lobby B

Free

Buddha Tooth Relic Temple

If you need a break from the bustle of Chinatown, head to the Buddha Tooth Relic Temple on South Bridge Road to find solace in the peace and greenery of its tranquil roof garden. A visit to the interior of the temple is, of course, also a must but, when you have finished marvelling at the amazingly opulent shrine, take the stairs or the lift to the fourth floor, then a final flight of stairs to the roof where you will find a large prayer drum, lush plantings of orchids, and benches in the shade where you can sit down to reflect and rest.

288 South Bridge Road

MRT: Chinatown

Free



Photo credit: Helen Nisseron

Singapore Chinese Cultural Centre

From the roof of the Singapore Chinese Cultural Centre, you can gaze out at the sea and marvel at the bustling industry of the shipping trade. Buy a drink at the coffee bar on the ground floor and head up to the roof to savour the solitude.

1 Straits Boulevard
MRT: Marina Bay
Free

Orchard Central

Shopping on Orchard Road, in windowless malls overflowing with choice, can lead to retail overload or claustrophobia. If this happens, head up to the top floor of Orchard Central. Take the red lifts to the eleventh floor, then the escalator to the roof and suddenly you will be far removed from the hurrying crowds. There are restaurants up here too, but you can simply stroll around the walkway and admire the view.

Orchard Central
181 Orchard Road
MRT: Somerset
Free



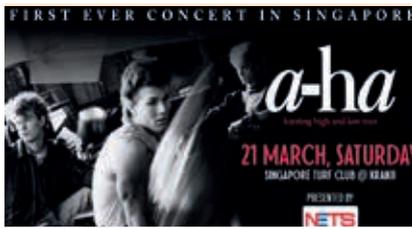
Pinnacle@Duxton

The iconic public housing project, Pinnacle@Duxton, is home to the two longest sky gardens in the world. Whilst the gardens on the 26th floor are only open to residents, those on the 50th floor can be visited by the general public for a small fee. Head to the tiny office located down a corridor between two shops at Block 1G. To avoid disappointment, don't go at lunchtime when the office is closed and don't leave it too late because a maximum of 200 people are allowed up on any one day. Hand over \$6 in cash and your EZ link card and the agent will validate the card for entry. Lifts A or B will take you up to the 50th floor where you swipe your EZ link card at the turnstile to enter the gardens. It is worth the effort because the 500m long skybridge links all seven blocks of flats, giving a panoramic view of both land and sea. Stroll around the entire perimeter, admiring the plantings, or follow the example of residents walking with their grandchildren, practising yoga, reading the newspaper in shady spots, or speed walking in the breezy, cooling air.

Pinnacle@Duxton
Block 1G, Floor 50
MRT: Outram Park
Opening hours: 9.00am to 9.45pm (office closed for lunch)
Fee: \$6

Please note: All listings were correct at time of going to press. Be sure to check that any event has not been cancelled or postponed before heading out the door.

MUSIC



a-ha – first ever concert in Singapore
Saturday 21st March 7.30pm (doors open at 5.00pm)
Singapore Turf Club, Kranji Tickets from \$148

The concert is billed as a sensational night featuring the group's famous songs and an 80s-themed throwback party with a live DJ blasting 80s hits with a Festive Feast beer garden and food.



Singapore Jazz Festival 2020
Friday 3rd – Sunday 5th April
Marina Bay Sands

This popular event, also known as the 'Sing Jazz' Festival, is now in its sixth year.



Songkran Music Festival Singapore
Saturday 11th April
3.00pm – 11.00pm
Wild Wild Wet Pasir Ris Tickets from \$36–\$236+

Songkran Music Festival is Singapore's first music festival held in a water park and features exhilarating water visual effects. Partygoers will also experience breath-taking lighting and water effects throughout.

POSTPONED

FESTIVALS

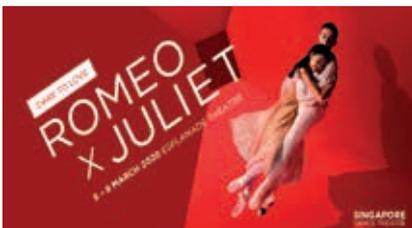


i light Singapore
Friday 6th – Sunday 29th March

i Light, Singapore's celebration of sustainability, brings luminous works of art to: Marina Bay Waterfront Promenade, Civic District, Singapore River and Raffles Terrace in Fort Canning Park.

POSTPONED

DANCE



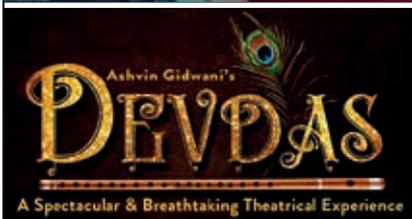
Romeo and Juliet Ballet
Thursday 5th – Sunday 8th March
Thu, Fri 8.00pm; Sat 1.00pm and 8.00pm; Sun 1.00pm and 7.00pm
Esplanade, Theatres on the Bay

From singaporedancetheatre.com. When two worlds collide in the face of a tragic romance, a relentless pursuit leads to a bold and dramatic twist of fate.



Rasputin
Friday 20th – Saturday 21st March
Sands Theatre, Marina Bay
Tickets from \$50

Ballet star Sergei Polunin is the mystic Rasputin whose actions helped to bring down the Romanov Dynasty in Russia.



World Premiere in Singapore Devdas
Friday 20th – Sunday 22nd March (Friday and Saturday in Hindi with English Surtitles, Sunday in English with Mandarin Surtitles)
Esplanade Theatre Tickets from \$50

One of the most famous love sagas in Indian Literature, this theatrical rendition has a universal appeal with rich music and dance.

SPORT

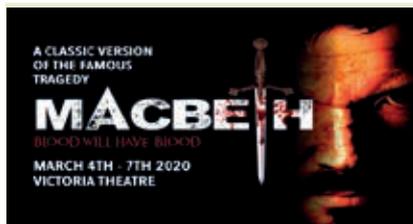


The HSBC Singapore Rugby Sevens
Saturday 11th – Sunday 12th April
The National Stadium

POSTPONED

The event features 16 of the world's top rugby teams. Join in the fun with in-stadium entertainment and an after-finals party at Clarke Quay.

THEATRE



Macbeth
Wednesday 4th – Saturday 7th March
Victoria Theatre. Tickets \$88 – \$138

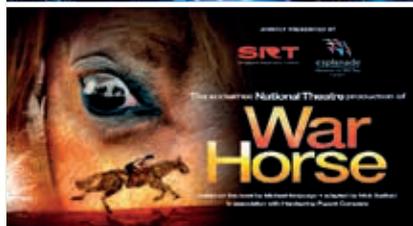
POSTPONED

Macbeth murders his way to the throne of Scotland, but can he hold on to it? This is one of Shakespeare's most chilling tragedies with evil threads sown by the three witches.



Now You See Me Live
Thursday 26th March – Sunday 5th April
Sands Theatre, Marina Bay.
Tickets from \$50.

These stars from television perform their illusions and magic tricks live. Prepare to be amazed and try not to blink in case you miss it.



National Theatre's Warhorse
Friday 24th April – Friday 10th May
Esplanade Theatre Prices from \$48 – \$168

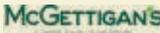
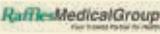
This immensely moving and imaginative drama is based on the novel by Michael Morpurgo. It has been hailed as 'a landmark theatre event.' Be transported from rural Devon to the trenches of World War 1.



Tickets are on sale now

Performances at Marina Bay Sands Theatre
Friday 5th June – Sunday 13th June
Tickets from \$55 – \$900

BA Benefits are offered to BA members upon presentation of a valid BA membership card. All discounts listed below were correct at the time of publication. Vendors and outlets will have the final say on discounts and any discrepancy will be resolved without any involvement from the BA.

<p>10%</p>  <p>BRITISH AIRWAYS</p> <p>There has never been a better time to fly for British Association Members!</p> <p>10% discount for BA Members. Applies to flights that originate in Singapore with a destination of London, Sydney or the USA. The discount will be applied to the base fare excluding airport taxes and carrier charges.</p> <p>Please email info@britishassociation.org.sg to receive the code.</p>	<p>10%</p>  <p>THE MEAT CLUB SINGAPORE</p> <p>\$50 off first order for new members subscribing to our Auto Pilot delivery service. \$100 minimum spend on club prices applies.</p> <p>Our products are proudly Australian and carefully curated to meet the quality and freshness our members have come to enjoy.</p> <p>Enter SNS50 on checkout to redeem.</p> <p>www.themeatclub.org.sg</p>
<p>15%</p>  <p>JAMIE'S ITALIAN</p> <p>All British Association members can enjoy 15% off the total Food and Beverage menu when they flash their BA membership card at Jamie's Italian, Singapore.</p> <p>https://www.jamieoliver.com/italian/singapore/</p>	<p>15%</p>  <p>THE GLASS ONION BISTRO AND BAR</p> <p>Serving a union of Japanese and Western dishes, using fresh, quality produce to stimulate your senses!</p> <p>Receive 15% discount off à la carte items and all day Happy Hour pricing on alcoholic beverages. www.theglassonion.com.sg</p>
<p>10%</p>  <p>SMITHS FISH & CHIPS</p> <p>BA members enjoy a fantastic 10% off food when ordered in this delicious and traditional fish and chip shop.</p> <p>A valid BA Membership card must be shown.</p>	<p>10%</p>  <p>MCGETTIGAN'S BAR, CLARKE QUAY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10% discount on food and drink all day, every day! www.mcgettigans.com
 <p>BRUNETTI SINGAPORE</p> <p>Enjoy a 10% discount on all dishes, pastries, cakes, ice cream and drinks at Brunetti in Tanglin Mall. Valid every day except eve of public holidays and public holidays.</p> <p>Find us at: www.facebook.com/BrunettiSingapore, 163 Tanglin Road, #01-35 Tanglin Mall, Singapore (247933)</p>	 <p>ALLIED PICKFORDS</p> <p>Two hours free handyman service worth over \$200 when you book your move with Allied Pickfords. Call 6862 4700 to redeem. www.alliedpickfords.com.sg</p>
 <p>RAFFLES MEDICAL GROUP</p> <p>Programmes for BA members include Enhanced and Specialist Screening Packages from \$405, GP consultation from \$18 in Raffles Medical Clinics, 15% savings on regular-priced Raffles and Kids supplements in Raffles Health.</p> <p>Terms and conditions apply.</p> <p>Visit www.raffleshospital.com for more packages and further information or email: kim_kiwon@rafflesmedical.com.</p>	<p>10%</p>  <p>QUEEN AND MANGOSTEEN</p> <p>10% off all à la carte items, excluding bottles of wine from the wine menu.</p> <p>Vivocity Shopping Centre Tel: 6376 9380 www.queenandmangosteen.com</p>
<p>10%</p>  <p>FABINDIA</p> <p>10% discount on garments, linens, jewellery and gifts.</p> <p>Vivocity, Harbourfront Tel: 6376 9355 Paragon, Orchard Rd Tel: 6733 4741 www.facebook.com/fabindiasingapore</p>	

10%

THE EXCISEMAN WHISKY BAR



BA members are entitled to 10% off all drams, wines by the glass and food. Bottle sales not included.

A BA card must be shown on each visit.
Location: 8 Raffles Place, 02-27 Esplanade Mall, Singapore 039802.

Call 6963 1192 or e-mail enquiries@theexciseman.com.
www.theexciseman.com

10%

SANDBANK



10% off total bill except on Happy Hour beverages, promotional items and cannot be used in conjunction with other privileges.
www.sandbank.com.sg

EYE LOOK GOOD

EYE LOOK GOOD

10% off (First time customer)
Branded contact lenses at lowest prices delivered to your doorsteps.
Acuvue, Bausch & Lomb, Biomedics & more.

Use promo code upon checkout: BA2017
www.EyeLookGood.com



DENTAL ESSENCE

1st Appointment consultation, polishing, fluoride treatment, X-ray and Air Prophylax for \$175.

See Website for further details.

BEAM

BEAM SPACE

Visit us on www.BEAMspace.com or download The BEAM SPACE mobile app in App Store or Google Play. Use the code BAORG on signup to enjoy 50% off your storage bill for the first month.

10%

SQUE ROTISSERIE AND ALEHOUSE



10% off all items of food and drink, excluding draught beers.

The Central, Clarke Quay Tel: 6222 1887
www.sque.com.sg Faccum aut ma nobis et



HIGHLANDER CLARKE QUAY

The offer is 10% off à la carte items, excludes bottles of wine.



MASTERS' YOGA SADHAN

BA members are entitled to four yoga sessions for \$30 and 20% off of any package. A valid BA membership card must be shown on each visit.

Contact: mastersyoga@gmail.com
mastersyogasadhan.com



OSTERIA ART AND & SONS

10% off total food and beverage bill for à la carte dinner menu at Osteria Art and & Sons from Monday to Saturday.

Not valid on eve of or on public holidays or with any other discounts or promotions.

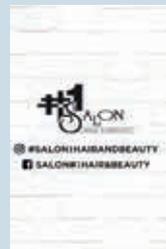
Reservations are required.

10%

MONSOON BOOKS



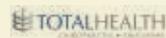
Buy a paperback from www.monsoonbooks.com.sg and get the ebook bundled free. Delivery is free in the UK and costs £3.50 per book for international orders. Use coupon 'BEAM' to get a 10% discount on any purchase on the Monsoon website (the discount applies to the price of books, not the postage fee).



#1 SALON

BA members are entitled to 15% off all hair services except wash and blow dry at Bishan and Ang Mo Kio Salons.

A valid BA membership card must be shown on each visit. Contact: Bishan 6258 3218 / Ang Mo Kio 6483 2528.



TOTAL HEALTH CHIROPRACTIC

50% off first visit (UP \$160) at only \$80: includes consultation, posture analysis and treatment.

Clinics in CBD, Tampines, Toa Payoh and Clementi. Call 6224 6326 for an appointment.

10%

FRENCH & SPANISH STUDIO



10% discount on group classes for adults and children.

Email contact@spanishstudio.sg or contact@frenchstudio.sg quoting you BA Number and the course you wish to register for.
www.spanishstudio.sg www.frenchstudio.sg



BOOK GROUP

We have several groups across the Island who meet once a month on different days both in the daytime and evenings. If you love literature and enjoy meeting up with a bunch of friendly people for a chat and a coffee, then there is bound to be a group to suit you!

Contact Jane Walker at jane.mary.walker@btinternet.com



BRITISH CLUB ACTIVITIES

1. Bingo Nights - 1st and 3rd Tuesday, 8.00pm at Windsor Arms
2. Pub Quiz Nights - 2nd and 4th Wednesday, 8.00pm at Windsor Arms

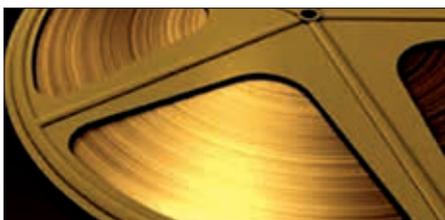
You must show your BA membership card to gain entry to the club for both the Bingo Night and the Quiz Night. Visitors are not permitted. F&B spending is payable by credit card only.



BUNCO

Join us for a game of Bunco at the Boomerang Bar, Robertson Quay. Bunco is a very simple but fun dice game and a great way to get together one evening a month to mingle with friends old and new. Please book via the BA website. A Whatsapp Bunco group will be set up for all of those who are interested.

Contact Jo 9069 5748 or Anne 9011 0631 requesting to be added to the group.



CINEMA CLUB

Come join us at the movies. We meet a few times a month to see newly released films. RomComs, SciFi, thrillers, drama, adventure, action, comedy – we cover all genres! We have a WhatsApp group chat to keep you posted on when and where.

Contact Siân Brook Gillies at sbrookgillies@gmail.com



BA GOLF

Join us for a friendly round of golf on regulation 18-hole golf courses in Singapore, with the occasional trip to Indonesia and Malaysia. The BA golfers meet weekly on Wednesdays and players will need to have a handicap or proficiency card. Tee off times will be from 7.30am. We can advise you on joining 'My Golf Kaki' to get a handicap.

Contact Edith Blyth at bachair@britishassociation.org.sg



BEGINNERS' GOLF

If you are interested in taking up golf, join the 'Swingers' beginners' golf group.

Contact Carol Allen at carolallen2901@gmail.com or 9339 0860



GOLF – THE LADYBIRD GOLF GROUP

Meet monthly at Palm Resort in Malaysia usually on the last Thursday of the month, leaving Singapore around 7.30am – transport can be arranged and cost of the round is around RM99 inclusive of buggy and lunch. PRs can enjoy a special rate at Marina Bay Golf Course of \$85 on weekdays (18 holes). You need handicap card and ID to play!

Contact Jean Murdoch at jeanmurdoch99@gmail.com



HANDICRAFTS

Knitting/crochet/cross-stitch/quilting/card making – bring along any kind of handicraft work-in-progress! Whether you are a beginner or more experienced, our social group meets on Thursday afternoons 2.00pm - 4.30pm, usually at one of the group members' houses. We have occasional trips out to fabric & crafting shops, relevant exhibitions etc.

Contact Jane McDermott at djmcd33@gmail.com for more information or to be added to the Whatsapp group

MAHJONG

All abilities welcome – instructions given. Meetings are on Tuesday afternoons and Wednesday mornings at Boomerang Bar, Robertson Quay. Morning sessions run from 10.00am – 12.30pm and afternoon sessions run from 2.00pm – 4.30pm.

Contact Jane McDermott at djmcd33@gmail.com



CARDS: MAY I?

'MAY I?' is a card game similar to rummy but you start with 12 cards each. The aim of the game is to lay down all your cards in runs of the same suit or sets, e.g. three 3s, five 7s or both depending on the round. There are 12 rounds throughout an entire game and each round is different. The score can change drastically throughout the games, which makes it all the more exciting!

We meet every Thursday at 2.00pm at the Boomerang Bar, Boat Quay.

Contact Jules Murphy 9119 5117 or events@britishassociation.org.sg



PHOTOGRAPHY

We are a group of enthusiastic photographers. Join us for walks and exhibitions to compare notes and receive tips.

Contact John McGinn 9143 4824



SKETCHERS

Are you inspired to sketch when you experience some of the amazing and unusual sights here in Singapore? Come along to Sketchers – no experience needed!

Contact Joanne Bull 9422 0832



TENNIS

Anyone for tennis? Join us every Friday morning from 10.00am – 12.00pm at the British Club for a few games, lots of chat and a coffee.

Contact Davina Borton-Sutherland at davinaborton@hotmail.com



WALKIE TALKIES

BAY WALKIE TALKIES: We meet every Tuesday at 8.00am at Gardens by the Bay at Supertree Grove beside Hill Street Coffee Shop.

Contact Tara Codling at taracodling@hotmail.com

EAST COAST: We meet on Wednesday and Friday mornings at 8.00am

Contact Julie Avery at walkietalkieeastcoast@gmail.com

BOTANICS WALKIE TALKIES: We meet every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 8.00am at the Visitor Centre at the Nassim Road entrance to the Botanic Gardens. We sometimes meet for evening walks and other longer walks around Singapore. The group caters for all paces, for those that like to walk fast we have the Striders group, slower walkers may prefer the Strollers group. On Mondays, the BA Joggers group meet at the same venue. All welcome to join us in any of the groups and afterwards when we meet up for coffee and chat.

Contact Miranda Thomas on 8685 9912 or nandmthomas@gmail.com

Strollers group: Miranda Thomas on 8685 9912 or nandmthomas@gmail.com

BA Joggers: Anne Brangan on 8464 8440 or anne_brangan@hotmail.co.uk





**NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS
64TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
THURSDAY 26TH MARCH 2020 AT 7.30PM**

**(Registration commences at 7.00pm)
Eden Hall, 28 Nassim Road, Singapore 258403**

Notice is hereby given to all members of the British Association of Singapore of the forthcoming 64th Annual General Meeting.

One of the purposes of the AGM is to elect a Council to serve you for the next year. Council is the main committee of the British Association and meets once a month to discuss all aspects of the Association's activities. If you are interested in joining the Council, please contact the Chair or office for a nomination form. All full members over the age of eighteen are welcome to apply.

The Annual Report will be emailed to all members whose email addresses we hold. Hard copies will be sent to members with no email address on request to the office. A summary of the accounts will be sent to members once the audit is completed.

This is a great chance for BA members to get together in the wonderful surroundings of Eden Hall and enjoy the excellent catering before business commences. We would like to extend our thanks to the British High Commissioner, Kara Owen, for her generosity in allowing us to host the event in her home.

Please ensure you bring photo ID for admission to Eden Hall on the evening.

I look forward to welcoming you on the evening. If you are unable to attend, however, please register with the office for a proxy vote nomination form.

Edith Blyth

BRITISH ASSOCIATION MEMBERS' USE OF THE BRITISH CLUB

TIMING DAY	ALL FOOD & BEVERAGE OUTLETS	SPORTING FACILITIES	CHINOIS SPA
MONDAY	Within F&B Outlets' Operating Hours (Mountbatten Restaurant closed)	Squash Courts 8am - 2pm Tennis Courts 12pm - 4pm Swimming Pool 8am - 9.30pm	10am - 6pm
TUESDAY	Within F&B Outlets' Operating Hours	Squash Courts 9am - 12pm	10am - 6pm
WEDNESDAY	Within F&B Outlets' Operating Hours	Not permitted	10am - 6pm
THURSDAY	Within F&B Outlets' Operating Hours	Not permitted	10am - 9.45pm
FRIDAY	Until 3pm	Group Tennis 10am - 1pm (group bookings only)	10am - 9.45pm
SATURDAY & SUNDAY	Not permitted	Not permitted	Not permitted
PUBLIC HOLIDAYS	Not permitted	Not permitted	Not permitted

Windsor Shop operating hours –
Monday to Thursday: 11.00am to 10.00pm
Friday to Sunday, Public Holidays: 10.00am to 10.00pm

Terms & Conditions

- BA Members must show their valid Membership cards when entering the Club.
- BA Members must sign in at the Main Clubhouse. An entry fee of \$5 per person per entry applies, with the exception of attending ticketed events or BA Coffee Mornings held at The British Club.
- Extension of invites to BA Members for Best of British events at the Club.
- BA Members may not bring guests to the Club.
- BA Members must abide by the Rules and By-Laws of the Club at all times.
- BA Members may not use the Club facilities on Saturdays, Sundays or Public Holidays.
- All children of BA Members below 21 years must be accompanied by a parent.
- Squash and Tennis courts may only be booked three days in advance quoting your BA Membership number. Please contact 6410 1173.
- Payment for use of facilities or F&B outlets is by Credit Card only.
- BA Members who are British Club Members are entitled a \$20 credit for use in all F&B outlets on a monthly basis.

For further information on Membership at the British Club, please contact 6410 1100.
The above benefits can be varied at the sole discretion of The British Club.

White Sponsors



Blue Sponsors



Friends of the Association



Something new for you?



What are you doing today?

Join the BA and you can do something different *every* day

www.britishassociation.org.sg
facebook.com/british.association

A voluntary organisation run by members for our members