

## Summary

1. July Competition
2. Clues & Explanations

### 1. July Competition

The July competition with Bronte-themed grid by Aramis and clues by Nutmeg was won by Alan Goddard of Chesterfield. Excellent solving! I

Feedback included: version!).

What a super puzzle, so inventive. Thanks and congratulations to all concerned. JM

Huthering Wights and Airy Jane; Shirley. Tthis was good! ... Jbs

I enjoyed the grid and clues, favourites of which were those for ARTERY, BUSH, HAWORTH, IN VAIN, SISTER, WELL WON, and especially WUTHERING HEIGHTS. Many thanks to Aramis and Nutmeg. BL

This was a pleasure to solve ... AJR

I liked the way that the theme was confirmed by the clues at the 8th and 12th.

Thanks for the Thesaurus, which was delivered on Saturday - a great improvement on the tatty old paperback I had before.

Best to both PM

I loved this one. It was difficult in parts, but I loved the Bronte theme. DS

Thank you Nutmeg for restoring my confidence! An amazing jigsaw of words fitting into the grid. I enjoyed this puzzle enormously. JJ

# July 2018 Nutmeg Aramis

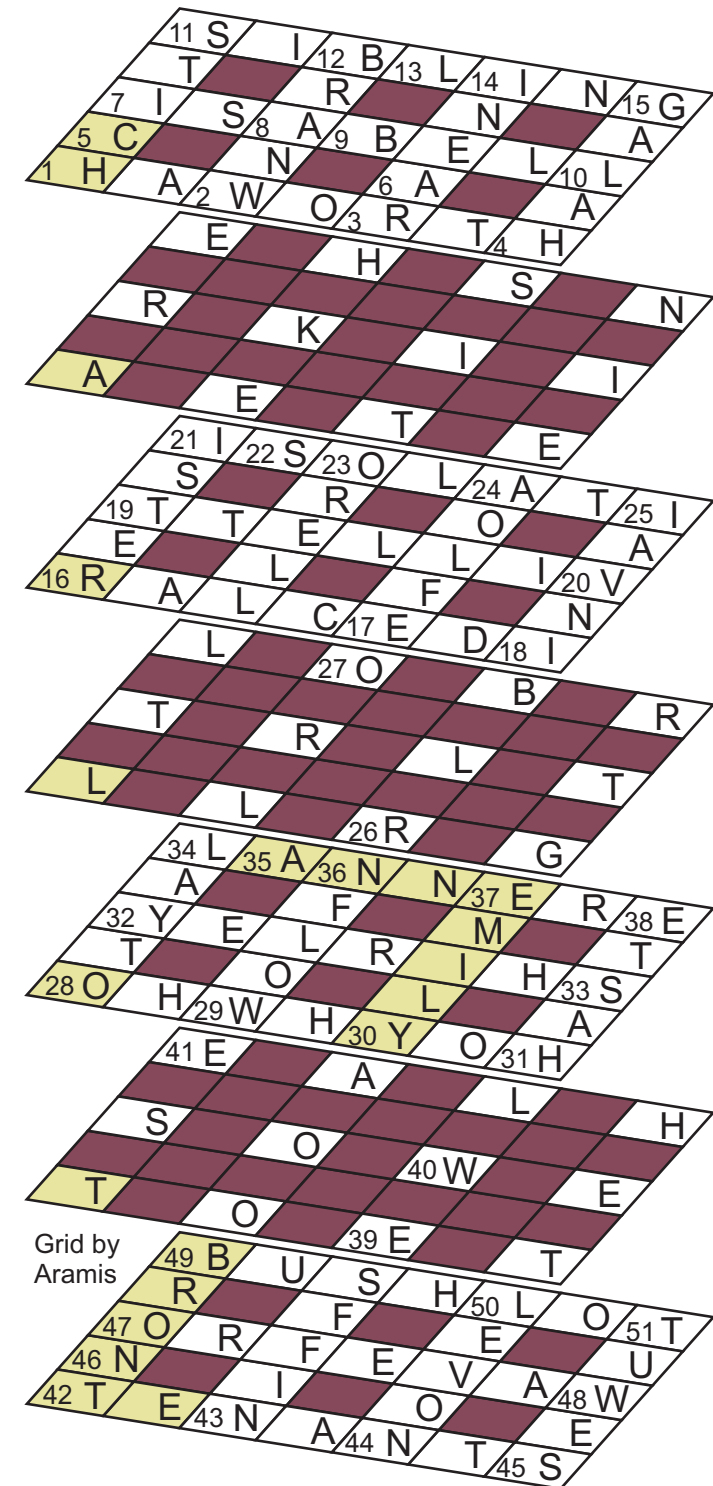


Photography by Graham Fox

Life and works of the Bronte sisters  
Theme: 200 years since birth of  
Emily Bronte (July 1818)

The unclued yellow highlights:

Charlotte, Emily and Ann Bronte.



A nice puzzle for me as I'm familiar with the subject.  
A tricky grid from Aramis with a good range of clues as you'd expect from Nutmeg.  
Nice misdirection for me in Yo-Yo-Y as I was thinking of the wrong Gilbert with my mind stuck on Yum Yum and Ko Ko!

Another cracker from Nutmeg! Thoroughly enjoyed solving this very interesting puzzle with lovely photograph by Mr Fox (why no captions each month?) PC

*Most of the photographs in the 2018 puzzle calendar come from the camera and computer of Graham Fox, some of whose beautiful photos appear on Flickr by Foxyg2. I came across Graham when looking for a picture of a LMS engine for the Arachne/Bozzy January puzzle 2017(?). One thing led to another. Graham is honoured on our Thanks to page and should also be acknowledged on the month title page. My apologies where this has not happened. Graham was very encouraging in his remarks when receiving his copy and offered more of his pictures in the future.*

Hope you are keeping cool, Eric!  
Another wonderful puzzle. Thanks to all those involved in making it and good luck to all the solvers! S&BW  
Another very enjoyable crossword with the theme emerging as the grid was completed. AG

All errors/omissions to be blamed on the heatwave!! I enjoyed the relative simplicity of this after the mind-boggling June Extra exercise.

Off tomorrow to Hawaii to meet up with our son and his family who are flying in from Sydney - think it's going to be cooler over there!

Hope you are managing to keep your cool, SF

A worthy subject though I confess to having read only a couple and not 33 – should I have done to understand the reference?  
Here's my July solution. The clues were a lot of fun, but I guessed at the theme pretty early on and ended up in a bit of a slog through the rest of the thematic material, since I haven't read any of the Bronte's novels and the only ones I've really heard of are Jane Eyre and Wuthering Heights. Yes, I'm a philistine! GH

This was a pleasure to solve because Nutmeg always produces solid accessible clues.

I'm afraid the theme words didn't take long to get - I only had about 4 clues answered when I reached HAWORTH and realised how to write in ANNE crossing with EMILY, and CHARLOTTE overlapping BRONTE in the yellow squares. So with many crossing letters popping in the main part of the solve became much easier. Indeed, in one case, YEN, I solved the clue only to find the word was already written in the grid from earlier solutions.

The only one I wrote in wrong initially was NIFFS which I put in as NOSES too quickly - soon corrected when I needed an F in WAVEFRONT.

A few new words: AKERLOF (never heard of him), GALAH (what a handsome looking bird) , and last one in SORELL which I spent a long time checking - it had to be from the wordplay, SORE (irked) [wi]LL.

Stay well. AJR

The Brontës have cropped up in at least 2 other puzzles this summer. And at least two amateur dramatic societies near us are staging plays last and this coming season about the Brontës. Why the interest ? It's 200 years since one of them was born, I suppose. But I always regarded the three main sisters as "equals"; why should the anniversary of the birth of one of them occasion such interest, I wonder ?  
Ho hum.

I ticked clue 21 (43aw) NIFFS .... can't remember exactly why, but I must have particularly liked it at the time ! HE

This was mostly solved on holiday but my bookshelves and a proper dictionary were needed to finish it off. Can we have more like this please! J&JH

Didn't know about the Akerlot but enjoyed the Bronte theme. N&SI

Good challenge. Not my favourite subject but got there after several sessions (I think) AG  
pleasant memories as I recalled my first encounters with the Bronte sisters in my distant youth. C&TH

I tackled this puzzle in dribs and drabs over the month so can't remember what I thought of Nutmeg's clues but I was definitely impressed by the number of thematic words included in the Aramis grid. I had to check 11 words or phrases or definitions used in the clues. Having suffered from the MOLLOCHS in an earlier puzzle, I did check HAWORTH thanks to the clue. I had a colleague called Howarth and nearly wrote in that spelling!

I would like to support the solver who reported on the difficulty of reading the clues against some pictorial backgrounds. Although my eyes aren't too bad I found some of these clues very hard to decipher as parts of the picture overwhelmed parts of the clue. My magnifying glass was a help. JBs

*Huge apologies. I am grateful for feedback from several solvers on the legibility of clues against subdued graphic backgrounds. The graphics make the calendar more attractive when presented during potential sales conversations and often add another layer to the puzzle with a cryptic reference, but clearly this secondary to being able to read the clues.*

*Leginility is checked at various stages including the proofreading both onscreen and by computer printout. In the early years we would inspect a printed sample from the Printer's digital printer. This is very close to a home computer printout and did not justify time lost and cost. So far so good.*

*After all that care, the problem still arises when we get the product from the offset litho. The quality is superb but the colours and tones are richer. Certainly for this puzzle the background graphic has made reading some clues very difficult or illegible.*

*In the interim, between calendars 2018 and 2019, a couple of options occur. One is to download the puzzle from the website and then use the controls on the pdf file to zoom in on the clues. This may not work for everyone but it does for me as a seriously visually impaired person. If that does not work for you, just email me and I will be very happy to email back a puzzle version without the background graphic ior separate the graphic from clues onto a third page.*

*And for the future we will aim for greater contrast between clues and graphics.*

*The 2019 3D puzzle series will feature cryptic drawings by Frank Paul, illustrator and author of 'The Cryptic Pub Quiz' This is an absolutely brilliant book with drawings taken from pub quizzes at 'The Mill' in Cambridge. I am grateful to Jane Teather, Jetdoc, wife of Enigmatist for introducing me to Frank.*

I've spent an enjoyable July wandering (in my mind) over the moors around Haworth ... it's been a few years since I've placed physical foot out that way, but Aramis (and Graham Fox's photo?) helped bring it all back. Grid and lights working in harmony: a stunner from the setter.

There are days when Google won't do but Chambers will. On the former, SORELL gives reference to a long-gone Tasmanian and his eponymous present-day town; go to the proper book, and a quick cross-reference gets you straight to the Shakespeare that I'd hoped for. And they said that print was dead! PA

This was a familiar theme for me but I still learnt a thing or two. I loved the recycling of words in the solution for WHY OH WHY OH WHY. Very efficient! JT

As always some new words but cluing helped to sort them out! Theme jumped out quickly though did not solve all the words. Good to have the Shirley pun - well done in the film AIRPLANE. Enjoyable solve. DM

I enjoyed this theme thanks. I just had trouble in the end with 12dn.

Not sure if I have the answer right so look forward to explanation of the word play. NC

A very enjoyable puzzle with a larger number of thematic items than I had imagined possible. Very clever! Thank you very much. I enjoyed this very much. Some stubborn ones but all in Nutmeg's characteristically smooth clues. AC

All proceeded relatively swiftly and straightforwardly with this one but I was left with Day 30 at the end which flummoxed me. In theory I have no more time to ponder but it will be on my mind till the deadline I am sure. Anyway, needs must – so here it is! Jbn

Nice steady paced puzzle after the trials and tribulations of June and June Extra! GB

A welcome return to an ageless theme which offers a rich vein for crossword material. Excellent clues and an excellent grid in which the long light, 'Wuthering Heights' was cunningly concealed. I especially liked the reversal indicator at 41. Many thanks to Nutmeg and Aramis. EL

## 2. July Extra 2018 Clues & Exp[lanations

	SOLUTION	Direction – Clue - Letter Count	Explanation
<b>1</b>	AKERLOF	8d Baker failing to start loaf not a great economist (7)	(b)aker + loaf minus a
<b>2</b>	ARTERY	6to,3d-5 Vessel's big guns badly scratched (6)	artillery minus ill
<b>3</b>	BELLIES	49up 8 sadly lacking two large body parts (7)	Ellis Bell* minus L L
<b>4</b>	BHOONAS	12d Benefit when eating hot Indian dishes (7)	H in (boon + as=when)
<b>5</b>	BRANWELL	12to,2d-4 B bachelor was good at legging it (8)	B ran well
<b>6</b>	BUSH	49ac-4 Daphne or Rose, perhaps Kate singing (4)	examples of bush, + Kate B
<b>7</b>	BUSH LOT	49ac Abraham's nephew on president's foreign plantation (4,3)	biblical Lot on Bush, as in George
<b>8</b>	ELLIS BELL	41up-4,21ac-2,9ac Cockney's underworld is itself enthralling black author (5,4)	B in 'ell is 'ell
<b>9</b>	EYRE	39up-4 Heroine's historic journey (Rochester ultimately in view) (4)	2 defs, + R in eye
<b>10</b>	GALAH	15to Local girl needing a husband's a flighty type Down Under (5)	gal a h
<b>11</b>	HASTE	31aw Loathe admitting son's impetuosity (5)	s in hate
<b>12</b>	HAWORTH	1ac I'm surprised poet has no words for Yorkshire parish (7)	ha! (Words)worth
<b>13</b>	I DECLARE!	18ba,16aw-2 What I do, maybe, as skipper at Lord's that's surprising (1,7)	definition=that's surprising, plus cricket reference
<b>14</b>	IN VAIN	18aw, 25up-2 Stingy at heart I must load trendy freight-car for nothing! (2,4)	((st)IN(gy), + I in VAN) a better surface, I hope
<b>15</b>	ISABELLA	7ac,10aw-2 Woman's savings scheme a disguised B's invested in (8)	(a Bell) in ISA
<b>16</b>	ISABELLE	14d,50to-2 Man possibly strangling first victim, female (8)	Abel in isle
<b>17</b>	ISOLATING	21ac,25up Cutting off one signal to criminal (9)	I + signal to *
	LANNERET	34ac,38to-2 Falcon's learnt to fly around Tyneside (8)	NE in learnt*

21	NOSY	46aw-2,47up-3 Unknown lad's flipping intrusive (4)	<(y son)
22	NOVEL	44aw Verse integrated in to Christmas story (5)	v in Noel
23	ONFLOW	27d-2,36to Running beast from pack going over stream (6)	on=running + <wolf=animal from pack
24	REFLOAT	26up-2,17aw,24ac-2 Oar left drifting to set boat to rights? (7)	oar left*
25	SEW	45aw-3 Cardinals work as machinists, say (3)	SEW cardinal points
26	SHIRLEY	33ba B 23 doubtless read in a posh voice? (7)	posh pronunciation of "surely" - groan!
27	SIBLING	11ac One book penned by shy member of the family (7)	I B in sling=shy=throw
28	SISTER	22ba,21to NHS worker is cutting back endlessly (6)	is in ster(n)
29	SORELL	22ac-2,23to Will's buck irked Will - not half! (6)	sore + (Wi)ll
30	STICH	11to Line of verse from German I appended to stone (5)	Ich after st
31	TENANTS	42ac A number of social workers on whom landlords depend? (7)	ten ants
32	VILLETTE	20ba,19to-2 B 23's 'wicked character' uncovered (8)	(e)vil lette(r)
33	WAVEFRONT	48ba,47to-3 Locus of points familiar to physicist with mean face (9)	w ave=average + front
34	WELL-WON	2d Runs out of stock that's legitimately come by (4-3)	well-worn=stock (as in stock answer)minus R
35	WESTVILLE	48up,10ba-3 Dr Spooner's undergarment is going to Nova Scotian town (9)	vest will=is going to
36	WHY OH WHY OH WHY	29ac-3,28ac,29ac-3 YO-YO-Y as vocalised, by Gilbert (3,2,3,2,3)	"Y O Y O Y" read out as individual letters
37	WILLIE	Determination, that is a thing every PM needs, according to Mrs T (6)	will ie, ref Mrs Thatcher's comment on Willie Whitelaw (a Willie)
38	WUTHERING HEIGHTS	48aw,51up,4d B 23's thuggish heir went off the rails (9,7)	thuggish heir went*
39	YEN	30d Most of rejected money is foreign currency (3)	<(mo)ney
40	YTTRIC	32up,7to-2 Metallic counter right in middle of city (6)	<(rt in city)

Finally, thank you for supporting our project to help youngsters in need.

Best wishes            Eric Westbrook

Registered Blind RNIB Member  
& Public Speaker

3D Crossword Designer *Sirius*  
Software development for  
independent blind crossword solving