## 3D Crossword January 2019 Newsletter

This first of this months newsletters covers the following agenda:

- 1. Welcome and Seasonal Greeting
- 2. Reminder on submission dates for the December Crosswords
- 3. Notice on sales of the 2019 virtual 3D Crossword Calendar
- 4. Reminder on the Tie-Break and RPM competition submissions
- 5. 3D Crosswords Highlighted in the Guardian
- 6. Hints and Tips by Adam Saile

There will be a second newsletter carrying a review of the December 3D crossword and the December extra crossword

## 1. Welcome and Seasonal Greetings

On behalf of all of the 3D crossword team; can I extend a very warm welcome to all new contributers who have bought the 3D Crossword Calendar for the first time as well as sending our best wishes to all members, old and new, for the New Year. On the very last page - page 32 - of the 2019 virtual calendar there is a nearly full list of all our helpers. The crosswords are all there to be solved and enjoyed and we look forward to receiving your entries and comments over the coming months. It really is heartening to the team to see your entries and to enjoy your comments on the grids whether or not you managed to successfully complete each one.

### 2. Reminder on submission dates for the December Crosswords

Both the regular December crossword by Puck with a grid by Bozzy and Sirius's splendid December extra crossword are due to be completed, photographed or scanned and submitted to <a href="mailto:sirius@calendarpuzzles.co.uk">sirius@calendarpuzzles.co.uk</a> by midnight on 15th January. Postal competition entries should be sent to: 68 West Lane, Thornton, Bradford BD13 3JB

## 3. Reminder on the Tie-Break and RPM competition submissions

Submissions for both the Tie-Break and RPM competions are due in by midnight on 15th January.

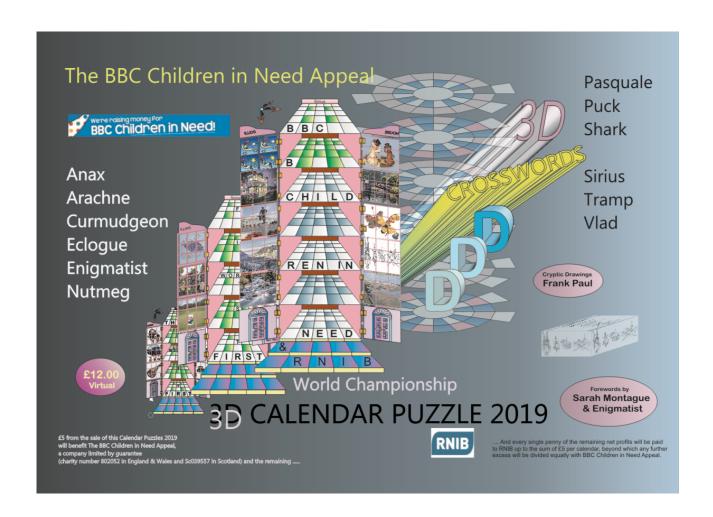
For new solvers and as a general reminder solvers successful in twelve puzzles out of the pool of twelve mainstream **and** four 'Extras', qualify to enter the Tie-break Competition to determine who will be the next BBC Children in Need Appeal 3D Crosswords World Champion. A grid designer for a

published puzzle in the 2018 suite is given exemption for that month. Success in an Extra makes up for a miss in a monthly mainstream puzzle. Anyone not meeting these criteria is welcome to enter the RPM (Ray Parry Morris) 3D grid design competition. Full details were in the Tie-Break special Newsletter issued in November.

Tie break and RPM entries are usually photographed or scanned and submitted by email to the website email address, <a href="mailto:sirius@calendarpuzzles.co.uk">sirius@calendarpuzzles.co.uk</a>, or if desired by post direct to Sirius. This postal address is available on request to the above email address.

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

So far sales of the the 2019 virtual 3D crossword calendar have passed the £1000 mark both for personal purchase and as gifts for others. The 2019 calendar is still available for purchase and download from the 3D calendar website: <a href="https://www.calendarpuzzles.co.uk">www.calendarpuzzles.co.uk</a>.



The Cover of the 2019 Virtual Calendar

# 5. 3D Crosswords Highlighted in the Guardian

In his crossword blog this month in the guardian Alan Conner has focussed in on the 3D crossword calendar. The link for Alan's blog is: <a href="https://www.theguardian.com/crosswords/crossword-blog/2019/jan/07/crossword-blog-guardian-setters-enter-the-third-dimension">https://www.theguardian.com/crosswords/crossword-blog/2019/jan/07/crossword-blog-guardian-setters-enter-the-third-dimension</a>

Alan starts his article by saying we can start 2019 with a happy anniversary. The series of 3D Calendar puzzles has now completed a decade of monthly challenges. These are crosswords with clues that go upwards and downwards in the normal way, but also some that go "forwards", away from you. In a chat with their creator, Eric Westbrook, I described them as "surprisingly easy to get used to": the more you do them, the more natural they feel, even though they now contain some clues that have no words at all. Half of the income ("every single penny we receive from solvers, after the banks take a small cut", Eric reminds me) goes to help with the education of visually impaired children and the other half to Children in Need.

The article, which is well worth a visit, goes on to explain how various setters see 3D crosswords and finishes by agreeing that the series is now a "Rolls Royce' product.

# 6. Hints & Tips by Adam Saile

Sirius (aka Eric Westbrooke) writes; the monthly Hints & Tips are very useful for those at the beginning of 3D Crossword solving, making sure that everyone gets off to a good start. They are also extremely handy to the most experienced, in shedding light on just those one or two clues at the end of a puzzle which prove elusive or seem ambiguous. Adam will not tell you the answers but he will provide some keys to unlocking some of the secrets. The Hints & Tips usually appear by email in the second week of a competition. We might have had a bit of a go and maybe hit some snags. They are written in a most companionable way. We are not alone! We enjoy a charming companion for about ten clues. The style is friendly with some challenge, occasionally teasing and always thought-provoking. There are illustrations which draw one in and which often contain a hint or two .Your solving will improve, as will your enjoyment of crosswords.

Adam invites you to join his circulation list by emailing him directly on: adamsaille3D@gmail.com . Happy solving!

## 3D Crossword January 2019 Newsletter 1.2

This is the second of this months newsletters and covers the following agenda:

- 1. Two important reminders
- 2. Review of the December 3D Crossword
- 3. Review of the December Extra Crossword
- 4. Tie-break and RPM Trophy 2018 Entries

## 1. Two important reminders

Ideally solutions should be sent by email to <a href="mailto:sirius@calendarpuzzles.co.uk">sirius@calendarpuzzles.co.uk</a>. For those who need to post with Royal Mail please note that our PO Box is now closed down. Solutions should now go to: 68 West Lane Thornton, Bradford BD13 3JB. For any other postal items, please email sirius@calendarpuzzles for advice on addressing.

The deadline for the current January Arachne is February 15th. This is to allow latecomers to join in the fun. But beware! The February puzzle deadline follows close on its heels reverting to the more usual end of month midnight.

### 2. Review of the December 3D Crossword

December crossword set by Puck, grid by Bozzy

The winner of this months puzzle was Tony Harker of Oxford.

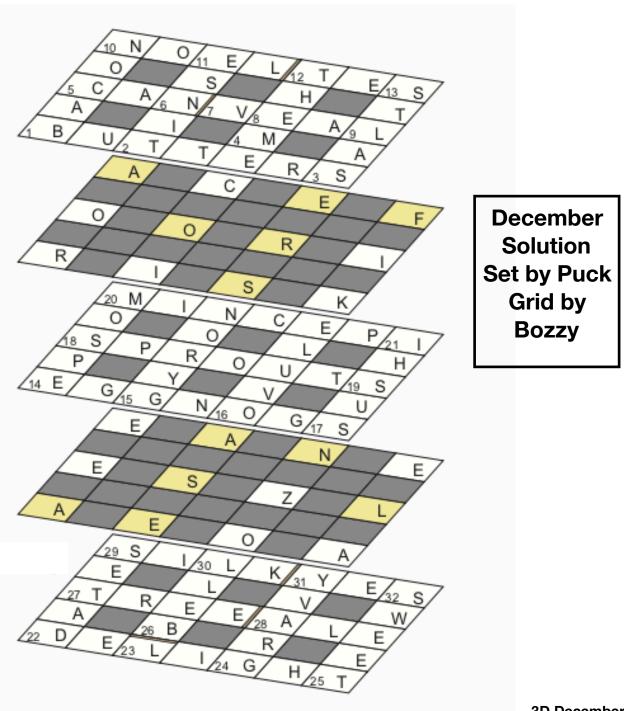
Asterisked clues lacked a definition; their solutions were all items from a possible (shopping) LIST (9d- 3,19ba-2) for NOEL (10ac). Two of these (BELL, TINSEL), might go on a third (TREE 27ac); the rest might be had for, with, or after a thematic MEAL (4aw-2,8ac).

The highlighted grid cells spell SEASONAL FARE which included: ALE, BACON, DATES, EGGNOGS, GOOSE, GRAVY, MINCE PIES and SPROUTS.

Clues are presented in alphabetical order of their solution

December, Christmas approaching, surely the theme has to be seasonal, and so it proved. I echo the comments of MS below "What a fitting way to end the year. I loved the wit and concision of Puck's clues, some of which were LOL". Laugh out Loud in this instance not, as David Cameron once thought, Lots of Love. This was illustrated with a touch of the risqué in a number of clues 16,

19, 20 and 27 as well as the very amusing clue 17 'Run away without causing offence' for LEGIT. One of my favourite asterisked clues was clue 35 'In lo(ve? a l)ittle' for VEAL. I think that I wasn't alone in finding clue 3 'Coming to this might mean needing to get a bus or walk' for BACON difficult to parse. As Puck's notes, below, illustrate the words 'coming to' lead to NOCAB. Easy when you're told! My compliments also to our very own Bozzy for packing so many seasonal, and in some cases not so seasonal (but clearly flagged in the preamble) solutions into a small grid.



ALE I 28ac* There's not even a clue for this one! (3)  AZURE 2 28up Map has river in blue (5)  AZ + Ure  BACON 3 1aw* Coming to this might mean needing to get a bus or walk? (5) grid  BELL 4 26aw* Stomach not quite full? (4)  BREAD 5 1d* Pitta mostly filled with cheese at last (5)  BUTTERS 6 1ac* Containing complete bullshit (7)  CAN 7 5ac* What's included in dance-off? Twice, perhaps (3)  COSET 8 50ne of two subgroups Tesco runs (5)  DATES 9 22aw* Full from head to toe and vice versa (5)  DELIGHT 1 22ac Remove illumination from entrance (7)  EGRONOGS 1 14ac* Say medal must be returned by Saltor (5,5)  GOSE 1 2 4up* Yorkshire town diminished in size (6)  GRAVY 1 24aw* Very "in" colour in America? vin gray  GYRON 1 1 5aw Ordinary energy Röntgen's used (5)  LANCE 1 30up Look good to go, having weapon with long shaft (5)  LISLE 1 9 d Yarn where some blackmail is 17 offence (5)  MINCE 1 00ac Boy needs what both turkey and to sell with and veal (4)  No el in turkey & goose, but an el in both lamb and veal (4)  No el in turkey & goose, but an el in both lamb and veal (4)	solution		Direction – Clue- Letter Count	Clue Explanation
BACON 3 1aw* Coming to this might mean needing to get a bus or walk? (5) grid)  BELL 4 26aw* Stomach not quite full? (4) Bell[y]  BREAD 5 1d* Pitta mostly filled with cheese at last (5) utter in bs bullshit (7)  CAN 7 5ac* What's included in dance-off? Twice, perhaps (3)  COSET 8 5d One of two subgroups Tesco runs (5)  DATES 9 22aw* Full from head to toe and vice versa (5)  DELIGHT 1 22ac Remove illumination from off that all sallors (7) that all sallors (5) by Bob (7)  EPSOM 1 14aw, 3aw* Mopes around with SALTS 2 sallors (5,5)  GOSEE 1 24up* Yorkshire town diminished in size (5)  GRAVY 1 24aw* Very "in" colour in America? v in gray (5)  GYRON 1 15aw Ordinary energy Röntgen's used (5)  LANCE 1 30up Look good to go, having weapon with long shaft (5)  LEGIT 1 23up Run away, without causing offence (5)  MINCE 1 2 10d Handles buttocks after a or change of the art (5)  NOEL 1 10d Cab y needs what both turkey and 10 well and veal	ALE	1		Lacking even letters in "a [c]l[u]e"
needing to get a bus or walk? (5) grid)  BELL 4 26aw* Stomach not quite full? (4)  BREAD 5 1d* Pitta mostly filled with cheese at last (5)  BUTTERS 6 1ac* Containing complete bullshit (7)  CAN 7 5ac* What's included in danceoff? Twice, perhaps (3)  COSET 8 5d One of two subgroups Tesco runs (5)  DATES 9 22aw* Full from head to toe and vice versa (5)  DELIGHT 1 22ac Remove illumination from derirance (7)  EPSOM 1 14aw, 3aw* Mopes around with SALTS 2 14aw* Very "in" colour in America? V in gray  GRAVY 1 24aw* Very "in" colour in America? V in gray  GRAVY 1 1 23up Run away, without causing of meads was perimented (5)  LEGIT 1 2 3up Run away, without causing offence (5)  LISLE 1 2 40x* Analysed essential content of urine specimen (5,4)  NAMES 2 10d Handles buttocks after a charge of the art (5)  NOEL 2 10a Boy needs what both turkey and 13 contain, unlike lamb and 35 lamb and veal	AZURE	2	28up Map has river in blue (5)	AZ + Ure
(4)   Cheese   I last (5)   Cheese   I last (5)   Utter in bs	BACON	3		,
cheese at last (5)  BUTTERS 6 1ac* Containing complete bullshit (7)  CAN 7 5ac* What's included in dance-off? Twice, perhaps (3)  COSET 8 5d One of two subgroups Tesco runs (5)  DATES 9 22ac* Full from head to toe and vice versa (5)  DELIGHT 1 22ac Remove illumination from ontrance (7)  EGGNOGS 1 14ac* Say medal must be returned by Bob (7)  EPSOM 1 14aw, 3aw* Mopes around with SALTS 2 sailors (5,5)  GRAVY 1 24aw* Very "in" colour in America? vin gray (5)  GYRON 1 15aw Ordinary energy Röntgen's used (5)  LANCE 1 30up Look good to go, having weapon with long shaft (5)  LEGIT 1 20ac,21d-3* Analysed essential content of urine specimen (5,4)  NAMES 2 10ac Boy needs what both turkey and 13 contain, unlike lamb and 35 lamb and yeal	BELL	4	•	Bell[y]
bullshit (7)  CAN 7 5ac* What's included in dance- off? Twice, perhaps (3)  COSET 8 5d One of two subgroups Tesco runs (5)  DATES 9 22aw* Full from head to toe and vice versa (5)  DELIGHT 1 22ac Remove illumination from entrance (7)  EGGNOGS 1 1 44ac* Say medal must be returned 1 by Bob (7)  EPSOM 2 1 1 44ac* Say medal must be returned 2 sailors (5,5)  GOOSE 1 24up* Yorkshire town diminished in 3 size (5)  GRAVY 1 24aw* Very "in" colour in America? v in gray  (5)  GYRON 1 1 35aw Ordinary energy Röntgen's used (5)  LANCE 1 30up Look good to go, having 6 weapon with long shaft (5)  LEGIT 1 23up Run away, without causing 6 weapon with long shaft (5)  LISLE 1 9d Yarn where some blackmail is 17 Hidden answer; ref. 17=legit (5)  MINCE 1 20ac,21d-3* Analysed essential PIES  NOEL 2 10ac Boy needs what both turkey and 13 contain, unlike lamb and 35 lamb and yeal	BREAD	5	_	chees[e] in Brad (Pitt[a])
off? Twice, perhaps (3)  COSET 8 5d One of two subgroups Tesco runs (5)  DATES 9 22aw* Full from head to toe and vice versa (5)  DELIGHT 1 22ac Remove illumination from entrance (7)  EGGNOGS 1 1 14ac* Say medal must be returned by Bob (7)  EPSOM 2 1 14aw, 3aw* Mopes around with sailors (5,5)  GOOSE 1 24up* Yorkshire town diminished in size (5)  GRAYY 1 24aw* Very "in" colour in America? (6)  GYRON 1 1 15aw Ordinary energy Röntgen's used (5)  LANCE 1 30up Look good to go, having weapon with long shaft (5)  LEGIT 1 23up Run away, without causing offence (5)  LISLE 1 9d Yarn where some blackmail is 17 (5)  MINCE PIES 9 10ac Boy needs what both turkey and 13 contain, unlike lamb and 35 lamb and veal	BUTTERS	6		utter in bs
DATES 9 22aw* Full from head to toe and vice versa (5)  DELIGHT 1 22ac Remove illumination from entrance (7)  EGGNOGS 1 14ac* Say medal must be returned by Bob (7)  EPSOM 1 14aw, 3aw* Mopes around with Saltrs 2 sailors (5,5)  GOOSE 1 24up* Yorkshire town diminished in size (5)  GRAVY 1 24aw* Very "in" colour in America? (5)  GYRON 1 15aw Ordinary energy Röntgen's used (5)  LANCE 1 30up Look good to go, having weapon with long shaft (5)  LEGIT 1 23up Run away, without causing offence (5)  LISLE 1 9 d Yarn where some blackmail is 17 8 (5)  MINCE 1 20ac,21d-3* Analysed essential PIES 9 content of urine specimen (5,4)  NAMES 2 10d Boy needs what both turkey and 13 contain, unlike lamb and 35 lamb and yeal	CAN	7		Anag of [d]anc[e]; ref. can-can
DELIGHT 1 22ac Remove illumination from entrance (7) de-light  EGGNOGS 1 1 4ac* Say medal must be returned by Bob (7) Egy and sailors (5,5) (Anag of mopes) + salts  EGOOSE 1 24up* Yorkshire town diminished in size (5)  GRAVY 1 24aw* Very "in" colour in America? (5)  GYRON 1 15aw Ordinary energy Röntgen's used (5)  LANCE 1 30up Look good to go, having weapon with long shaft (5)  LEGIT 1 23up Run away, without causing offence (5)  LISLE 1 9d Yarn where some blackmail is 17 (5)  MINCE 1 20ac,21d-3* Analysed essential content of urine specimen (5,4)  NAMES 2 10d Handles buttocks after a change of heart (5)  NOEL 2 10ac Boy needs what both turkey and 13 contain, unlike lamb and 35  Wordinary energy Röntgen's leg it  Hidden answer: ref. 17=legit  Anag of ([ur]i[ne] specimen)  No el in turkey & goose, but an el in both lamb and yeal	COSET	8		Anag of Tesco
EGGNOGS 1 1 14ac* Say medal must be returned by Bob (7)  EPSOM 1 1 14aw, 3aw* Mopes around with SALTS 2 sailors (5,5)  GOOSE 1 24up* Yorkshire town diminished in size (5)  GRAVY 1 24aw* Very "in" colour in America? (5)  GYRON 1 15aw Ordinary energy Röntgen's used (5)  LANCE 1 30up Look good to go, having weapon with long shaft (5)  LEGIT 1 23up Run away, without causing offence (5)  LISLE 1 9d Yarn where some blackmail is 17 (5)  MINCE 1 20ac,21d-3* Analysed essential content of urine specimen (5,4)  NAMES 2 10d Handles buttocks after a change of heart (5)  NOEL 2 10ac Boy needs what both turkey and 13 contain, unlike lamb and 35 lamb and veal	DATES	9		sated, via first and last letters exchanged
EPSOM 1 14aw, 3aw* Mopes around with 2 sailors (5,5)  GOOSE 1 24up* Yorkshire town diminished in size (5)  GRAVY 1 24aw* Very "in" colour in America? V in gray  GYRON 1 15aw Ordinary energy Röntgen's used (5)  LANCE 1 30up Look good to go, having weapon with long shaft (5)  LEGIT 1 23up Run away, without causing offence (5)  LISLE 1 9d Yarn where some blackmail is 17 Hidden answer; ref. 17=legit  MINCE 1 20ac,21d-3* Analysed essential content of urine specimen (5,4)  NAMES 2 10d Handles buttocks after a change of heart (5)  NOEL 2 10ac Boy needs what both turkey and 13 contain, unlike lamb and 35 lamb and veal	DELIGHT			de-light
SALTS 2 sailors (5,5)  GOOSE 1 24up* Yorkshire town diminished in size (5)  GRAVY 1 24aw* Very "in" colour in America? v in gray (5)  GYRON 1 15aw Ordinary energy Röntgen's used (5)  LANCE 1 30up Look good to go, having weapon with long shaft (5)  LEGIT 1 23up Run away, without causing offence (5)  LISLE 1 9d Yarn where some blackmail is 17 (5)  MINCE PIES 9 20ac,21d-3* Analysed essential content of urine specimen (5,4)  NAMES 2 10d Handles buttocks after a change of heart (5)  NOEL 2 10ac Boy needs what both turkey and 13 contain, unlike lamb and 35  No el in turkey & goose, but an el in both lamb and veal	EGGNOGS			Eg + gong(rev,) + s
GRAVY  1 24aw* Very "in" colour in America? v in gray  1 15aw Ordinary energy Röntgen's used (5)  LANCE  1 30up Look good to go, having weapon with long shaft (5)  LEGIT  1 23up Run away, without causing offence (5)  LISLE  1 9d Yarn where some blackmail is 17 Hidden answer; ref. 17=legit  (5)  MINCE PIES  1 20ac,21d-3* Analysed essential content of urine specimen (5,4)  NAMES  2 10d Handles buttocks after a change of heart (5)  NOEL  2 10ac Boy needs what both turkey and 13 contain, unlike lamb and 35  No el in turkey & goose, but an el in both lamb and veal			•	(Anag of mopes) + salts
GYRON 1 15aw Ordinary energy Röntgen's used (5)  LANCE 1 30up Look good to go, having weapon with long shaft (5)  LEGIT 1 23up Run away, without causing offence (5)  LISLE 1 9d Yarn where some blackmail is 17 (5)  MINCE 1 20ac,21d-3* Analysed essential content of urine specimen (5,4)  NAMES 2 10d Handles buttocks after a change of heart (5)  NOEL 2 10ac Boy needs what both turkey and 13 contain, unlike lamb and 35  Hidden answer; ref. 17=legit  Anag of ([ur]i[ne] specimen)	GOOSE			Goole, with S(small) for L(large)
LANCE 1 30up Look good to go, having weapon with long shaft (5) [g]lance  LEGIT 1 23up Run away, without causing offence (5) leg it  LISLE 1 9d Yarn where some blackmail is 17 (5) Hidden answer; ref. 17=legit (5)  MINCE 1 20ac,21d-3* Analysed essential content of urine specimen (5,4)  NAMES 2 10d Handles buttocks after a change of heart (5) nates, with middle letter chnaged  NOEL 2 10ac Boy needs what both turkey and 13 contain, unlike lamb and 35 lamb and veal	GRAVY		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	v in gray
LEGIT 1 23up Run away, without causing offence (5) leg it  LISLE 1 9d Yarn where some blackmail is 17 (5) Hidden answer; ref. 17=legit  MINCE PIES 2 20ac,21d-3* Analysed essential content of urine specimen (5,4)  NAMES 2 10d Handles buttocks after a change of heart (5)  NOEL 2 10ac Boy needs what both turkey and 13 contain, unlike lamb and 35  Leg it  Hidden answer; ref. 17=legit  Anag of ([ur]i[ne] specimen)  nates, with middle letter chnaged	GYRON			Hidden answer
To offence (5)  LISLE  1 9d Yarn where some blackmail is 17  Hidden answer; ref. 17=legit  (5)  MINCE 1 20ac,21d-3* Analysed essential content of urine specimen (5,4)  NAMES  2 10d Handles buttocks after a change of heart (5)  NOEL  2 10ac Boy needs what both turkey and 13 contain, unlike lamb and 35  No el in turkey & goose, but an el in both lamb and veal	LANCE			[g]lance
MINCE PIES  20ac,21d-3* Analysed essential content of urine specimen (5,4)  NAMES  2 10d Handles buttocks after a change of heart (5)  NOEL  2 10ac Boy needs what both turkey and 13 contain, unlike lamb and 35  NOEL  3 20ac,21d-3* Analysed essential Anag of ([ur]i[ne] specimen)  Anag of ([ur]i[ne] specimen)  Nates, with middle letter chnaged  No el in turkey & goose, but an el in both lamb and veal	LEGIT			leg it
PIES 9 content of urine specimen (5,4)  NAMES 2 10d Handles buttocks after a change of heart (5)  NOEL 2 10ac Boy needs what both turkey and 13 contain, unlike lamb and 35  NO el in turkey & goose, but an el in both lamb and veal	LISLE			Hidden answer; ref. 17=legit
0 change of heart (5)  NOEL 2 10ac Boy needs what both turkey 1 and 13 contain, unlike lamb and 35  No el in turkey & goose, but an el in both lamb and veal				Anag of ([ur]i[ne] specimen)
and 13 contain, unlike lamb and 35 lamb and veal	NAMES			nates, with middle letter chnaged
	NOEL		and 13 contain, unlike lamb and 35	

### **Puck - Comments**

NORSE	2	6d New treatment for sore tongue (5)	n + anag of sore
OVULE	2	16aw Unfertilized egg, so no starter for either 21 or a month before (5)	[N]ov + [Y]ule; ref. 21=Noel
SEIFS	2 4	32up Lots of sand in these, if sword-shaped (5)	hidden
SET	2 5	13ba Get harder, as Puck has done? (3)	Two meanings
SILK	2 6	29ac It could be shot that's making barman quite cross initially (4)	Two meanings; shot silk; q[uite] c[ross] for silk lawyer (barman)
(SKIES)		(13d Runner taking tablets gets high? (5))	(ski + e's)
SPROUTS	2 7	18ac* Seconds for us? No seconds, with farts a long way off (7)	This uses "a long way" for "far", and "off" for the removal indicator
SUSHI	2 8	17aw* Mostly drink rubbish when wanting massage and b drunk! (5)	su[p] + anag of [rub/B]ish
SWEET	2 9	32to* Setters put snakes in and around! (5)	(Letters of) SET, snaking in and around "we"
TASKS	3 0	25up Perhaps grinds teeth when taking under-secretary position (5)	as in t[US]ks
TEENY	3 1	12d Very small servant answering to cook and housemaid, not wife (5)	t[w]eeny
THEME	3	12to Peg wants Puck to follow Greek character? No thanks! (5)	the[ta] + me
TINSEL	3 3	2aw,11ac* Listen up! You'd get 7s, if 21 (6)	Anag of Listen; tinsel with no el; ref. 7=can, 21=Noel
TREE	3 4	27ac* One leaving Scottish island (4)	T[i]ree
VEAL	3 5	7ac* In love? A little (4)	Hidden answer
YES	3 6	31ac Votes for leaderless group (3)	[a]yes

Well done Puck and Bozzy - I feel full up now. JM

Smashing clues, tough stuff from Puck. Not sure its a good sign to feel you're on his wavelength! done early to save time for a perhaps impossible task ahead...... or maybe two. AC

I could get addicted to these! Not too many problems but one or two challenging clues - took me a while to see why 1ac was 'bacon' for example, but then a delicious PDM. Thank you. PD

I loved the food-based theme - can't wait for Christmas dinner! DS

What a lovely photo it looks like the Yorkshire Dales. SC

A lovely puzzle, thank you Puck and Bozzy. JJ

Quite a relief after the November Extra, but a tricky little imp nevertheless. SW

Thank you for the pre Christmas fun and all year round enjoyment. Unsure of some of the parsings here, so have no expectations that I will be all correct and in the draw. JA

We really got stuck into this. JH

What a lovely, fitting way to end the year. It was with a sense of satisfied accomplishment that I managed to get all 12 done this year (I hope!). I loved the wit and concision of Puck's clues, some of which were LOL, as they say (6, 19, 27...), but all in the spirit of the season. MS

Thanks for this festival treat. NI

Pleased to get finished before Christmas! Lots of good clues - no definition makes for more of a challenge.

Would have been quicker, but took me a while to discover I'd entered the 'ies' from mince pies 'to' instead of 'd'! JP

A good seasonal selection. 5 BREAD is the only word that fits, but there seems to be a definition and I don't understand the construction. 27 & 29 also puzzling. MJ

Not a very appetising as I swelter here in 36 degrees. TASKS gave me the hardest workout, though now that I see the wordplay, I'm not sure why it didn't come sooner. JT Aus.

Sent off the November crossword on 7/11/18 and started this. I gave up having written one solution into the grid. What a tester. ET

Though I filled this in readily enough especially after twigging the theme, there are a few where I cannot fathom how the clue works and I'm not going to think about them any longer.

Of course, that might mean I have some wrong here.

For instance

1aw: Is is a cryptic definition and there a phrase "coming to BACON"?

1d: BREAD "bif'd" in from Pitta - maybe the E from [chees]E but how is BRAD = mostly?

17aw: Who has SUSHI at Xmas?

32to: Where do the snakes go in and around WE (setters) in SWEET?

25up: TASKS - maybe ...

Sending this so I can tackle the Dec Extra and maybe start 2019 before the end of 2018 AJR I have so enjoyed my first year of calendar puzzles. MP

I couldn't find the anagram of the letters in the highlighted grid cells which might suggest either too much Christmas spirit or one or more of my answers are barking up the wrong spruce, pine or fir

Q: Why are pigs particularly excited tonight?

A: Because it's Hogmanay. GS

Thank you for a good year of puzzles. HK

A clever and enjoyable puzzle to celebrate the festive season. CH

While I think I've got them all correct, I didn't understand one or two of the Yule List items. CAN (5ac) and ALE (28ac), for example, could go together to indicate a Can of Beer, but that's rather tenuous for an item on a Yule List. And SUSHI (17aw) is unlikely to appear on many people's Yule lists! Mind you, your blurb did say "not always entirely traditional", so fair enough. And kudos for getting so many thematic items into a standard grid!!! HE

A nice one for Christmas and to end a great year of 3D puzzling. Onwards and upwards. JB

No real problems, except that as I'd a couple of errors in the highlighted letters, I couldn't make anything of the anagram, so put the puzzle on one side without submitting. I have now come back to it and found the mistakes, making it easy to find the seasonal fare. PM

Found this buried in my in tray. Glad I'm not too late. PD

Lovely puzzle which took a short while to get into with only GYRON unknown. Unusual set of letters for the anagram but season cracked it. Bests TASKS and THEME. Funniest LEGIT. DM

#### 3 Review of December Extra Crossword

December Extra set by Sirius, grid by Sirius

The winner of the December Extra was Kirsten Saddington of Guernsey. Coingratulations Kirsten.

The title tells us that we are 'In Search of a Hero' and we are invited to highlight the hero as he appears in the grid. Unlike most 3D puzzles in the calendar clues are not presented in alphabetical order. Also seven asterisked clues require thematic adjustment before they can be solved fully and correctly.

I am a great fan of Sirius and his sometimes quirky cluing. So I was very much looking forward to this solve. Where to start. A look through the clues showed that six of them made reference to the solution to clue 42 so well worth some early solving effort. I managed to get the two L's and this plus the first word of the clue 'Tell' led me to think of William Tell and together with Descartes famous 'I think therefore 'I am' confirmed WILLIAM as the 42 in question. Shakespeare I presumed? Wrongly it turned out. Tackling the axis of the discs led to NOO and SPUR which seemed very ordinary.

After making progress generally but not with the asterisks nor the '42's' I made a big effort with with Clue 19 and the anagram of 'orphan airing wit' which led to "ROARING WITH PAIN" and there and then, and truly rewarding it was, the penny dropped. POURING WITH RAIN, so we have spoonerisms. So our unlikely hero is William Spooner himself and the axis is a spoonerism of NOOSPUR and not at all ordinary. Thus inspired back to the asterisked clues; Clue 4 is a likely contender "put away butterfly with toe nail" Clearly 'no tail' replaces toe nail which leads to

SWALLOW(tail) which is 'put away'. Thereafter relatively straightforward but not without difficulty; some of both the asterisked and '42' clues were really quite testing. My favourite asterisked clue was Clue 41 'forwards a pack of lies in many a harsh ferment' - SCRUM(pies).

And so to two delightful and quirky clues to finish with: Clue 33 'No circuit breaker. That's handy!' leading to OF USE - zero fuse! and Clue 1 'Pull plug on runt' leading to TURN OFF - telling us to anagram turn to get runt. This latter I always think of as a Dingbat type clue.

I hope most of you enjoyed it as much as I did.

#### **Sirius December Extra - Comments**

Here's my solution to the November Crossword Club puzzle, though I must admit that I've not been able to see how some of the clues work. In particular, I don't get the references to Barking on the 9th, Namibia on the 19th, or Hannibal on the 34th - nor the spoonerism on the 12th - so am wondering whether it might be INC, rather than ENC which I think is favoured by the definition. PM

This was a challenge! Even though I solved day 42 WILLIAM quite early, it took quite a while for me to realise it was William Spooner and one or two of the spoonerisms still elude me. Some of these clues were much more complicated than the logistics of moving from Switzerland but provided a welcome distraction. Thank you to all those involved in its compilation. JB

Quite a toughie. I thought initially that WILLIAM might be JUST. Once the spoonerisms became clear things became easier. Still puzzling 8,19, 34 and 37. 31 clue seems very simplistic unless I've missed something. 45 not in Chambers or flagged. MJ (45 NERVI is a proper noun - Italian composer. Editor)

Flipping-eck-io What a struggle this one was. I've been picking away at it for many days very nearly shredding it in disgust, but each time I made a tiny bit more progress, so left it for another torture session. And I have just filled in the last blanks (38di NOULE) so I'm sending what I have now before I have second thoughts. Whereupon I find the final turn of the thumbscrew: "Solvers should highlight our hero as he appears in the grid" I am sorry that the hero eluded me - but I am far from confident of many of the answers. Lots of 'bung ins'. Thank you, I think, for scrambling my brain. SW

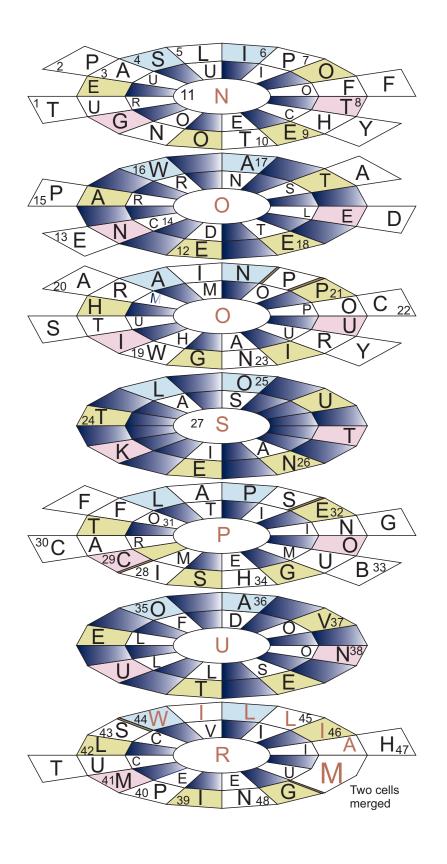
I really enjoyed this; Sirius's unrestrained clueing makes for a real challenge. Last in was 22di, which I'm still not sure about, though it parses. Finished this just as 2019's beautiful calendar arrived. Wonderful. AC

Very nice moment when I realised who our hero was. GB

This was so difficult - still 2 unfinished on this entry but I need to start on the 2019 crosswords. RE

Please send my £100 in used £1 Scottish notes to my bank account in the Cayman Islands. HE

Fine I thought, SPOONER, he's down the middle isn't he? Err. No. that's NOOSPUR (Which turns out to be the spoonerism for our hero. Editor) Once I realised what was going on I loved the asterisked clues particularly 15di "Shoving leopard" and 4d butterfly with "no tail" but I haven't fathomed what is Spoonerised in the clue 13di where the answer is surely INC[arcerated] but what might that have to do with (e.g.) a "bunny phone". It was the clues that referred to "42" that befuddled me more while solving I found myself trying to spoonerise parts of those clues too. When I found (I presume) they had Spoonerised answers rather than parts of the clue. I found



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Solution
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some very enjoyable, e.g. 29C CAT FLAPS / Flat caps, but again others I'm not so sure about, e.g. 5di's "Nu let" and 47di's "Care hut" TR

## **December Extra: Clue Solutions and Explanations**

Our hero appears at Day 42 as William and, in an appropriately Spoonerised form, at Days 10 & 26 as NOO + SPUR.

Solvers are asked to find him and highlight the grid.

Seven asterisked clues require re-writing thematically before solution.

There is a Spoonerism to be applied in re-writing such clues. The clue is then a standard clue.

Eg 'Dear old queen's terminal'

→ 'Queer old dean's terminal'

Which then solves as anagram (O+ DEAN)\* = ANODE

These clues are indicated 'rew' below.

Seven clues with a reference to 42(William) are typical of the usual Spoonertype clue. They consist of a definition for the grid entry plus wordplay for a word or words which are to be Spoonerised.

These clues are indicated 'Spo' below

Standard clues are marked 'St' below.

TURN OFF	1di Pull plug on runt? (4,3)	Anagram signal in solution TURN OFF = (RUNT)*	St	1
PAUNCHY	2di Soft and arousing removing top, showing more than an inch to be pinched (7)	P + (r)AUNCHY	St	2
A SLIP OF THE TONGUE	3C One minor error teen ought to be 'allowed'? (1,4,2,3,6)	Anagram signal in solution A SLIP OF (THE TONGUE) = (TEEN OUGHT)*	St	3

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SWALLOW*	4d* Put away butterfly with toe nail (7)	Toe nail → no tail SWALLOW(tail)	rew	4
Lunet – (New Let)	5di Moonlighting could result from 42's US style remodelled lease (5) (3,3) → (5)	42 = William (Spooner) "NOO"(NEW) LET → LU NET	Spo	5
lan	6d Joanna's a little potty about this wee laddie? (3)	P(IAN)O	St	6
PINON	7di Seed returns shot, ball touching top of net (5)	>NIP + O + N	St	7
Teuton	8d Robert and disrespectful German improperly donutted bishop leaving in disarray (6)	d(ONUTTE)*d (Spooner wqs a DD) Robert Teuton of CWC	St	8
Teeing off	10AC-2,9d-5,31Adi Starting drive (for Barking, say?) with a fair way to travel (6,3)	Cryptic def golf drive fairway 'Fore'	St	9
Noo	11d-3 Scots now having Nationalist with balls (3)	N + OO Merriman-Webster	St	10
EGESTING	12d,39AC Initially Gareth Edwards gets in loose ruck with wasteful passing (8)	(GE + GETS IN)*	St	11
EnC*	13di-3* Confined briefly, settle comfortably having funny-bone scan (3)	*Bone scan → scone ban EN(S)C(once) losing letters of 'scone' ('funny'=in any order are banned	rew	12
Costa	14di 42's shelf filler has coffee here perhaps (5)	Shelf-filler = stocker → Costa	Spo	13

Paroled PAROLED*	15di* Loving Shepherd expounded literally on good behaviour (7)	Shoving leopard → (LEOPARD)* = PAROLED	rew	14
WR <u>O</u> TE*	16di* Dashed off perhaps to take shower (5)	→ Shake tower (TOWER)* = WRQTE	rew	15
ANODE*	17di* Dear old queen's terminal (5)	→queer old dean ( O + DEAN)* = ANODE	rew	16
WHOOPEE	19di,18up Ella was heard makin' it with shriek of joy (7)	Song Fitzgerald 'Makin' Whoopee'	St	17
Armoury	20di Romeo in love at end of day finding home for sword and sheath (7)	A(R)MOUR + Y	St	18
Pouring with rain	21C 42's suspect orphan airing wit in pelting old women in Namibia (7,4,4)	(orphan airing wit)* Roaring with pain →	spo	19
Cop-outs	22di Colleague spends penny in barbers falling short more than once (3-4)	C ( <b>OP</b> p <b>O</b> ) UTS	St	20
NAOMI	23di Ruth's mother-in-law turned on Mia (5)	(ON MIA)*	St	21
THAE	24up Those Scots hate being beaten (4)	(HATE)*	St	22
Ossie (5)	25di Shane Warne say – 'e is so full of imself - looking in mirror (5)  Italicised text is presented as mirror writing (see pdf file)	Hidden. Collins Solution requires identification of mirrored letters then converted in a mirror.	St	23
Opal	25d Napoleon gave Josephine one thinking of citadel set ablaze in sack (4)	Cryptic def - N gave J an opal that was the first to be named (The Burning of Troy) and the clue refers to nothing else!	St	24
Nasal(5)	26di Setter's leaving animals looping about like Melvyn Bragg in a railway station (5)	(ANimALS)*	St	25

SPUR	27d Encourage projection (4)	Double meaning	St	26
IMPIS	28di Small devil is in the large detail? (5)	IMP + IS Impis group of (Zulu) warriors (stereotypically of good stature	St	27
CAT FLAPS	29C Unsupervised animal exits half the time in 42's off-key headgear (3,5)	Spooners Flat caps CAT FLAPS are 50% exits and 50% entrances.	Spo	28
Carping (Parking)	30di Complaining of big chest in computer message from 42 (7)	P (ARK) ING →	Spo	29
Enough is Enough	32C-5,28AC-2,32C-5 Theresa's red line announcement to shun huge goonie abroad (6,2,6)	May quote (SHUN HUGE GOONIE)*	St	30
Bump Off	33di Execute successful lumpectomy (4,3)	Def and cryptic def	St	31
Hepta	34di Like number of Cliff's sister's in Seaford showing little thanks after small infection (5)	Prefix HEPatitis + TA Seven Sisters cliffs in Sussex	St	32
Of Use	35di No circuit-breaker . That's handy!! (2,3)	No = 0 + FUSE	St	33
Adult	36di X-rated trailer has most extreme final words of Hannibal's victim censored (5)	AD + ULTimate – i'm ate	St	34 webster
Voulu	37di Monsieur Hulot's feigned infected uvula taking a scratch (5)	{UVUL(A)}* + O	St	35
Noule	38di How a Rolls Royce differs from a ruler that's on the top of Edmund's head? (5)	NO - ULE RR and R-ule-R Spenserean word.	St	36

# 4. Tie-break and RPM Trophy 2018 Entries

Thank you for another super crop of grid designs for 2020 and a clue for one solution. Sirius has already gone off for a random walk around several of them. Fantastic! Thank you. Sirius thinks he has acknowledged all entries. If you have not been acknowledged please make contact on <a href="mailto:sirius@calendarpuzzles.co.uk">sirius@calendarpuzzles.co.uk</a> to make sure your entry has not gone astray.

Alan Goddard