

3.1 March 2017 Newsletter

Summary

1. February 2017 Competition
2. Clue Explanations
3. RNIB Pears Hydrotherapy Centre Opens!
- 4.

1. February Competition

The February competition with an Anthony Burgess themed puzzle by Shark was won by Norah Clewes of Chester. Excellent solving!

Feedback included:

Another interesting challenge HB

Good clues. No complaints. AS

Super puzzle and quite difficult. A great tribute to one of my favourite authors, I especially liked 11. What's the significance of the picture? JM

The title photograph is just a February photo taken in Barbara Hepworth's garden in St Ives. The background photograph behind the clues is a vaguely orange Swiss train. This is cryptic with Swiss trains being renowned for running like clockwork? A picture of a Glasgow subway train would have been more direct.

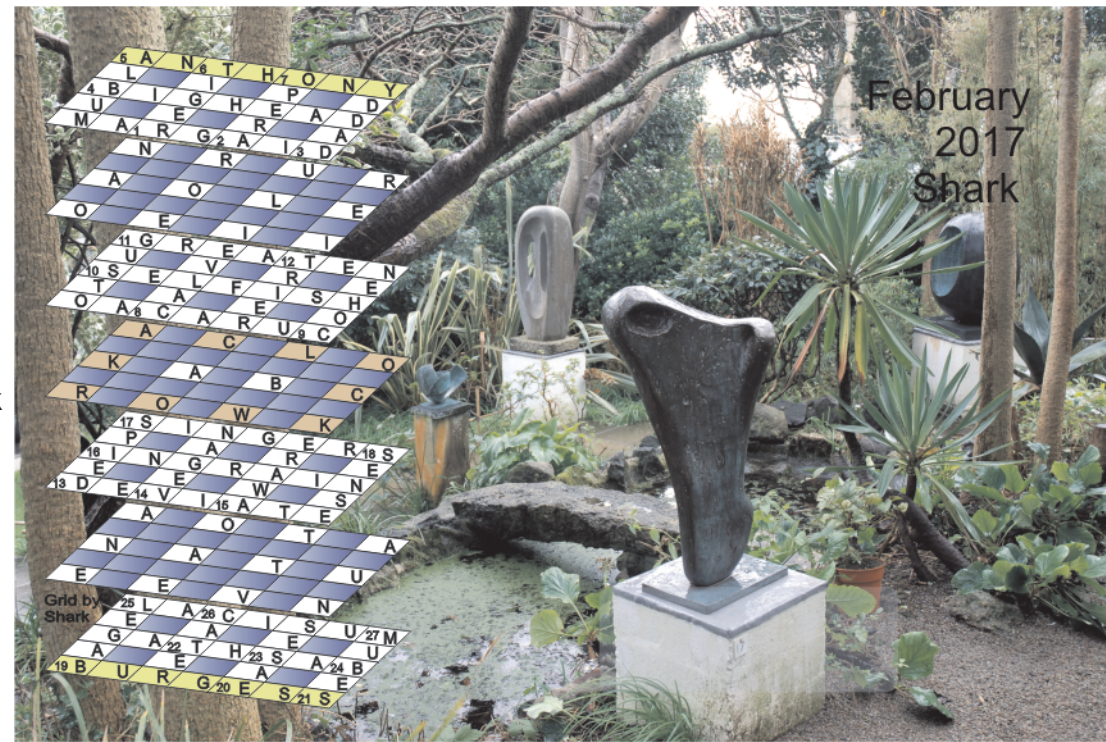
This was a super grid and clever clueing from Shark - new to the Calendar (?) but surely not a new clue writer. It was all most professional. I particularly liked the orange-coloured A CLOCKWORK which even ran clockwise on its level.

I must assume that BASHTAG is now a word - I couldn't find it in Chambers, but people on telly refer to something called hashtag (whatever that might be) so it seems to follow. You can probably guess that for me 'social media' is reporting on the village barn dance in the newsletter

I am still puzzled by clue 1. I think the answer must be AIRWAVE, and the R and W are OK, but the "Freak out ..." part defeats me. JB (19ac!)

Challenging and cleverly designed puzzle. Impressed with 'a clockwork orange' - I've thought about using the 'subordinate' parts of the grid as a message, but haven't managed yet.

Can't manage to parse Vegan and Bunched, but Curacao is brilliant! (once the parsing penny dropped) JP



The photograph was taken in February in Barbara Hepworth's garden in St Ives and has no intentional cryptic connection with the theme.

The February Shark puzzle was very much enjoyed. It was the second 3D Shark in our calendars. Shark is a top name in the cryptic crossword world. He has been (in partnership with Nudd as Rood) the winner of the Listener Ascot Gold Cup (the award for the year's top crossword) and has also earned the POTY (Puzzle of the Year) award in the Magpie for the puzzle voted favourite by all successful solvers. He is invariably amongst the top Magpie solvers and has been the year's overall top solver. Anyone looking for more Shark puzzles of excellence and distinction could consult the Listener series, the Inquisitor in thei, the Sunday Telegraph's Enigmatic Variations series and the Magpie, where he compiles usually as Shark but occasionally as part of teams (as Bics with Chalicea/Curmudgeon, or as Rood to name just two of them).

Not too difficult although I would not have guessed the theme without every second letter! AG

I've been working on March already - woke in the early hours one morning and had to get up to write an answer down before I forgot it. You don't make it easy but once I picked up a theme a few fell into place. Not finished yet though.RE

e.Shark is one of my favourite setters, not always easy, but very entertaining. 'Lasagna' was rather tasty. PC
Good grid and a good theme. Nice to see the author's initials inside the CLOCKWORK ORANGE – thought they might have been highlighted too!
AW

Not as fierce as I'd expected from the Shark brand but nonetheless enjoyable all the same. The featured author was a favourite of mine and this has inspired me to start seeking out his books once more! Many thanks to Shark. EL

Lovely puzzle, thank you. I liked the clockwork orange! BASHTAG was new to me. Also ETRIER quite foxed me. JJ

I liked the way Shark included the work on the 4th level (with a glance at the Glasgow underground?), even though the answer sheet didn't print in the right colour here, even though the front page did.

I can't see any reference to any other of Burgess' works, so perhaps am missing something in the musical sub-theme, which set me off on the track of *Maid of the Mountains*, the 1917 hit show. (I wondered whether Cohen at 9aw might have been the librettist for that, but haven't found which one he did - or even exactly who's referred to.

Nevertheless, this was an excellent puzzle, with a special commendation to Shark for successfully avoiding the use of obscure words and convoluted constructions. (Though I must admit I don't quite get how the clue to 24up works.) PM

An excellent puzzle – much enjoyed.

However could not find any appropriate 100th anniversary. The start of the Russian Revolution certainly grabbed the headlines but did not seem relevant.

The picture on the clues page represents the Glasgow subway train known as The Clockwork Orange a reference to its original colour and punctuality/ It is also the title of Anthony Burgess's book C&TH

Not familiar with Anthony Burgess or A Clockwork Orange so not sure if we are missing any allusions. Struggling to parse 9 and 14 but finally got BRUNCH, END and Calcium Oxide. N&SI

Thank you and Shark for a great puzzle this month. The solving was nicely balanced but the grid itself was superb. The middle level with the orange squares and everything clockwise – brilliant. Also , an innovation, (for me) using the compiler's own name to throw in couple of real sharks just for good measure.Very good. Thank you.GS

I have managed to complete this month's crossword (again left it rather late! -- but it was a very enjoyable way to spend a relaxing Sunday after a hectic few weeks).

Very nicely themed and constructed, with some great little clues. The small circular (orange) subway in Glasgow is nicknamed, with typical Glaswegian wit, the Clockwork Orange -- which that central grid seemed to be suggesting, along with the train picture, so I am assuming that was an explicit reference.

I would love to be put on the circular list for Mrs Sirius' Hints and Tips, MS

Thanks for the hints and tips. I did this puzzle a while ago and remembered it as being straightforward. However, the hints reminded me of how much work I'd had to put in to solving certain clues.

My favourite was day 10 for the thorough misdirection of the surface and the sneaky use of Latin. I also enjoyed the references to different species of sharks. I only saw the significance of the highlighted cells in the middle level once the whole thing was complete. Nice use of the clockwise direction and highlight colour! JT

Could you please add me to your list for 'Mrs Sirius' Hints & Tips. And could I politely point out that Derrick Macnutt's pseudonym was Ximenes not Ximones.

Construction of 2d and 9ba still puzzling B(r)UNCH and E(n)D I assume.MJ

Thanks for another good one, a nice balance of difficulty for me. My answer is attached. CS

Solutions below. One or two constructions puzzled me but got there in the end. Sometimes with a themed puzzle, I miss many of the allusions, and I wondered if that's happened here - it would explain some of the question marks which I have. But it would have been nice to have had an ORANGE solution. I think the highlight colour of those level four squares was meant to have been orange, but maybe it got lost in the print process.

Re AWARE at 15aw - Chambers I see does list 'a' as an abbreviation for 'about'. It's gold, this sort of thing, for compilers? But though Chambers means that it's legit, I'm just wondering how many of us out there would ever use 'a' in this context. Me, I'm forever putting 'c' - now that's something we understand in crossword land!

I have just turned the page to see March. It's one of your barnstormers I see Eric. And with orange highlights, allegedly! PA

Send this to you with some trepidation as I cannot for the life of me sort out the Trier answer-on the assumption that it is correct! As with all these things I've double checked all the answers around it, And don't see any problems with them. So here it is. Like calcium oxide (at last worked out) and SPICED. DM

A couple of answers I'm not sure of, but will wait to see the newsletter to see how they work.NC

As usual with Shark, a mixture of straightforward and tricky clues. The one that took me longest to understand was CURACAO — CURA(tive) + CaO (calcium oxide = lime). And nothing to do with musicals, despite all the references to 27ba! DH

Here's my entry for the February puzzle and thank you for your tip to make an early start on the March one which looks fiendish.

Also thanks to Mrs Sirius for the Hints and Tips document which will be very useful for my Crossword Club participants. Please put me on the mailing list for further enlightenment.

We had the warmest February day on record here in Geneva last week – it was 20 degrees! We are hoping there's still some snow left in the mountains as we are heading to Nendaz next week for some snow-shoe walks. Enjoy your pancakes tomorrow. JC

This one was a bit of a slog for me, with more 'educated' guesses than usual, notably 9, 12, 16 and 22. I got stuck for a while then realized 16 was 'deviate' not 'deviant' - things became a lot easier then!

Whilst filling in the answer grid I was admiring 'a clockwork orange' on the fourth layer whilst thinking "if only the two middle letters were significant". It was a nice revelation to realize that they were! GB

Here is my entry for February. I've been thoroughly enjoying March ... and am stuck on my last one, but with plenty of time left to ruminate! JR

Last day Larry here again, and it's a working day so I'm necessarily going to have to keep this brief.

I had trouble finishing this one.

A few clues I still can't fully parse - TRIER is put in purely from the crossing letters with no definite Def. or Wordplay

I needed to get the mid level thematic CLOCKWORK as in Anthony Burgess's Clockwork Orange to fill in a couple of downers/uppers (OUTLETS and BUNCHED) AJR

Please find appended my last-minute submission for the February brainteaser! As always, I enjoyed the challenge and being introduced to a new topic, but am still scratching my head about the connection with a sculpture garden. This clever puzzle ...

I hope your recovery is continuing, and that you've allowed yourself a bit of slack this month. We need you to carry on providing us with these pleasurable challenges!SF

Here's my entry for February. Found this tricky, but think I may have got there in the end. I had more trouble parsing than solving for the most part, but with hindsight I rather like most of the clues. I'm still not confident on "Bunched" or "Tiger" and can't happily resolve "Dickens" to my liking so I'm not 100% sure. MN

Herewith my solution to Shark's puzzle noting the 100th anniversary of the birth of Anthony Burgess whom I had the privilege to meet on 2 occasions. The first was in 1953/4 when he delivered the annual Sixth Form Lecture at my school in Bristol and the second was in the early/mid 70's when he was the guest after-dinner speaker at a work function in London. Despite that it was only very recently that I became aware of his amazing prowess as a musician. A giant among men and a great exemplar of the nonconformity I espouse.MC

Please forgive me. I finished this a few days early and put it to one side and have just remembered. A really enjoyable puzzle. One in which you could simply allow the theme to emerge rather than seek it out. If you can bear the appalling cross reference I need to set up a process for submission that works like clockwork in future. AG

2. February Clues and Explanations

Day	Direction	Solution	Clue	Explanation
1	2d	AIRWAVE	2d Freak out catching wife following top radio channel (7)	RAVE (about) W (After) AI
2	5to	ALBUM	5to 27ba book nearly everybody's seat (5)	AL(I) BUM
3	15aw	AWARE	15aw Sensitive about fighting to a point (5)	A WAR E
4	19aw	BAGEL	19aw Roll barrel filling time. On the contrary (5)	AGE (inside) BL
5	24ba	BASHTAG	24ba Bishop aghast about social media's sign of criticism (7)	B AGHAST*
6	4d	BASKING	4d Perhaps Shark is taking great pleasure (7)	Double definition
7	19up	BEDROOM	19up Cleaner catches little boy in cubide (7)	BROOM (around) ED
8	4ac	BIGHEAD	4ac Overweight manager's a braggart (7)	BIG HEAD
9	24up	BUNCHED		B(r)UNCH E(n)D
10	8aw	CALVE	8aw Provide delivery - beware covering legside initially (5)	CAVE (around) L(egside)
11	26to	CATER	26to Supply grub without support (5)	CATER(pillar)
12	9aw	COHEN	9aw 27ba writer – he's cutting conclusion (5)	HE (inside) CON

13	26up	CONCERT	26up 27ba performance to swindle banker (7)	CON CERT
14	9ba	CURACAO	9ba Half of tonic and lime liqueur (7)	CURA(tive) CaO
15	3aw	DADDY	3aw In 24 hours, theologian becomes a father (5)	DD (inside) DAY
16	13ac	DEVIATE	13ac Indian married woman worried for stray (7)	DEVI ATE
17	3ba	DIAGRAM	3ba Relief returns to Government prior to strike plan (7)	AID< G RAM
18	3d	DICKENS	3d Busy being a novelist (7)	Double definition
19	20aw	EASES	20aw Stand out of line and stress finally abates (5)	EASE(l) (stress)S
20	11ac	GREATEN	11ac Boost from grain consumed (7)	GR EATEN
21	11to	GUSTO	11to Blast duck relish (5)	GUST O
22	16ac	INGRAIN	16ac Pelting whilst cycling to impress (7)	RAINING (cycling)
23	25up	LASAGNA	25up Over picky about dip for food (7)	ANAL< (around) SAG

24	27up	MASONRY	27up Child embraced by Madonna in stonework (7)	SON (inside) MARY
25	27ba	MUSICAL	27ba America's blocking bogus claim for Oklahoma? (7)	US (inside) CLAIM*
26	7to,17ac	OPERA SINGERS	7to,17ac 27ba people rear pigeons flying south (5,7)	(REAR PIGEONS (around) R)*
27	7d	OUTLETS	7d Escapes from society after leaderless rabble sanctioned (7)	S (after) (r)OUT LET
28	1d	RECOVER	1d Pick up traveller wandering around Ecuador (7)	RECOVER = ROVER (around) EC
29	21aw	SEBUM	21aw Secretion from spot cut on bottom (5)	SE(e) BUM
			21aw It could be excreted from goose bumps? (5)	Hidden &lit
30	10ac	SELFISH	10ac Mean head of state badly-behaved (7)	S(tate) ELFISH
31	18to	SENSE	18to Martial arts teacher ultimately lost consciousness (5)	SENSE(i)
32	17to	SPIED	17to Saw's hot (not cold) (5)	SPI(c)ED
33	23up	STABILE	23up Step around sailor not moving (7)	STILE (around) AB
34	22up	TAGALOG	22up Language slip gets a record (7)	TAG A LOG
35	6to	TIGER	6to Perhaps Shark's game here without limits (5)	TIG (h)ER(e)
36	12to	TRIER	12to Test rope ladder beginning to go (5)	(e)TRIER
37	14aw	VEGAN	14aw Have niggle about strict eater (5)	'VE NAG<

3. RNIB Pears Centre - Hydrotherapy Centre Opens



Physio Nicky Pither supports student Max in cutting the ribbon to officially open the Hydrotherapy Centre. Dave Moreton, left, Paralympics swimming gold medalist and right Cllr Jill Sheppard, Mayor of Nuneaton and Bedworth.

It was a great pleasure and a privilege to represent 3D Crossword solvers and setters at the official opening of RNIB Pears Centre's Bradford Hydrotherapy Centre, Tuesday 21st February. Ginny Tyler, Head of Care, and major force with others to change the dream into reality was just so thrilled for the youngsters and the extension to meeting needs.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vml4EMFKPWs> Youtube video)

Thank you everyone for helping to make this wonderful facility a reality.

Good luck with the March Sirius (deadline 31st March midnight) and with the March Extra by Puck appearing 16th March (deadline 16th April).

March Hints & Tips will appear early next week.

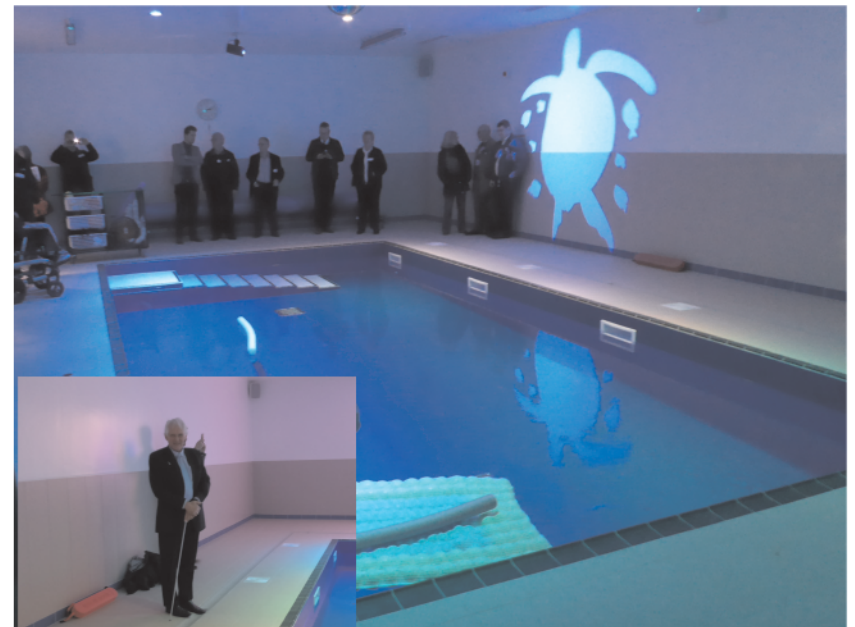
Best wishes

Eric Westbrook

Registered Blind RNIB Member & Public Speaker
3D Crossword Designer Sirius



A warm sensory, learning environment

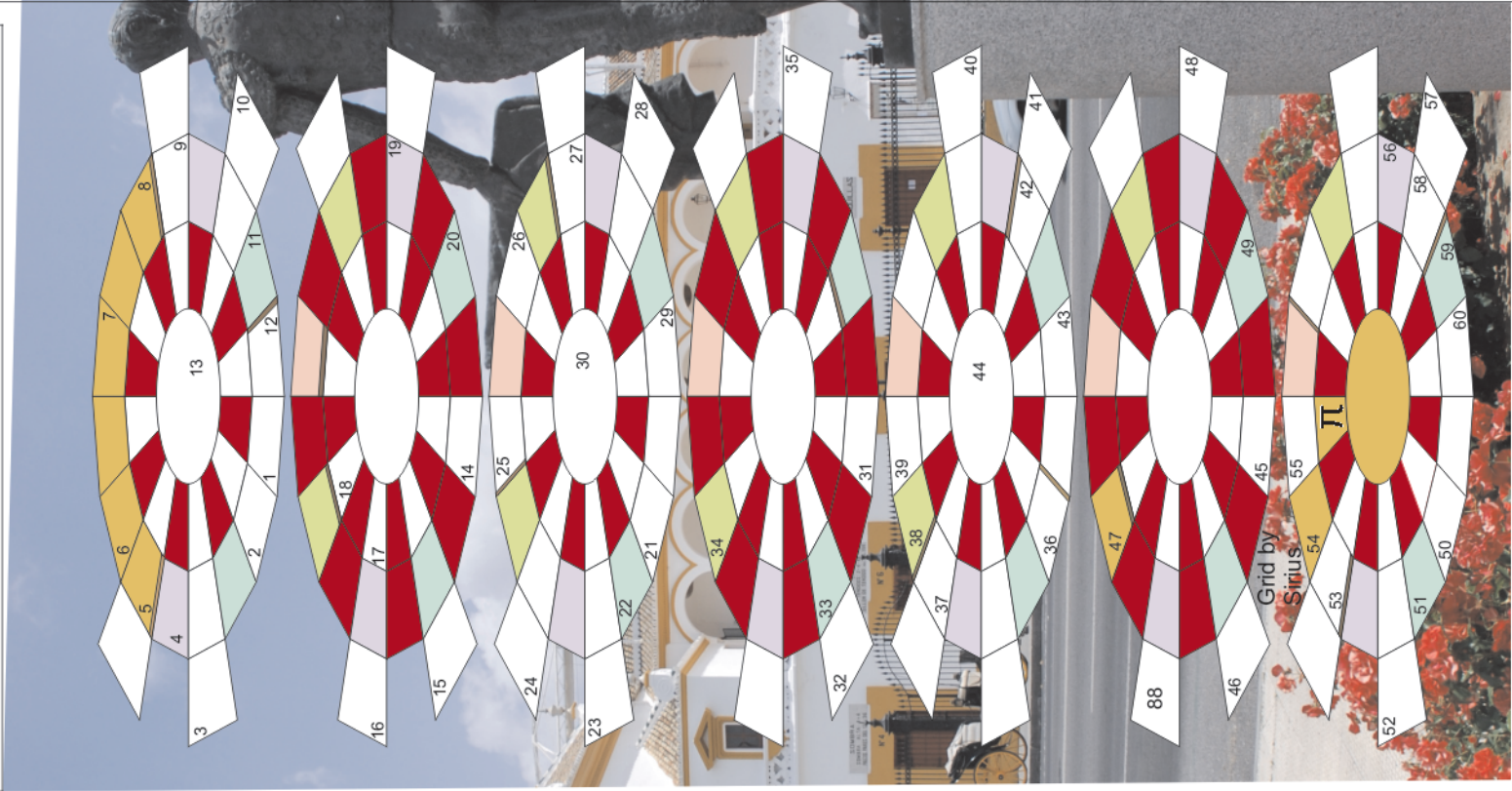


Photographs - Ann Hughes
Secretary Fundraising Group

Name	
Title	
Address	
Post code	
Tel No	
email	
Entrants to the world championship are 3D Calendar Puzzle owners (printed or internet versions) having thus donated at least £5 to BBC CiNA	
A monthly prize of a reference book is awarded to a successful solver drawn from the hat. In the first instance this is the Chambers Standard Reference Dictionary. These monthly competitions are open to all.	
Feedback	

Or scan and email to:
sirius@calendarpuzzles.co.uk
Download Answer Grids from the Download Page of our website: www.calendarpuzzles.co.uk

BBC CiNA 3D Crosswords
World Championship 2017
Answer Grid - March - Sirius
 (Complete and return to enter competitions)



Anagram of orange cells (8,3)	-----
Please return by midnight of March 31st to: Calendar Puzzle PO Box 4823 Coventry CV6 9FN	Solvers with 12 correct solutions throughout the year qualify for the world championship finals. We acknowledge receipt of solutions.