

3D Crossword October 2019 Newsletter 10

This edition covers the following items:

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2. The Future of 3D Crosswords
3. Advance notice of the 2019 World Championship Challenge & RPM Trophy
4. Example of our Hints and Tips Contribution

1. Review of the September 3D Crossword

The October crossword was designed and clued by Shark. The winner of this months puzzle was Pam Dudgeon of Saxmundham. Congratulations Pam.

The rubric read; Noting an event of 50 years ago. Two 17ac travelled to 4d with 14 to. One of these characters (26ac, 27to) together with his alias (21ac) is not clued. The other can be found encircling the middle section with his character also not clued at 15aw, 3d.

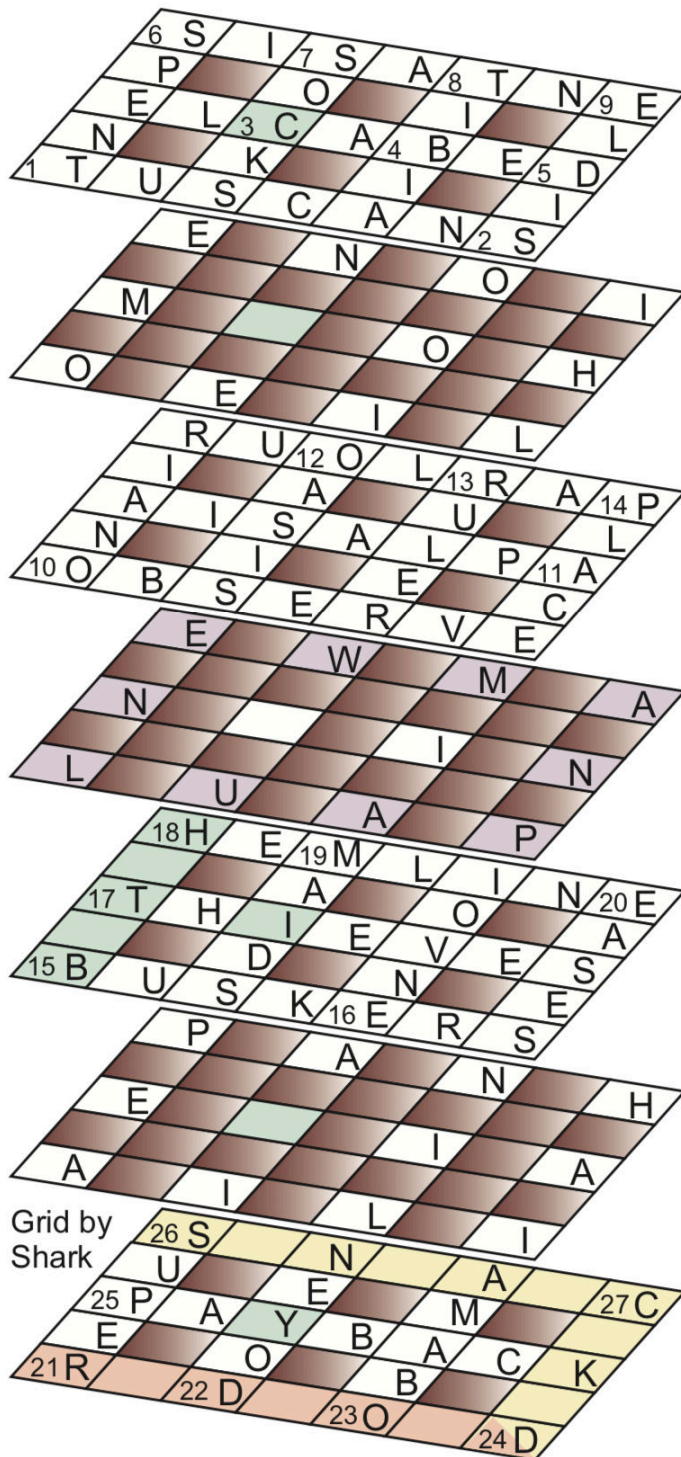
This looks very much as if it will not reveal its secrets until we've completed most of the grid. And so it proved to be. Sometimes a chance early solution can reveal all. In his solver's comments one solver mentioned that he identified 15aw as BUTCH early on and was away flying. No such fortune for Lynn and I this time.

The first key clue we solved was 17a THIEVES. In passing Lynn did identify MR. T and I knew the transcendental number e (2.718) so we almost solved Frank's picture clue before the written clue but not quite. HIVES came later as we scrutinised the spots on the e tattooed arm. Bolivia soon followed and a bell gently rang. A look at 15aw then gave BUTCH, CASSIDY soon followed. Once the theme is identified many themed crosswords then solve quite readily and we were soon finished with just a few tricky clues outstanding.



Julie Allen from Australia and winner of the August 3D crossword competition set by Sirius with her prize, a copy of the latest Chambers English Dictionary

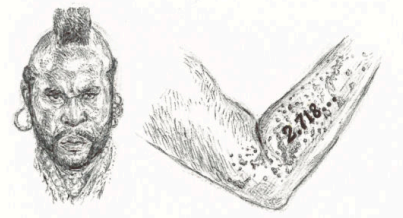
Solution to September 3d Crossword



September
3D
Crossword
Grid and
Clues by
Shark

THIEVES. The T is represented by Mr. T, followed by HIVES (shown as a rash coating someone's arm) with an E (the mathematical constant e) inside it.

Drawing by Frank Paul



Apologies for the missing letters
above. The answers are:
Yellow Squares SUNDANCE KID.
Green squares BUTCH CASSIDY.
Brown squares REDFORD.

Clues and Explanations for the September 3D Crossword

Clue No	Direction	Entry	Clue	Explanation
1	11ba	APLASIA	11ba Organ's absence from centre of chapel – left a big area! (7)	(ch)AP(el) L ASIA
2	4d	BOLIVIA	4d Manning follows beginning of banana republic (7)	OLIVIA (after) B(anana)
3	15ac	BUSKERS	15ac Flagging musicians prepare part of a song without limits (7)	BUSK (v)ERS(e)
4	27up	CHEAPIE	27up Bargain's practically a trick with confusion (7)	CHEA(t) PIE
5	5back	DEBACLE	5ba Fiasco as taxi reverses into sign meaning no more (7)	CAB< (inside) DELE
6	5d	DHANSAK	5d Awkwardly hands a king Indian food (7)	HANDS* A K
7	24up	DISPELS	24up Banishes from hell on foot grasping devil's tail (7)	DIS PES (around) (devi)L
8	22up	DISUSES	22up Ceases practise: stops working bearing knowledge (7)	DIES (around) SUS
9	22away	DOYEN	22aw Senior cook with hunger (5)	DO YEN
10	20to	EASES	20to Stops being topless and relaxes (5)	(c)EASES
11	9back	ENTASIS	9ba Medical ward with unaltered curve giving straight illusion (7)	ENT AS IS
12	16away	ENVOI	16aw Conclusion of ten voices (5)	hidden
13	18ac	HEMLINE	18ac German lyricist embraces masculine line - height of fashion (7)	HEINE (around) M L
14	19to	MAIDS	19to More than one Daily Mail cut – overturned without a fixed date (5)	MAI(I) SD<
15	12to	OASIS	12to Rock group's haven (5)	double definition
16	23away	OBAMA	23aw Chief protects America ... in the past? (5)	OBA (around) AM
17	10ac	OBSERVE	10ac Watch died at start of tennis game (7)	OB SERVE
18	23up	OLEARIA	23up Australasian shrub – pollarded cabbage on a waterlogged valley (7)	(c)OLE A RIA
19	10away	ON AIR	10aw Live broadcast to shock Cockney (5, two words)	ON (h)AIR

20	14back	PARLOUR	14ba Private room in parliament – only half of party in there (7)	PARL (lab)OUR
21	25ac	PAYBACK	25ac Alas ball misses everybody in scrum - give tit for tat (7)	AY B(all) (inside) PACK
22	25up	PET NAME	25up Kiss back English Queen perhaps as an endearment (7, two words)	PET (E MAN)<
23	14to	PLACE	14to Spot fake drug removing unpleasant smell (5)	PLACE(bo)
24	13to	RULER	13to Bishop swallows rubber sultana? (5)	RR (around) ULE
25	2away	SIDLE	2aw Edge around lake? (5)	SIDE (around) L [lit]
26	7d	SNOWMAN	7d Cold figure is for the time being a geezer (7)	'S NOW MAN
27	7to	SOCKS	7to Not hot - starts warming devices for plates (5)	S(h)OCKS
28	6to	SPENT	6to Shattered enclosure set in stone (5)	PEN (inside) ST
29	26up	SPHERES	26up Bit of stuff developing herpes. Balls! (7)	S(tuff) HERPES*
30	26to	SUPER	26to Police officer's exceptionally good (5)	double definition
31	17ac	THIEVES	17ac Lifts this around end of day (7)	THIS (around) EVE
32	8to	TIBIA	8to Bone constructed from titanium twice before (5)	TI BI- A
33	1d	TOOLBAR	1d Computer feature - a place where you might see a dolly? (7)	TOOL BAR
34	8d	TORMINA	8d Stomach pains! Cocktail from matron with infusion of iodine (7)	MATRON* (around) I
35	1ac	TUSCANS	1ac Italians initially tried to study in America (7)	T(uscans) SCAN (inside) US

Comments from Solvers September 3D Puzzle

Great fun, as usual. AH

A well crafted puzzle with the right percentage of obscurities I thought. Lots of clever misdirection in the clues! JP

Not too hard ML

What a great film that was, helped by great stars. I can still quote bits of it. I enjoyed the clues especially those for Socks and Maids. No real problems in getting the grid filled but as usual I had to resort to an on-line word finisher site which I don't really regard as cheating...! PD

Great film and crossword although I have my fingers crossed about a couple of my answers RE

Nice construction with theme well worked. I haven't seen the film in years. I always thought that it should have been silent for the last shots. For clue 19 in the clue perhaps 'broadcasting' would be better than 'broadcast' for 'ON' MJ

Nearly threw me as moon landing was 50 years ago. Luckily I found a theme quickly. A film I often watch. AG

I liked this puzzle. Firstly because this year I was in the area of Bolivia where Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid are thought to have met their ends and secondly I found the puzzle quite straightforward. Quite a lot of my solutions are new words to me so I hope that they are correct. JB

Butch Cassidy & the Sundance Kid! I loved this film at the time - probably very dated now, but I thought it was brilliant (apart from the rather soppy bits!) DS

It is a pity that you could not fit Katharine Ross in as well. A subject well worth remembering HB

Just by chance I happen to be sending this from Utah. After the Grand Canyon, Arizona, now in Utah just a few miles from the Cassidy trail. What a coincidence. Great walking country, not a horse rider I'm afraid. I seized on the theme quite quickly in the circumstances. Had to google for why PLACE worked. DM

I had to scour the clues page to find a way into this puzzle, but once I did (via TIBIA), it all started to fall into place. The K and D in the bottom tier told me there was likely to be a KID involved and it didn't take too many more crossers before the pair of THIEVES gave themselves up JT

This was a bit different having to fill in a number of unclued answers. However once the theme was revealed all became clear. MP

Somewhat mystified at first but the penny dropped when raindrops kept falling on our heads. Slightly confused about the reference to clue 14 PLACE in the preamble. N&SI

I was so excited to be the winner last month that I almost forgot to send this! Be assured that my new Chambers is getting a good workout. A great film, is it really 50 years old. My favourite clue was 14 (removing B.O. from placebo) JA

Gosh Shark has sharp teeth. Very happy memories of the film though - "Raindrops keep falling on my head" quite appropriate at the moment SW

Tough but fair JH

Last one in 23Aw OSAKA is probably wrong - I couldn't see what it could be so this is very much a guess. Before that I got 14To PLACE which I'm very happy with now that I've seen the PLACE(BO) wordplay. But some other answers still have wordplay queries (assuming the answer I have written in is even correct). e.g. 24Up DISPLES - PES for foot ? And a couple of new words for me: TORMINA and APLASIA, and others that I vaguely heard of many years ago (ENTASIS). Favourite clue 26Up SPHERES (I do like a bit of smut) AJR

23aw and 19to both took a long time to crack. The cryptic part of 27up and 23up rather elude me but the answers seem right JN

Great GB

Although I've never seen the film, once I'd identified it (by guessing BUTCH at 15aw), had no difficulty in looking up the details, after a slight sidetrack trying to understand Frank Paul's Mr T with a tattooed on an arm - it was only after finding what the answer was, that I needed to diagnose HIVES ! PM

2. The Future of 3D Crosswords

As most of us will already know Eric Westbrook, the founding father of 3D crosswords, has been compelled by failing health to step back from all consuming involvement in the 3D crossword project. For many years Eric single handedly ran the operation; generating the grids, both through others and through his own (Sirius) contributions, involving the very top setters in setting the clues, calendar production and sales, marking the grids and producing a monthly newsletter with solutions and announcing winners. On top of this he ran the annual BBC CiNA (children in need) 3D Crossword World Championships, in itself a major undertaking.

Over the last couple of years he has spread the burden with Ben Lovering taking on the key crossword editor role, Nora Boswell maintaining the solver database, marking the grids and arranging prizes for winners, Joe Tait in running the web-site, Adam Saille in providing monthly hints and tips, Keith Williams as arbiter on technical matters, grid design and puzzle testing, Puck as puzzle tester, Frank Paul for his pictorial clues and myself as editor of the newsletter. Adam is standing down immediately and we do need someone to continue provision of the hints and tips contribution.

Keith, Ben and Jos between them, are, as I write, completing production of the 2020 Calendar. However once the Calendar is completed and distributed both Ben and Keith will be standing down. This means that as things stand 2020 will be the final year of the 3D Crossword Calendar.

Jos, Nora and I will be continuing in our roles through 2020 to ensure a seamless continuation of the current service to 3D crossword solvers.

We have two immediate requirements:

1. **Short Term Newsletter Editor** - I am in Australia for January, February, March and April 2020 and need a volunteer to take on the newsletter editorial role for just 3 months. I can produce the January newsletter before I leave and the May newsletter on my return. I can provide full advice and guidance before I leave and will be available by email during most parts of my absence. Is there anyone in the 3D solving community

who would be willing to take on this quite straightforward role for just 3 months? We need you.

2. **Hints and Tips Contributor** - Eric has said that he will provide hints and tips for October. Does anyone fancy the opportunity of filling this role longer term. To see what the job entails have a look at some examples of Adam's contributions which I have added as an article to the newsletter below.

Please email me on alangoddard100@gmail.com if you can help with either of these two tasks. Alternatively please telephone me on 07764895657.

Longer term, if the project is to continue beyond 2020, we need fresh blood to run with oversight of the whole project together with a new crossword editor.

3. Advance notice of the 2019 3D Crossword World Championship Challenge & RPM Trophy

We are planning to run the World Championships as a clue writing competition this year. This will enable all those that dislike creating grids to have a crack at being World champion. Anyone who has solved twelve 3D crosswords in the year will be eligible to compete. There will be a separate RPM (Ray Parry-Morris) Trophy competition for grid design. The full details for both competitions will be in the November newsletter which will be issued early in the month. As advance warning completion date for the RPM Trophy will be earlier than in previous years on 31st December 2019. Completion of the 3D World Championships submission will, as usual, be 15th January 2020

Nearer the end of the year, Nora will message those of you who have solved a qualifying number of entries (or are almost there) to remind you of your eligibility for the World Championships competition.

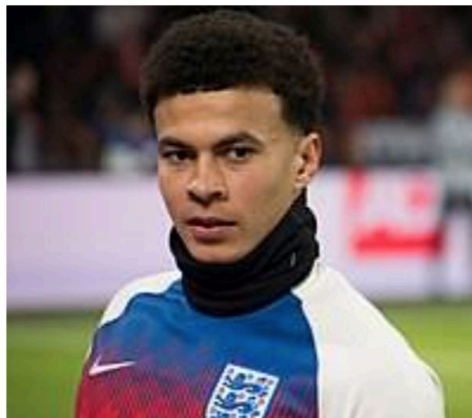
4. Examples of Hints and Tips

I've included 3 examples from Shark's September 3D Crossword of the sort of thing Adam Saille, as our Hints & Tips contributor, provided. Pictures are optional and style is entirely personal. Next month Eric has rallied to the cause and provided hints and tips for Enigmatist's October puzzle. I would love us to have a new volunteer for November. If there is more than one volunteer the task can be shared.

5. Fasco as taxi reverses into sign meaning no more (7)

Footie fans will have no trouble in identifying Mr Ali, of Tottenham and England fame, whose first name is also a 'sign meaning no more', looking very much like a delta to me. The term for taxi heralds before the days of Uber – when reversed and swallowed by the sign, the result is a "complete disaster".

Fasco = Taxi reversed (3) in removal indicator (4)



18. Australasian shrub – pollarded cabbage on a waterlogged valley (7)

Named after a German theologian and horticulturist, these flora are also known as the daisy-tree or bush.

The waterlogged valley must be one of those crossword components that solvers learn at a very early age, so often does it appear. This is preceded by a four letter term for plants of the cabbage family having lost its first letter (being pollarded).

Shrub = Cabbage less initial letter (3) + a (1) + valley (3)

34. Stomach pains! Cocktail from matron with infusion of iodine (7)

We all have terms for stomach ache, but I suspect few include this answer. Our dictionary of choice provides the succinct one-word definition "gripes".

Patient – After I've been to the pub, I get these terrible dizzy spells and pains in my guts.

Doctor – I don't think I can do anything for you, it must be the drinking

Patient – No problem, I'll come back when you're sober!

Stomach pains = Iodine (1) in anagram of MATRON (6)



Solutions: 5 DEBACLE, 18 OLEARIA, 34 TORMINA