

### 3D Crossword December 2018 Newsletter

This month's newsletter covers the following agenda:

1. Review of the November 3D Crossword
2. Notice on sales of the 2019 virtual 3D Crossword Calendar
3. December Extra 3D Crossword

#### 1. Review of the November Crossword

The November puzzle with grid and clues set by Curmudgeon commemorates The First World War poet Wilfred Edward Salter Owen who wrote:

- Dulce et decorum est
- Strange Meeting
- Futility

He was killed at the Sambre-Oise canal exactly one week before the armistice was signed. His parents learned of his death as the armistice was being celebrated on 11/11/1918.

This month's winner was Jack Nicholls of Barnet, Herts.

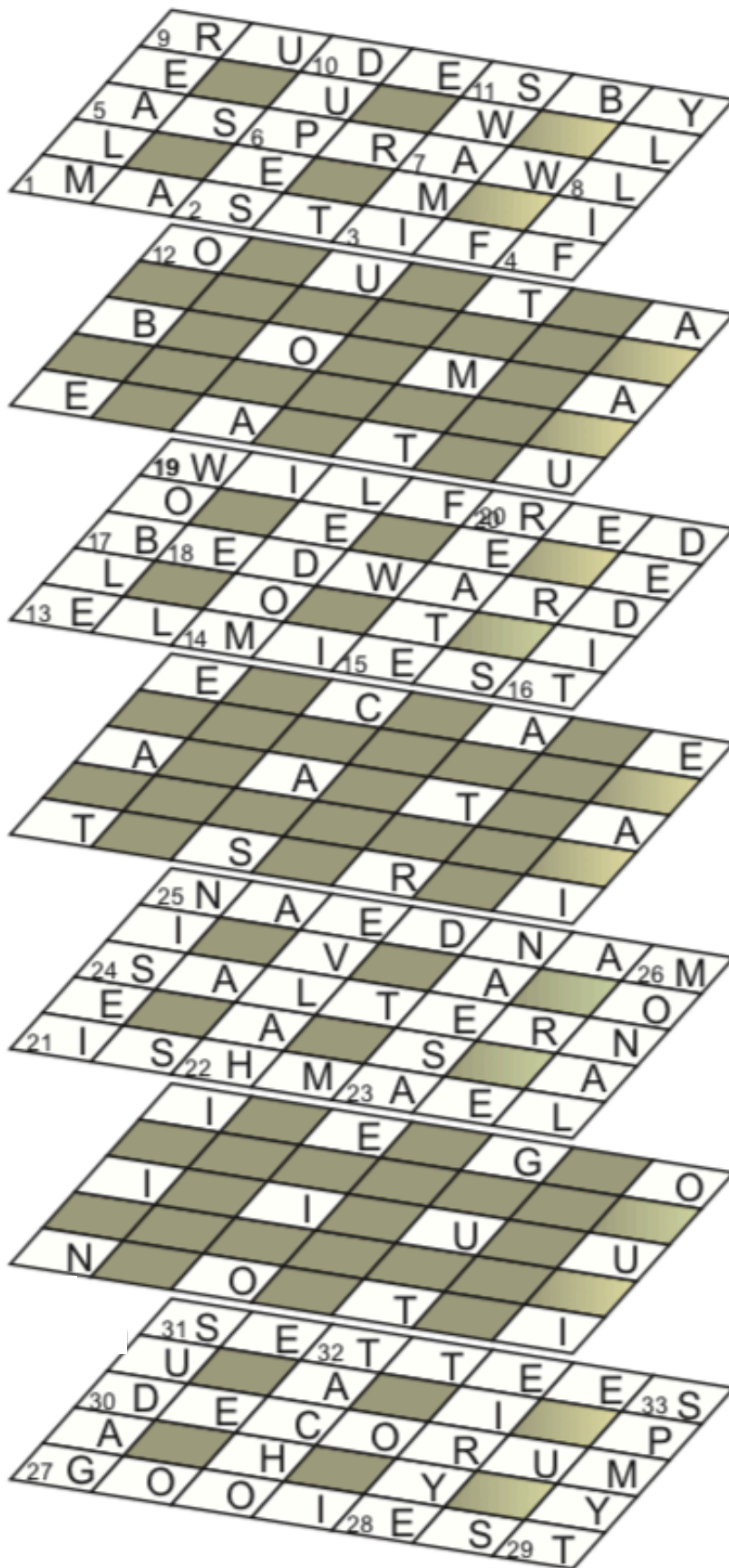
Congratulations.

In contrast to October's puzzle with its high percentage of snakes Curmudgeon's puzzle had precisely zero snakes. It just illustrates the point that I made last month that there is room in the 3D crossword world for an eclectic mix of approaches to grid construction. The rubric set out that the theme would be revealed as solutions were entered into the grid. Furthermore all entries were clued. So quite straightforward and therefore straight into solving. Wilfred, a poet, came fairly early in the process and with all the WW1 coverage in the news it was pretty clearly likely to be Wilfred Owen. And so it proved to be. With no other mysteries to be resolved it proved to be a fairly quick solve by normal standards but no less enjoyable for that.



Photograph by Graham Fox.

The abstract image behind the clues was of a frozen thicket of thorns in an icy winter scene. Desolate and impenetrable. There was also a blood red poppy barely visible now. All resonating with the crossword theme.



**November  
solution;  
set by  
Curmudgeon  
grid by  
Curmudgeon**

### Comments for 3D November Curmudgeon

A very enjoyable literary theme. revisiting these poems was an unexpected bonus once I had completed the grid. Thanks to Curmudgeon JA

I think that this is the easiest so far - lots of give aways in the rubric. 1hr 30 min. ML

Not too difficult this month; a worthy subject. 22. A meeting isn't necessarily an interview - "perhaps" perhaps? 29. According to Chambers, ROWEN (also aftermath) is the cutting, not the growth. MJ

A great puzzle with a most appropriate theme. JP

The theme came easily from starting at Day 7. The uncommon words provided interest as usual. The cryptic parts of days 35 and 16 eluded me for a while but I think I got the right outcome. JN

November entry attached.

There were many surprising words in this.

One or two words that can be wrenched out of the wordplay to be confirmed in a dictionary is great, but this was too many for me.

Kicking off with Abbasid, through Ladanum, Monal, Rudesby, Samshoo and ending with Tymps (which I'd've thought was short for the kettle drums).

Then there were the answers that just didn't look right: Elmiest (surely the most elmy thing is ... an elm), and Pedaled with only one

L. 'Ells bells!

The theme was apt and treated well, and I learnt a few things about Wilfred Owen from the completed puzzle and the preamble.

Salter as a middle-name !?

And I knew of only 1 of the 4 poems hidden in the grid

This could've been made a great deal harder if the poet and all his works had been left unclued, to be deduced. As it is I think I just about completed the grid before returning to the preamble to check (which e.g. confirmed Saltern). AJR

Lovely, entertaining puzzle in a well-judged mix of tougher and easier ones FUTILITY was probably my favourite. Ingenious incorporation of the subject's name. MLJ

"An appropriate theme of course - so easy to spot, and appreciated.

Some horribly obscure words needing research - but we are always willing to learn!

I think the answer to 27a could actually be spelt with either a 'y' or 'i' (which I prefer). Will you be pedantic over this??" SB

A lovely grid and clues from Curmudgeon, very impressive amount of thematic material in the grid which I mostly filled without referring back to the preamble, allowing it to fall together beautifully at the end. Favourite clues were those for ABBASID, DUPES, FILLY, FUTILITY, MODEL, and SETTEES. Many thanks Curmudgeon! BL

Thank you for this, Curmudgeon. A very satisfying crossword which I completed JJ

The second puzzle featuring Wilfred Owen this year - Feb seems so long ago now! I love "RUDESBY" I think I shall try to resurrect it! JT

A timely puzzle with some good new vocabulary JH

I enjoyed this one - a fitting theme for the month DS

Pleasing puzzle ET

Yet another great puzzle MP

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Excellent if only because I finished A

Clue No	Direction	Word	Clue	Explanation
1	5d	ABBASID (7)	5d Coptic bishops recalling gods of Baghdad's caliph dynasty (7)	ABBAS + DI<
2	7d	AMATEUR (7)	7d A mature frolicking dilettante (7)	A + MATURE*
3	23aw	ASEAN (5)	23aw Asian changing heart to produce league of nations (5)	ASIAN with E for I
4	5ac	ASPAWL (7)	5ac Snake with red, inflamed length clumsily spread out (7)	ASP + RAW + L
5	17ac	BEDWARD (7)	17ac Chasing classy chick round, draw back towards retiring time (7)	DEB< DRAW<
6	30ac	DECORUM (7)	30ac Dubious code deviating from expected etiquette (7)	CODE* + RUM
7	10d	DULCE ET (5,2)	10d '___ __ decorum est pro patri mori' (6,2) Sweet and harmonious imbibing ecstasy (5,2)	DULCET round E
8	10to	DUPES (5)	10to Takes in fees including parking (5)	DUES round P

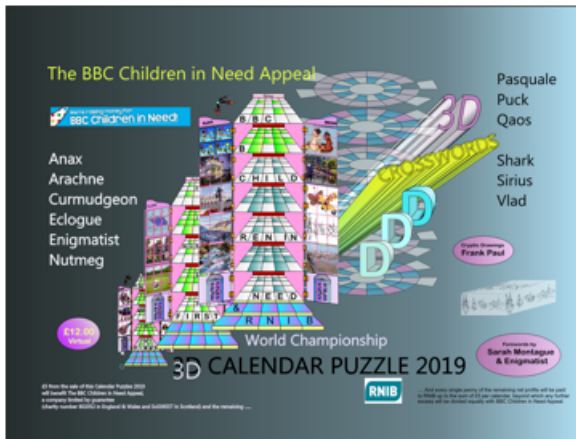
9	13aw	ELBOW (5)	13aw Joint of the Spanish weapon (5)	EL + BOW
10	13ac	ELMIEST (7)	13ac With most shady trees and French circling limes running amok (7)	ET round LIMES*
11	28aw	EYRIE (5)	28aw Nest, see, with trimmed bird back inside (5)	EYE round (b)IR(d)<
12	4aw	FILLY (5)	4aw Foal to occupy space in yard (5)	FILL + Y
13	4d, 29aw -2	FUTILITY (8)	4d,29aw-2 Following usefulness – uselessness (8)	F + UTILITY
14	27aw	GADUS (5)	27aw Spear US codfishes (5)	GAD + US
15	27ac	GOOUEST (7)	27ac Most effusively emotional; wackiest with no trace of fun (7)	GOOFIEST less F(un)
16	22aw	HALVE (5)	22aw Know about will's term and divide into two parts (5)	HAVE round (wil)L

G


17	21ac	ISHMAEL (7)	21ac In Islam he, sadly, is the rejected son (7)	ISLAM HE*
18	3d	ITERATE (7)	3d Repeat endlessly cited degree (7)	(c)ITE(d) RATE
19	8d	LADANU M (7)	8d Cook and maul fragrant resin used in perfumes (7)	AND MAUL*
20	26ba	MANDEA N (7)	26ba Adult male cathedral dignitary, member of a Gnostic sect (7)	MAN + DEAN
21	1ac	MASTIFF (7)	1ac Mother's pet dog (7)	MA'S + TIFF
22	1d	MEETING (7)	1d Fitting in good interview (7)	MEET + IN + G
23	14aw	MODEL (5)	14aw Display by wearing fashion line (5)	MODE + L
24	26to	MONAL (5)	26to Common almanac includes brilliantly coloured bird (5)	Hidden
25	25to	NISEI (5)	25to US born person consciously envied now and then (5)	(co)N(sc)I(ou)S(ly)E (nv)I(ed)

26	6d	PODALIC (7)	6d After revolutionary operation, lad rises in command of feet (7)	OP< DAL< IC
27	9to	REALM (5)	9to Kingdom to arm again, changing sides (5)	REARM L for R
28	20to	REATE (5)	20to Plant a tree clumsily (5)	A TREE*
29	9d	ROWEN (5)	9d Line with space for second growth of grass (5)	ROW + EN
30	9ac	RUDESBY (7)	9ac Bard's uncivil fellow's regularly groundless gutless barbarity (7)	(g)R(o)U(n)D(l)E(s) S B(arbarit)Y
31	24ac	SALTERN (7)	24ac Organised rentals for condiment factory (7)	RENTALS*
32	2d	SAMSHO O (7)	2d Foremost of store's advertising men endlessly shook alcoholic drink (7)	First letters + SHOO(k)
33	31ac	SETTEES (7)	31ac Long benches' frame supports (7)	SET + TEES
34	SINEW (5)		31up-5 Strength of exotic wines (5)	WINES*
35	SOMEDAY (7)		33up Public displays of protest to be put down indeed at unspecified future time (7)	DEMOS< AY
36	STRANGE (7)		11d Interestingly unusual stone compass (7)	ST + RANGE
37	SWAMI (5)		11to Mystic south-western French friend (5)	SW + AMI
38	TACHO (5)		32to Clasp old instrument for recording speed (5)	TACH + O
39	TIDED (5)		16aw Happened long ago, carried by ebb and flow (5)	Double definition
40	TYMPS (5)		29aw Blast-furnace doors' temperature: unknown melting point at last shows (5)	T + Y + MP + (show)S
42	WILFRED (7)		19ac Tumultuous wilder following for poet (7)	WILDER + F*

## 2. Notice on sales of the 2019 virtual 3D Crossword Calendar



The 2019 calendar is now available for purchase from the 3D calendar website:  
<http://www.calendarpuzzles.co.uk/> .

Please don't delay your purchase, go on line straight away for another 12 months solving enjoyment. The wording on the website is:

### **The BBC CiNA (Children in Need Appeal) 3D Crosswords World Championship 2019:**

The BBC CiNA 3D Crosswords World Championship consists of 12 three-dimensional crosswords with clues set by some of the best UK compilers, on the frame of a calendar. Each day has a clue. Each month has a grid to complete in 12 prize competitions. The World Champion will solve all 12 puzzles and win a tie-break requiring skill and imagination.

Entry to the World Championship or just to have some fun is secured by paying £12.00 for the virtual calendar download.

### **3. December Extra 3D Crossword**

You really must not miss the December extra 3D crossword by Sirius, it is truly excellent. The PDM (penny drop moment where the theme is revealed for those not familiar with the term) is one worth searching for. I'll say no more but I really look forward to reviewing it in due course.

The puzzle will be posted on our website mid-month with a deadline of January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019 midnight of course. It has also been offered to The Crossword Centre. Entrants from the CWC website go into their own prize pool, whilst entrants using the Answer Grid from our website will go into a separate prize pool. And it will appear on a Christmas card sent to people who are buying the virtual puzzle calendar for another person, so they have something physical to wrap up and give.

Classified Advertisements section:

Message to Robbie from Sue. Wait till Christmas!!



4. The Team here at 3D Towers & Assorted Allotments thank everyone for such a wonderful year together and wish all the most seasonal of season's greetings. We hope Nora will have a rest from crossword marking and be able to concentrate on Christmas.

Alan Goddard (completed by Sirius)