## 3D Crossword May 2019 Newsletter

This months newsletter covers the following items:

1. Review of the April 3D Crossword
2. Review of the March 3D Extra Crossword

## 1. Review of the April Crossword

April puzzle set by Pasquale, grid by Mang
The winner of the April puzzle was Richard Green of Crickhowell.
Congratulations Richard
A short rubric this month. Seven asterisked clues are each described by an anagram of the four outlined mauve cells. This will help you complete the line of green cells in the grid.
Well, I have to confess that Mang is an alter ego of mine, so rather than take you through my normal solving travails I thought I would pick up on one or two points of interest arising from your comments. Having said this I did solve it from scratch and it was surprising just how much I had forgotten since setting the puzzle a year and a half ago.
Now, as most of you knew and some raised in comment, the Piltdown Man hoax was just that, a hoax and certainly not an April fool. I included it intentionally as a small variation to the theme. All of the theme words fall into the Hoax category with six of them additionally covered by LIRPA LOOF. AW in his comment said "Shame about the SERRIFFE error" and how right he was, I had misspelled Serriffe in the draft grid. Eagle eyed Eric, in his then additional role of crossword editor, spotted my mistake and came up with the innovative solution of an extra line in the grid.
I did originally plan for the hoaxes to be clued without definition but this idea got lost or, more probably, over-ridden in the editorial process, and what a mistake it would have been with some of Pasquale's best clues reserved for the hoaxes. Isn't his clue for SPAGHETTI HARVEST a wonderfully concise masterpiece. "TV sight here - pasta being made to look ridiculous $(9,7)$ "


Adam posted this picture of the spaghetti tree harvest in the notorious Panorama special spoof in his hints and tips email for this month


| SOLUTION | Day | Direction Clue Letter Count | Explanation | Notes |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| A <br> DECREASE <br> IN EARTH'S GRAVITY | 1 | 6ac,31ba-2,30aw,41to Gerry, a vicar anaesthetised, could provide unlikely explanation for things getting a bit floatier! (1,8,2,6,7) | anag. | April Fool's joke 1976 |
| ACORN | 2 | 38up A hard thing that has potential for growth (5) | A corn |  |
| AIRER | 3 | 35 up One to ventilate anger in middle of park (5) | Ire in (p)ar(k) |  |
| ALFRESCO | 4 | $27 \mathrm{to}, 21$ ba Scale for working outdoors(8) | anag. |  |
| APPUI | 5 | 7d A very quiet one, gathering universal support(5) | U in app i |  |
| AREFY | 6 | 4d Wither with terrible fear and start to yell (5) | anag. +y |  |
| COLON | 7 | 8d Mark part of the digestive system (5) | 2 defs |  |
| EUPHORBIA | 8 | 20aw,26ac Great joy when bee enters plant (9) | $B$ in euphoria |  |
| EXALT | 9 | 9d Praise former lover with high tone (5) | ex alt |  |
| EXPERTISE | 10 | 22ba Skill of priest swimming in river (9) | anag. in Exe |  |
| FAFFS | 11 | 39up Fusses very loudly in time of abstinence, wasting time (5) | ff in fas(t) |  |
| FARRAGO | 12 | 19aw Mixed group in student activity in Portuguese city (7) | rag in Faro |  |
| FILOFAX | 13 | 32aw Sadly f-fail with love and kiss - diary kept in this?(7) <br> Anagram adjusted | anag. +x |  |
| FLATTEN IN | 14 | 39ba Let infant loose to do a job on ship (7,2) | anag. | SOED \& One Look dictionaries. Nautical; extend a sail more nearly fore and aft of the vessel |
| FLYING PENGUINS | 15 | 32ba,28aw Nine pugs possibly showing a biological impossibility! $(6,8)$ | inverse anag. | April Fool's joke 2008 |
| FOCUS | 16 | 32up Union leader wants us to concentrate (5) | FOC + us |  |
| GOBBO | 17 | 41up US sailor with personal problem is hunchback (5) | Gob + BO |  |
| GOX | 18 | 41ac Gas makes one become cross (3) | Go X |  |


| HI FI | 19 | 3d Sound system used by church (if installed) $(2,2)$ | hidden |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| ICE BELT | 20 | 13to One church band in very cold area $(3,4)$ | I CE belt |  |
| IMIDE | 21 | 34up Chemical in Pasquale's fish (5) | I'm ide |  |
| IMSHY | 22 | 13d Go away to make personal confession to Mary Ellen (5) | 2 defs, ref song (l'm shy, Mary Ellen, l'm shy) |  |
| INSANE | 23 | 1d,28ac-2 Mad, like a Parisian swimmer, we hear?(6) | 'in Seine' |  |
| LIEGE | 24 | 36up Superior location in Belgium (5) | 2 defs |  |
| LIRPA LOOF |  |  |  | Disguised version of April Fool. Not clued, to be deduced. |
| MACRAMI | 25 | 11to Scot needs fibre for ornamental work (7) | Mac + rami |  |
| MANX | 26 | 17d Fellow given the vote on a particular island (4) | Man + X |  |
| MAVIS | 27 | 11d Bird spotted in Nottingham, a visitor(5) | hidden | Intended as the song thrush rather than the name |
| NURSE (Changed from nappe) | 28 | 37up One who cares for the sick shark (5) | nappe(d) |  |
| OMNIANA | 29 | 15to I moan terribly about an assortment of everything under the sun? (7) | an in anag. |  |
| PILTDOWN MAN | 30 | 12ac, 16d-4 Imp land won't get fussed about - a fictitious being! $(8,3)$ | anag | Scientific real hoax 1912 |
| PLIANCY | 31 | 29aw Flexibility allowing one to have party in work (7) | I ANC in ply |  |
| SAN <br> SERRIFFE | 32 | 18d,18ac Fictional island without embellishments from what we hear $(3,8)$ | 'sans serif' | April Fool's joke 1977 |
| SHYEST | 33 | 40ac Most reluctant to attempt shock treatment (6) | shy EST |  |
| SMELL-O- <br> VISION | 34 | 18aw,24ac Elvis looms in, reborn? An unreal sensation! (5-1-6) | crypt defn | April Fool's joke 1965 |


| SORRIER <br> (changed <br> from soppier) | 35 | 25to Terrible error is making one <br> more regretful (7) | pi in anag. |  |
| :--- | :---: | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| SPAGHETTI <br> HARVEST | 36 | 5ba,3aw TV sight here - pasta <br> being made to look ridiculous(9,7) | anag. \& lit. | April Fool's <br> joke 1957 |
| STETSON | 37 | 5aw Hat that's not to be changed, <br> boy! (7) | Stet son |  |
| SYNGENEIC | 38 | 10ba Biologically compatible and in <br> sync - gee, fantastic! (9) | anag. |  |
| THRIP | 39 | 2d Insect making journey around <br> front of house (5) | H in trip | Plural (thrips) <br> in Chambers <br> but singular in <br> SOED and One <br> Look |
| TOOLS | 40 | 14d Necessary items when water <br> channel rises (5) | sloot, rev. |  |
| ULEMA | 41 | 33up University male trounced <br> group of theologians(5) | U + anag |  |
| UNIFACIAL | 42 | 33ac Poem and article penned in <br> old manuscript, showing one <br> aspect(7) | If a in uncial | SOED (and <br> One Look) <br> dictionaries. |
| Pertaining to or |  |  |  |  |
| having one |  |  |  |  |
| face; also a |  |  |  |  |
| unfacial stone |  |  |  |  |
| tool |  |  |  |  |$|$

## April 3D Solver's Comments

A rather convoluted grid but we were amused to see the familiar April fool hoaxes appear. SC
One of the best puzzles that have been published in the series. Lots of unusual words including some which caused a lot of head scratching. GOX and FLATTEN IN were two prime ones. Excellent cluing throughout. JM A fun crossword this month. Frank Paul another source of interest. BB I just about remember the spaghetti harvest, but some others were new to me. Was Piltdown April related? Clue 18 I couldn't find GOX in Chambers though it appears in its word search. Clue 42 OED relates UNIFACIAL to stone tools, not really matching the definition. I even managed to decode the picture clue once I knew the answer. (See editorial for a comment on PILTDOWN)

Thank you. Such a nice user friendly grid. I enjoyed this very much. JJ
They were not all April Fools - some were scams for profit. HB (See editorial for a comment on PILTDOWN)
This is a prime example of why one should always attempt a 3D monthly crossword towards the first of the month. In this case on the first of the month !! HE This was a tricky one and I did indeed feel an April Fool when I realised that "LIRPALOOF should be read backwards! Embarrassing! DS This brought back memories! I liked the Panorama one about harvesting spaghetti best - it was so unexpected from such a serious
programme. SW
Who can forget the spaghetti harvest on Panorama. Great reminder of some April fools. MP
A pleasant way to while away Easter Sunday. Quite a few new or obscure terms, including in some of the wordplay (e.g. the old manuscript and US sailor) but nothing to complain about in the fairness stakes. The picture clue saved me with LIRPA LOOF. LI for 51 was easy, as was the final F. The crossing R led me to realise the top-hatted gentleman was speaking
Received Pronunciation. That was enough to give the game away and it was only then that I recognised the map of India and its potato. JT
This was a delightful reminder of spoofs from the past, some of which I watched at the time. Once again some words and phrases needed a visit to Google for confirmation especially as I don't have the OED, shorter or longer. Thank you to Mang for a clever grid and to the Don for his 'gettable' clues, even when I didn't recognise the word. JB
Great treatment of the theme. Shame about the 'SERRIFFE' error, but I like the way it was fixed. AW
A very entertaining and enjoyable puzzle with many straightforward and satisfying clues. A great reminder of some classic April fool hoaxes. JB I enjoyed the tomfoolery in this puzzle which reminded me of some classic hoaxes. (I recall a case study of Piltdown Man I set my ancient history students when they were studying archeology) JA
Absolutely brilliant puzzle beautifully constructed and full of gems. The clue for spaghetti harvest was superb. (l'd forgotten London Zoo's LIPRA LOOF. Good to see the footage is still online in the BBC archive. ML-J
Lirpa Noitulos - Cutting it fine again, but it has been a very busy month, and I am just pleased I managed to finish this month's delightful offering. I found it the hardest one of the year so far, but maybe that was a function of how tired my brain is these days, although it was by the same token very satisfying to unlock. Only a couple of the hoaxes were familiar to me, and I think I spent
longest on the pictogram (of course, very cleverly, the joke was on me once I worked it out!). MS
A fun theme with some helpful anagrams to get us started. JH
What a great idea for a theme. My favourite clue was 13D but I wonder how many people would be able to sing it? Happy to finish this as it wasn't plain sailing PD
The visual clue helped us to spot the seasonal theme of red herrings. N\&SI April fools was a great theme and hats off to Mang for getting so many in the grid. They are quite long these fooleries, thus the supersize grid. Once spotted the others were quite easily found especially if you know the history of classic April 1 stories such as the Island of San Seriffe and Spaghetti Harvest. AJR

## 2 Review of the March Extra Crossword

## March Extra puzzle set by Puck, grid by Banter

The winner of the March Extra was Max Jackson of Oxford. Congratulations Max.

The puzzle marks a 200th anniversary. Three thematic clues lack definition, while an anagram of the shaded squares describes the main subject.

I found it quite hard to stop myself upending the blank grid from the horizontal to the vertical. Of course the reason for the layout eventually became clear, we were looking at a simulacrum of a London sewer pipe. I like to get the central spine of these cylinder grids done early and the solution for this one SMELLS heralded a veritable cornucopia of scatalogical and related solutions. Not least the three thematic answers; SEWAGE, EGESTA and ORDURE. All of this, I am not at all ashamed to say, very much appealed to the schoolboy in me. Banter and Puck must have had great fun respectively constructing and setting for this anniversary. Eventually the yellow squares minus one ' $E$ ' at that stage yielded ENGINEER and so to the final long anagram. The ' $Z$ ' and other letters rang a bell and some sort of variation of BAZALGETTE emerged. Great fun, lots of good clues and quite difficult, a good few of you summed it up appositely in variations of 'What a Stinker'.

Hands up all those who saw the significance of the old Singer sewing machine background picture. I am ashamed to say that I missed the obvious SEWERS - until Eric came to the rescue.

## March Extra solution, set by Puck grid by Banter



| 1 | MANURE | 1ac Fertilizer from horse <br> kept by Greek character? <br> On the contrary (6) | Nu in mare |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 2 | MESNE | 1di Intervening homes <br> need fences (5) | Hidden answer |  |
| 3 | SEWAGE | 2ac *Cut prearranged pay <br> (6) | Se[t] + wage |  |
| 4 | SLOUGH | 3ac Small body of water <br> in Irish bog (6) | S + lough |  |
| 5 | EGESTA | 4ac *Get seasick (6) | Anag of (get + <br> sea) |  |
| 6 | ENTERA | 5ac Taking the same 3 <br> out of each one, prevent <br> cholera in guts (6) | [prev]ent + <br> [chol]era (last 3 <br> letters of each) | Misdirected <br> reference to <br> 3=sewage |
| 7 | ELSIE | 5di Female dropping <br> article in toilet (chemical <br> one, that is) (5) | Els[an] + ie |  |


| 8 | WEEING | 6ac Having a leak in two identical points in part of large building (6) | EE in wing |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 9 | WASPS | 6di Refuse material replacing note with afterthought for some annoying flyers? (5) | Waste, with PS for te | Some find wasps annoying, including me |
| 10 | SISTS | 7di Stays in Scotland, with relatives not the Queen (5) | Sist[ER]s |  |
| 11 | SMELLS | 8ac Text about content of sex lines stinks (6) | ([s]e[x] + II) in SMS |  |
| 12 | SEMEE | Sprinkled with seed briefly at one point (5) | [Seme[n] + E] |  |
| 13 | RHEA | 10C One that runs fast from bottom, some say (4) | Homophone of "rear" |  |
| 14 | HUMID | 11di Smell source of primitive instincts seeking sex that's steamy (5) | Hum + id |  |
| 15 | ATMAN | 12di Soul music's no.1, covered in second appearance of James Brown (5) | M[usic] in <br> ([J]a[mes] + tan) |  |
| 16 | LEGEND | 13C Key myth (6) | Two meanings |  |
| 17 | ENEMAS | 14C In French uniform, backing waste removal procedures (6) | En + same(rev.) |  |
| 18 | MAMEE | 15di First two bits of magic by Puck, round back of apple tree (5) | $\begin{aligned} & \mathrm{Ma}[\mathrm{gic}]+([\mathrm{appl}] \mathrm{e} \\ & \text { in me) } \end{aligned}$ |  |
| 19 | NIECE | 16di Relative from Norway that is civil engineer (5) | NIECE: $[\mathrm{N}+\mathrm{ie}+\mathrm{CE}]$ |  |
| 20 | URENT | 17di Burning water passed, except in afternoon time (5) | Ur[in]e + n + t |  |
| 21 | WHERE | 18di After occupants disembark, Woolwich Free Ferry's heading off wrongly in what location? (5) | W[oolwic]h + anag of [F]ree |  |


| 22 | ODEUM | 19di Concert hall old men <br> regularly used - <br> musicians, primarily (5) | O[l]d [m]e[n] + <br> u[sed] m[usicians] |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 23 | UNARISEN | 20 anti C Cockney bum <br> seduced by a French <br> female before noon, not <br> yet having got up (8) | (aris in une) + n |  |
| 24 | SILOS | 22di Spoils pants <br> spending penny in <br> underground chambers <br> (5) | Anag of Soils |  |
| 26 | BALER | 23di Arable ground <br> needing one advanced <br> agricultural machine (5) | Anag of [A]rable |  |
| 27 | SCUBAS | 24di Part of waste <br> disposal system in <br> Panamanian port (5) | 25 anti C Equipment <br> used by those diving from <br> ship circling Caribbean <br> island (6) | Cuba in SS |


| 34 | HOT SEAT | 32di Uncomfortable <br> situation in bottom, as <br> things run badly initially <br> $(3,4)$ | Hot + seat; ref. <br> smuggling and hot <br> goods |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 35 | ORDURE | 33ba *Openings of our <br> recta (potentially rude) (6) | O[ur] r[ecta] + <br> anag of rude |  |
| 36 | MESSAGE | 34di What dog might <br> have done, taking a long <br> time to get the point (7) | Mess + age |  |
| 37 | WHISHTS | - | 35di Keeps silent when <br> hole is spotted, hearing <br> tunnel openings small (7) | $[$ [nitial letters of six <br> words + S] |
| 38 | KARSIES | 36di Ladies and gents, <br> Puck at last bums around <br> India (7) | [Puc]k + (I in <br> arses) |  |
| 39 | THAMES | 37ba Running water still <br> containing 3 - awful <br> shame that (need to take <br> the lid off it) (6) | Anag of (shame + <br> t[hat]); <br> ref. 3=sewage | Reference to <br> there still being <br> sewage in the R <br> Thames |

## March 3D Extra Solvers comments

Yet another goody. RE
A real "Stinker" of a crossword. HB
A bit of a stinker. AW
Truly a stinker. SW
Are we supposed to say 'ENGINEER' . I should have started with him - it might have made the thematic entries more obvious. Some rather long and convoluted clues e.g. 21,23,25. 16 Puzzling. 20 I'm not sure 'afternoon' can give N . Nice diagram variation. MJ
What a scatalogical puzzle! Who knew there were so many words to fit the theme. No real problems with the grid fill though. ATMAN is a new word for me and will come in useful for scrabble. PD
What a lovely novel diagram; illustrating the main theme in 3D ! Cracking. HE Another enjoyable puzzle with initially a somewhat misleading picture! It was interesting filling, but as the French say "say lavvy"in the grid especially the letter that had to go into the last circle. Difficult but all the more enjoyable for it. I learned a lot about London in the solving of this one! Thank goodness for sewage I say! I will be up s*** creek if I have any wrong. JA

Phew! What a relief! That was a stinker! What a brilliant grid from Banter!
There were so many references to the theme that I can't understand why this wasn't one of the grids chosen for the main calendar. As usual, Puck also excelled. Again I had to check unfamiliar words and I await the explanations for the parsing of two clues. JB
What a clever puzzle. I always like to read about new topics even though I soon forget the detail BB
Mr Bazalgette was a genius and I wish he could be here now to advise on how best to replace our sewers - I think he'd be far more efficient than Thames Water seem to be! I enjoyed the puzzle but found the grid a challenge (and that's putting it mildly!) It took many attempts to get the letters in the right spaces, but I hope I've managed it now! DS
The first clue I solved was Day 8 WEEING which gave an indication of the lavatorial theme of this puzzle. A Smattering of new words - MESNE, MAMEE, URENT - and a few problems with the grid (I never did work out the significance of the heavy outlines) and we had the ingredients of a challenging extra. JB
A theme of MANURE, SEWAGE and SMELLS with ORDURE helped suggest a waste product theme. The 1918 link to JB was not known to me - clearly it was JOSEPH but I had to look it up to confirm. A good solve. DM
A very entertaining puzzle and I bet Puck had even more fun setting it than I had solving it. Quite difficult getting started, it kept me engaged for a long time. I hope there aren't too many complaints but as the French say "say lavvy" ML-J
We enjoyed this unusual sideways seven dials puzzle with its down to earth theme N\&SI
And now I don't have time to properly re-acquaint myself with it and give any decent feedback. And worse: Glance at the PDF doesn't remind of anything except being completely non-plussed by having to think of the discs on their edge e.g. 8Ac being the main answer down the middle of the stacked discs. Aha! I recall now. It was an homage to Joseph Bazalgette - one of the greatest people to make London what it is today. I remember working with a Charles Bazalgette many years ago (he was a good few years older then me) when I first started in computers who let on that he was a grandson (or greatgrandson, I can't remember). He was handy enough at this computing lark but retired early to move to the countryside and spend his time fixing/building clocks and watches. And of course that bloke who started the TV Company that does Big Brother and many other shows is another Bazalgette descendant. AJR

