

## **3D Crossword December 2019 Newsletter 12**

This edition covers the following items:

1. Review of the November 3D Crossword
2. The Future of 3D Crosswords & 2020 Calendar Sales
3. Hints and Tips from Sirius (New Feature)
4. World championship and RPM Trophy reminder
- 5 RPM Trophy reminder

### **1. Review of the November 3D Crossword**

The November crossword was designed by etc and clued by Anax. The winner was Melanie Parker from Exmouth. Congratulations Melanie.

The very straightforward rubric read; noting a 200 hundredth anniversary.

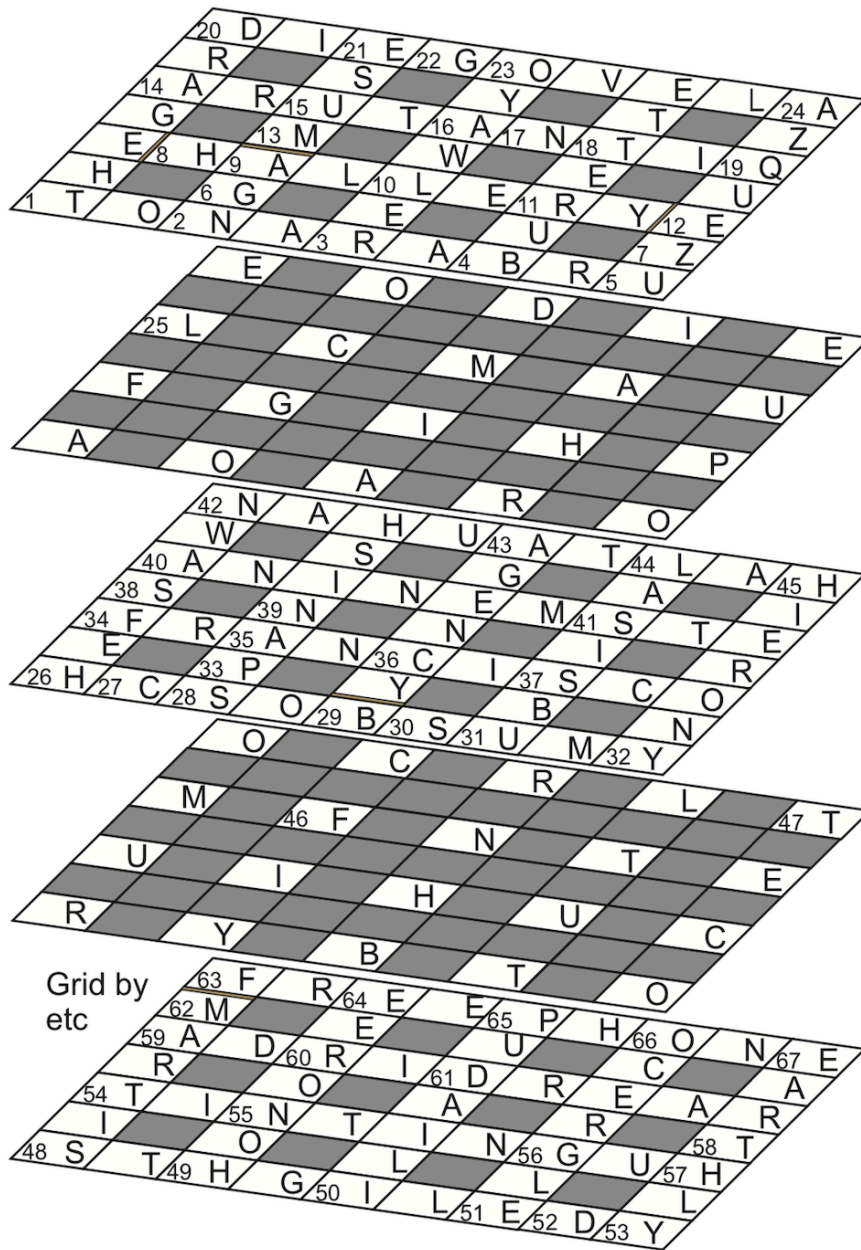
As one or two of you noted this was a monster grid so lots of clues to solve. Furthermore Anax is a tough setter so these were a lot of tough clues to solve. The grid construction also proved to be quite complex so filling in and then extracting letters to help solve later clues was an additional test. From the comments some of you were very much at home with the theme, not my strong suit I'm afraid. But, of course, I didn't know the theme at the start so fearlessly I set off solving. And made slow progress.

The second set of clues (43 to 54) proved more amenable than the first batch and I racked up a lot of 'T' words which got me into the puzzle. As with last months musical theme thematic words slowly emerged and I realised we were celebrating an art (as in painting) anniversary. Hieronymus Bosch was my first artist. At least I knew him and most of the other artists but FRANCISCO DE ZUBERAN plus the work LAS MENINAS and gallery MUSEO DEL PRADO were new to me.

I couldn't parse GUSH and DUPE. Enjoyed solving BURETTE as much as I do sinking a pint after a long walk (science you see, not art!) and was comfortable with TAHRS. My favourite clues were SPANISH (Romance, lifelike) and SUBSIST (Advances first to last). I also took far longer than I should have to solve ART GALLERY. All in all a bit of a struggle.

As to the anniversary, I was still in the dark even when I had completed the crossword. Only considerable self discipline, and the thought that I had to write this solving report kept me searching until I eventually found it.

## Solution to November 3D Crossword



Grid by  
etc

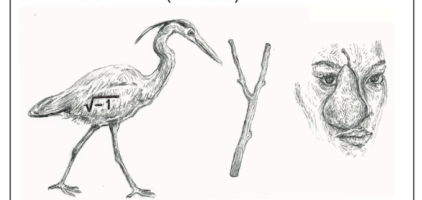
November  
3D  
Crossword  
Grid by etc  
Clues by  
Anax

The puzzle noted the 200th anniversary of the opening of the Museo del Prado in Madrid on 19th November 1819

Firstly, a depiction of a hand holding an overdose of pills gives you "OD"; Miss Marple is cut off at the top to produce ARPLE; and this is followed by a DOE and a SUM, concluding with a "Rewind" button to indicate that the whole clue must be read backwards to give MUSEO DEL PRADO.



HIERONYMUS BOSCH:  
A HERON containing "I" (the imaginary number defined as the square root of -1); a Y-shaped stick; and a BOSCH pear depicted within someone's MUSH (i.e. face).



Picture Clues by Frank Paul

## Clues and Explanations for the October 3D Crossword

Theme: Museo del Prado in Madrid (opened 19 November 1819)

D ay	SOLUTION	Direction Count	Clue	Letter	Explanation	Notes
1	AGAIN	9d	An advantage over (5)		A GAIN	
2	AGENCY	43to	Vehicle department (6)		Double meaning	
3	AMEND	16d	Absolutely dead, getting better (5)		AMEN D	
4	ANTIQUE	16ac, 19to-3	An East Indian tree, reportedly very old (7)		"AN TEAK"	
5	ART GALLERY	59to-3, 6aw, 9ac	Salon uses sauciness in a big way (3,7)		ART(GALL)ERY	
6	ARTIST	59to, 48ac-2	I begin recycling, being creative (6)		I ST/ART	
7	BARE	29up, 3aw-2	Simple – save energy (4)		BAR E	
8	BRUTE	4d	Animal's sexual excitement given live coverage (5)		B(RUT)E	
9	BURETTE	4aw	In plastic tube, soak glass tube (7)		*TUBE around RET	
10	CHEFS	27ba, 26aw-4	Cooks game that's fine for son (5)		cf CHESS	
11	DIEGO VELAZQUEZ	20ac, 24to-6	Artist quizzed about hiding "I, The Sail" (5,9)		QUIZZED* around EGO VELA	
12	DREAR	61ac	Down river, crossing is expensive? On the contrary (5)		D(R)EAR	
13	DUPE	61aw, 65ba-2	'Half-dead' describes wrong victim (4)		DE[ad] around UP	
14	ECHO	64up-4	Memory of city house (4)		EC HO	
15	EL GRECO	51aw	Artist in rock band covering good record (2,5)		EL(G REC.)O	
16	EPOCH	12d	What about retiring policeman's age? (5)		EH around COP<	
17	FICUS	46up, 15aw-2	If returning copper, head for steel plant (5)		IF< CU S[teel]	

18	FRANCISCO DE ZURBARAN	34ac,52ba-2,7to,5ba-7 Artist in scarf unravelled final cipher artist placed in city (9,2,8)	INSCARF* + CODE Z + URBA(RA)N	
19	FRANCISCO GOYA	34ac,22ac-2,23to-3 Painter of canary flying around is inferior? (9,4)	OFCANARY* around IS COG	
20	FREEPHONE	63ac Calling service perfect after following spy around (9)	HONE after F + PEER<	
21	FRONT	46d,60to-3,55ac-2 Typeface incorporates right leading (5)	F(R)ONT	
22	GUSH	56up-4 Go on – my love is acceptable (4)	GOSH O=U	
23	HALLWAY	8ac-4,10aw-4 Litter covering every wide corridor (7)	H(ALL W)AY	
24	HALT	45ba-4 Stop using hot key (4)	H ALT	
25	HIERONYMUS BOSCH	45to,32ba Artist more busy on works in leading 50% of high school (10,5)	MOREBUSYON* in HI SCH	
26	HONOREE	49aw Injured hero, one US laureate (7)	*HEROONE	
27	HYSON	49up Shy drunk drinking tea (5)	SHY* + ON	
28	ILIAD	50aw-5 One boy pens one long story (5)	I L(I)AD	
29	LAMA	25d Use fists on a priest (4)	LAM A	
30	LAS MENINAS	44to-3,41ba,40to-2 Girl hugging guys in a work of art (3,7)	LAS(MEN IN A)S	
31	LICHI	10d Fruit gathered by public highway (5)	Hidden	
32	MADRID	62to-2,59ac-5 Embankment around free city (6)	DAM< RID	
33	MUSEO DEL PRADO	13aw,21d-2,52ba-3,65up Supermodel organised a party for art gallery (5,3,5)	SUPERMODEL* A DO	
34	NAHUATL	42ac-7 A haunt abandoned by lost Indian (7)	AHAUNT* L	
35	NANCY	39to-2,35ac-3,36to Lawrence of Arabia evicted from residence in French city (5)	[te]NANCY	
36	NATURAL	17ba,14d-2 Alan Turing half drunk – I'm not affected ( 7)	ALANTUR[ing]*	
37	OLLIE	66up Stan's partner, a miner, has lost both arms (5)	[c]OLLIE[r]	

38	PAINTING	33aw-2,35d,55ac-5 Very keen to frame one picture (8)	PA(I)NTING	
39	QUEER	19d Odd what Manuel said before royalty (5)	QUE ER	
40	RABBI	3d Scholar's brief talk (5)	RABBI[t]	
41	SAWN	38aw Caught and cut (4)	SAW 'N'	
42	SHRUB	37up,11to Quiet work in plant (5)	SH RUB	
43	SPANISH	28aw Romance, lifelike? (7)	SPAN-ISH	
44	SUBSIST	30ac-2,31aw-5,41ac-2 Advances first to last (7)	SUBS IST	
45	TAHRS	1d Wild goats chewing trash (5)	*TRASH	
46	TASTE	18d Smack son in middle of art gallery (5)	TA(S)TE	
47	TEAR	47d,67to-3 Drop in rent (4)	Double meaning	
48	THE GARDEN OF EARTHLY DELIGHTS	1aw,20d,67to,53ba Three-part work's plot – applying concrete to entrance? (3,6,2,7,8)	CD exploiting various defs	
49	THEA	47up Greek goddess of compost heaps (4)	Hidden	
50	THUG	58to-2,57ba-3 Time to closely follow gangster (4)	T HUG	
51	TINTIN	54ac-6 Colour in a cartoon character (6)	TINT IN	
52	TONGA	1ac-3,2aw Country fashion starts to get around (5)	TON G.A.	
53	TUFFE	54up Shakespeare's beard stiff when talking (5)	“TOUGH”	
54	YOYO	53up-4 Ma's plaything (2-2)	cf YOYA MA	

### 3D Crossword November 2019 Solver's Comments

November entry attached. Complex puzzle with lots of nice clues. I hope I've transcribed it correctly (it made sense when I was solving, but a lot was double dutch when copying out!) The long solutions (Hieronymus Bosch, Garden of earthly delights one of my favourite paintings) were a great help, but I particularly liked some of the brief clues/solutions (Amend, Chefs, Gush) and nice to see YoYo Ma featuring after last month's misdirection! JP

Another masterpiece! This year's puzzles have got better and better. I particularly liked the theme of this one. JM

I found this easy to solve but very hard to enter into the grid ML

This was tough but I enjoyed seeing the artists names gradually emerge JA

Blimey that was tough RE

Each puzzle is an education in itself MM

A lot of thought must have gone into the construction of this puzzle to get so much thematic content to fit PD

Museo del Prado - Well this was a challenge, but I enjoyed it very much. DS

That was a tussle. Thank you and special thanks to Sirius for his invaluable hints SW

Artfully done JT

Slowly pulled this puzzle on the Museo de Prado together. As ever introducing new words and artists too. DM

Oh dear, Norah. This is another incomplete puzzle - all filled in but no certainty. ET

What a splendid puzzle for our grid. We especially loved Day 33 for the overall theme N&SI

Well who would have thought that Diego Valazquez, Francisco de Zurberan and El Greco could be answers in the same crossword. Not mention Hieronymous Bosch and the Garden of Earthly Delights. Well done and thank you etc. and Anax JB

We were undecided about Day 22 and finally opted for "gush" as opposed to "gosh" but I must admit we could not parse either! DE

Day 53 is a guess. Can't find any valid words that fit T-F-E and can't solve the clue either GB

I didn't think I'd get as far as having a completed grid to send. 5x7x9 must be the largest 3D puzzle we've ever had, and until today I had hardly anything in the grid, no idea what the theme was, and had lost the page with the clues for days from 43. This afternoon I managed to print a new last page and started working backwards through the clues/days for a change. That was a very good move because I found those later alphabet answers were much easier: YO-YO, TONGA and TINTIN were all write-ins and with a few others the grid began to look a bit more populated. Not all the later clues

were easy and the last one in, which could easily be wrong, was Day 53 / 54up for which I have entered Tufte I haven't found any confirmation that it is a Shakespearean term for a beard but it seems likely. I can't be the only one. So if it is wrong I will content myself with the knowledge that I have finally joined the Tufte club after all these years.

Apart from that there were no really obscure words - I had even heard of the Tahr goat so massive kudos to etc for getting all this into a grid without using outrageous infill.

The only one of the artists I hadn't heard of was F de Zurbaran - and neither has my partner who studied art at college so maybe I shouldn't take it as a serious gap in my general knowledge - mind you, now I've looked at some of his work on Wikipedia I feel the "Spanish Caravaggio" should indeed be better known. I had particular trouble with the 3D directions in the puzzle this time. I seem to get to, aw[ay] and ba[ck] mixed up especially when writing in the last bit of a snaky answer - my hand just follows what it thinks is the most obvious direction. I never get a[cross], up and d[own] mixed-up, so standing on my head doesn't help. I still can't fathom Frank Paul's rebus for Museo del Prado so will be intrigued to see the answer sheet for that one

(I did get the Hieronymus Bosch one) TR

Didn't have time for comments last night, as wanted to beat deadline ! I hadn't been aware of the Prado anniversary, so it was a while before I got the theme, especially as although I knew the Bosch work, I thought it was kept elsewhere. However I did then eventually decipher Frank Paul's drawings to get confirmation in spite of being confused by the second being labelled day 23 not 25. (But I don't see how a pear on a face gives 'Bosch',) The other thematic items weren't too difficult - and I must congratulate Anax and etc. for fitting it all together. PM

A tough puzzle. Not sure of a couple of answers and couldn't find Shakespears Beard (T-F-H). I enjoyed discovering the artists and all the art allusions. The Prado is one gallery I have never visited, to my regret. SB

Editor's apologies to MJ. I couldn't manage to read properly your comments

EDITOR'S NOTE: Typed comments on your covering email are much easier to read and re-present than written comments on the grid answer sheet

## 2. The Future of 3D Crosswords

Sales of the the 2020 3D Calendar are progressing reasonably well. As always all money surplus to production costs will go to our two charities RNIB and BBC CiNA. The flyer for the new calendar is below. Please buy one if you haven't already done so.

A team for the production of future 3D Calendar Puzzles is now in place. Eric, who has sent us a few words below, remains as President for Life. The remainder of the team is:

Alan Goddard: Project Leader and Newsletter Editor

Nora Boswell: The gem who keeps it all going, crossword marker, dealing with all communication between the team and solvers and vice versa, prizes, year end competitions etc. etc.



Puck: Crossword Editor

Jos Tait: Website Manager and IT Guru.

The good news is that we now have a plan agreed and in place for production of the 2021 Calendar. The immediate future of 3D Calendar Crosswords is therefore assured

## 2020 3D CROSSWORD CALENDAR



It's here! The brand new 2020 3D Crossword Calendar is now available to order through the website:

<http://www.calendarpuzzles.co.uk/calendar-puzzle/>

As usual, there are 12 beautifully presented 3D Crossword puzzles by some of your favourite crossword compilers with another selection of interesting and devilish themes.

This year, both a printed version (£13.50 + P&P) as well as a virtual downloadable version (£12.00) are available.

They make great Christmas presents apparently (!)

All profits from the sale of the calendar will be split between FNIB and BBC Children in Need.

The 3D Crossword Calendar team thank you very much in advance for your support.



## **A Letter from our Life President Eric Westbrook**

Hello Everyone

The brilliant 2019 3D Crosswords season concludes with the December tour de force with another innovative grid by longstanding designers Aramis, adapted and clued by the most excellent Puck whose clues require me to run outside and kick the wheely bin until the fit subsides.

As 2019 passes, so does my close involvement with all aspects of the project with over twelve years developing a community to raise funds for youngsters in need and to enjoy high quality, innovative and beautiful crosswords in three dimensions. The project results from the efforts and participation of a large number of enthusiasts – creative grid designers, fabulous crossword setters, brilliant management team and the most wonderful crossword solvers in the world. We should all draw considerable satisfaction. I have been very unwell and had reached a point where everything was closing down and I could no longer function. The only thing to do in August it seemed was to save all the work of everyone and put the project into mothballs.

I had not reckoned on the extent of commitment, enthusiasm and determination of the team that had been developing in the last few years. The excellent Keith Williams, Nora Boswell, Alan Goddard, Jos Tait, Ben Lovering, not only kept the whole thing going to complete 2019, they went a huge step further. With additional help from Puck, Frank Paul, and Graham Fox, Keith led the team to carry on the work and produce the fabulous 2020 puzzle calendar. That is a huge achievement. Very, very, very, well done Keith and team.

Keith leaves the ship around the end of March when sales of the new 2020 calendar will have come to an end and after sorting accounts. Keith will leave with our huge thanks and grateful appreciation of his terrific contributions to the project as innovative grid designer in the Eclogue puzzles and others, super solver and world champion, RPM Trophy winner, extraordinary puzzle tester with the fastest turnaround, invaluable support for solvers through his friend Adam S in the Hints and Tips over two years. Thank you so much Keith from everyone.

Every superb puzzle calendar demands superb support through the solving year and this will be supplied as it is now by new Project Director and Newsletter Editor, Alan Goddard, with Nora Boswell, marker, prize sorter, solver liaison, Jos Tait, website manager and Puck as crossword editor. After

heeding medical advice my health has improved to a point where I hope to be contributing a few bits and bobs to the project – useful but not crucial if things go wrong again. One job will be to view progress sitting much further back in the bus as President (which is extremely important but involves very little). I also hope to develop a small group of solvers to continue the Hints & Tips in a different way.

I applaud the work of the team in keeping things going so well and then to produce the great new puzzle calendar. Fantastic!

But that's not all! Alan Goddard has captured everyone's determination to continue and develop the 3D project raising funds for youngsters in need through BBC CiNA and RNIB. The team hope that the RPM Trophy competition will generate grids for a 2021 series. Puck is key to the success of this in his role of Crossword Editor hopefully with assistance from Ben Lovering, Sorcerer and Apprentice. This is wonderful and I hope you will all invest to continue to grow our wonderful community.

Wishing you a very Happy Christmas and a tortuous solving New Year.

Eric Westbrook  
Sirius

### **3. 3D November Crossword Hints & Tips: A Damsel in Distress**

November already!! First glance at the November grid tells us this is going to be a very substantial puzzle. Get started earlier rather than later. I discover that though the grid is large, it is packed with thematic references, beautifully weaved together by our 2018 BBC CiNA 3D Crossword World Champions – etc. Nick & Sarah Inglis were most interesting companions at the presentation lunch in York this year. I have sat with a national Tiddlywinks Champion!

Respect.

Nick and Sarah filled me in on some of the darker aspects of tiddlywinks tactics employed at the top of the game. I had no idea!

And then I can't avoid looking at the name of the setter any longer. It's Anax! Shivers of anticipation at the mouth-watering prospect of some of the most beautifully balletic crossword clues you will find anywhere.

I have enjoyed Dean Mayer's company on several occasions meeting him at a Sloggers and Betters crossword 'do' in Derby years ago, when he was establishing himself as a relative newcomer. I couldn't believe that anyone could be so bright, knowledgeable with such quick-fire thinking across so many themes. Dean agreed enthusiastically to write clues for us and came to help host a 3D competition in Coventry. Since then he has featured regularly in our puzzle calendars as well as many of the national papers.

I remember arriving at 'The Fox & Roman' in York one late October Saturday, laden with newly printed calendars and rather nervous facing a sea of crossword enthusiasts. I need not have been. First greeted by Enigmatist and then Dean leapt forward to buy the first copy! A selling frenzy ensued and the rest is Geography.

Anax presents a challenge and is always placed late in the year by which time we judge that solvers new to 3D are ready for anything. Counterintuitively I think you will find that the larger the Anax grid, the less difficult it will be to fill, and the more admiration we will have for his clues, which are sublime. It is well worth battling through the first few clues to get a foothold, and the following should give you that start.

Day 1 **An advantage over** (5)

Whenever 'A' or 'An' appear in a clue it is often useful to ask the question 'Is the article necessary?' Given that the setting etiquette is to use a minimum of words in the clue, there is a fair chance that the article is part of the solution.

In looking for the definition, this points us to the other end of the clue ie 'over'. I went round this clue over and over before realising I only needed to go 'over' once in American literature.

A word for 'An' plus a word for 'advantage' gives a word for 'over'.

Day 2 **Vehicle department** (6)

This is a double meaning clue. Remember we are at the beginning of the clues presented in alphabetical order of their solutions. I found it easier to find another word for 'department' which is a straight synonym I think. Chambers Crossword Dictionary will supply (a very useful tome). 'Vehicle' is not the kind we are led to believe from the clue.

Day 3 16d **Absolutely dead, getting better** (5)

I love this clue which shows some of Anax's flexibility turning meanings around in different contexts and arrives at a humorous surface.

The wordplay is 'absolutely' plus 'dead' 'getting' is a link word 'better' is in a different part of speech to the one we expect from the surface. Again, we are early in the alphabet.

Day 11 **Artist quizzed about hiding "I, The Sail"** (5,9)

This is hard but will be easily solvable with more and more letters, particularly when you know the theme. Anax clearly knows that the person in question did some sailing. One of the words requires translation in the language of the theme. I am not sure whether to say much more because it might spoil the joy of the discovery.

Here's some common crossword stuff that will help. Anax has been kind as well as outrageously erudite. The definition is either 'sail' or 'artist'. 'about' is an anagram signal. The anagram 'hides' or contains a word for 'I' and a word for 'sail'. Some translation is required.  
Good luck!!!

Day 15 **Artist in rock band covering good record** (2,5)

Standard stuff. You just need to know abbreviations for 'good' and 'record' and a seventies rock band of three letters which in themselves are an abbreviation. Definition obvious and we are getting the theme.

I said standard stuff but note, even with abbreviations, Anax does it in style.

Day 28 **One boy pens one long story** (5)

Strangely, in crosswords, the different characters 1 and I, which separately indicate a number and a letter, are taken to be exactly the same! This is very useful.

Anax is very very precise. A word for 'boy' contains a word whose crossword equivalent is one. Definition is 'long story'.

Day 33 (13aw,21d-2,52ba-3,65up) **Supermodel organised a party for art gallery** (5,3,5)

The wordplay is mainly a large anagram plus a crossword name for a 'party'. Given the thematic hints, you will solve this and crack the puzzle open.

Anax turned this puzzle around pretty quickly. Double the usual number of clues in a daily. The solution does not look very promising as fodder for a clue. And yet it appears to be done with ease.

Day 43 28aw **Romance, lifelike?** (7)

Well it's twelve-ish and I am getting peck-ish! Find a word for 'life' and add three letters giving the sense of 'like' and you have a language of the kind indicated in the clue. That should help solve a rather tricky clue referred to earlier.

I hope you agree, when finished with the puzzle, this is a work of a genius.

Above all have fun. Sirius

## 4. Reminder for the 2019 3D Crossword World Championship

The 2019 World Championship is a clue writing competition which will be judged by Sirius himself. This enables all those that dislike creating grids to have a crack at being World champion in what is potentially our final year. Anyone who has solved twelve 3D crosswords in the year is eligible to compete. We need a clue for:

### SWEET FANNY ADAMS (5,5,5)

Sirius will be looking for original entries in the best possible taste. He will apply the following criteria:

- Your clue should be solvable and fair showing precision, concision and wit.
- Compose your clue as if destined for a 3D Crossword where the extra cross-overs allow a little more licence.
- Please provide a full explanation of how your clue leads to the correct solution

The deadline for entries is midnight January 15th 2020.

At the end of the November, Nora messaged 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.

## **5. Reminder for the RPM 2019 Grid Design Competition**

**The 2019 RPM Trophy Task** is to design a 3D grid suitable for a puzzle in 2021 of roughly Saturday Guardian level and to write a clue for one of the solutions. Anyone may enter the 2019 RPM Trophy competition

The deadline for entries is midnight January 15th 2020.

Solvers enjoy themed puzzles and anniversaries might be useful. There is no requirement however to link a theme with an anniversary. The judges will consider the question, 'Does this grid have the potential to make a good/great puzzle?'

### **Judging**

Initial judging will be by Bozzy (Nora) who will select the top three entries. Curmudgeon (Shirley Curran) and her husband Charles will then select the winner and runner up.

### **Criteria for Judging**

How does one judge such a challenging task fairly? Is it done purely by outcome or should weight be given to the skill with which the developing grid has been manipulated? If the last is conceded, how can the judge see all that should be taken into account?

The grids will be marked by the following criteria:

1. The grid must 'work' eg clue directions, real words
2. Fit the brief eg year 2020 and appropriate to Saturday Guardian level
3. Show clarity of presentation eg anniversary/theme clearly stated, themed words are clearly identified (highlighted or asterisked), sources of non-Chambers words given.
- 4 Size of grid. Larger ones are more difficult but can provide better thematic opportunities
5. Choice of grid appropriate given the possible themed words.
6. Variety of word length reducing five letter fatigue and a phrase or two is welcome.
7. Ratio of the more commonplace to obscure words
8. Number of 'accommodations' eg bars, extra black cells, symmetry loss -.. yet acknowledging the skill with which these have been employed Note: bars in large grids are not a problem if the 'bits' are locked in three dimensions eg the 4:3 barred arrangement in a Seven Dials grid.
9. Percentage of grid given to themed words (given that we haven't demanded a theme this is less of a requirement than in previous years)
10. Overall impression. 'Will this grid make for a good/great puzzle?'

Credit will be given for other noteworthy aspects eg new designs, new ideas and the unexpected, and wit/humour eg RPM's 007 where we allowed 2 letters from OOGONIA or Mang's double 'U's.

Ways in which the grid itself fits the theme. Eg Pickles in June 2018 Space Invaders, 45 in December 2017, Jack Nichols Bazalgette sewerage system

Ways in which the planning of the grid and solutions lead to planned manipulations eg ABC Murders where 45 gave a word list of clue solutions and then another list for grid entries after decapitation.

'Wholeness' or completing the set, can be very attractive eg Logogriph and Austen together with use of intervening layers, Aramis' Star of David Hexagram (named by Agd), all twelve signs of the Zodiac, as well as innovative design.

Bear in mind that we ask setters to take on a word set which they have not chosen themselves. Some words just lend themselves to a witty clue. Others make the heart sink. Of course nothing defeats our intrepid team!

### **Presentation**

Clarity is important. These are the requirements for presentation:

1. Grid with quite large clear letters and numbers (if possible) in black ink/biro/felt tip
2. The theme or anniversary with a date
3. A word list of the solutions and their directions eg 1ac and letter counts (see Word table below)
4. An indication of which words are theme words or phrases (asterisks preferred)
5. An indication of non-Chambers words other than Proper nouns and a reference source.
6. Number of cells used by letters from themed words
7. Total number of cells in the grid
- 6 and 7 used to calculate percentage of thematic cells in the grid.
8. Number of words you judge to be obscure
9. Number of bars (remember to include those in the vertical direction)
10. Use of the same conventions (ac/ba, aw/to, d/up) as those developed in the calendar series.

If you follow the above points, your entry will be judged as having clear presentation.

There is an exemplar at the end of the Newsletter. To reduce the burden on the judges we shall be fairly strict on presentation.

Good luck! And remember to have fun doing it! A list of your words in electronic form is most helpful. The Word table headings below are what we send to setters with your list of words filled in, seen in the 'Clues & Explanations' section in the Newsletters.

Day	SOLUTION	Direction Clue Letter Count	Explanation	Notes

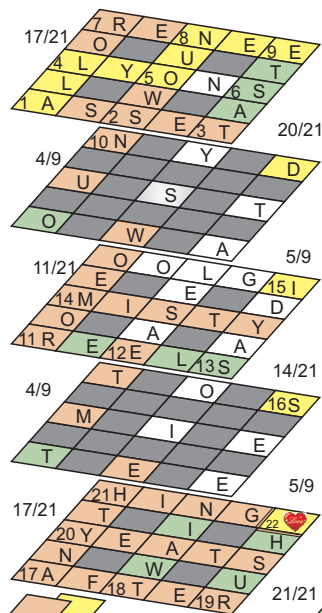
It would be great to leave two spaces between the directions for your word and the letter count

*An example of the presentation of a solution is on the next page. For convenience of display it is included as a single sheet. It is better that your solution include the different elements on separate sheets:*



B.Sirius Tie-break Entry 2017 for February 2018

MS Word table in separate file. This goes to the setter and appears later in Newsletters.  
(note two spaces between direction and letter count)



Theme: Loosely based on St Valentine's Day 14th Feb: Love, songs, poetry

The highlights reveal the phrase:

"All You Need is Love"

Accommodation/Features:  
Heart symbol for 'Love'  
IGLOO 15ba  
SIDE 16up hides ..NEED IS  
...  
3 blends with THING  
Snakes:  
All you need is love  
All or nothing  
Anything  
Bars:  
2 bars to fit heart symbol

Non-Chambers  
SAYDI One Look Urban Dict.  
(Use of UD is discouraged)

Directly thematic  
cells 53/81 = 65%

Including associations  
65/81 = 80%

Cryptic Clue: ROMEO

'Lover of Italian cars' (5)

Explanation: two meanings Shakespearean & Alpha Romeo

SOLUTION		Direction, clue, letters	Explanation & Notes
AFTER*	1	17ac Please write your clue here (5)	As in setting one's cap
ALL OR NOTHING*	2	1aw,10d,21ac-4 (3,2,7)	ref Small Faces song
ANYTHING*	3	17aw,21ac-4 (8)	ref, 'Oliver' 'I'd Do Anything'
AORTA	4	1d (5)	Potential connection with heart
ASSET*	5	1ac (5)	As in attractive quality
EASEL	6	12aw (5)	
IGLOO	7	15ba (5)	
LOVE*	8	22 (4)	
LUMMY*	9	4d (5)	Lord love me
LYONS	10	4ac (5)	
MISTY*	11	14ac (5)	Johnny Mathis signature song
NYLON	12	8d (5)	
OSSIA	13	5d (5)	
REELS	14	11ac (5)	Possible romantic reaction
RENEE*	15	7ac (5)	Ref: Four Tops: Don't Walk Away Renee
ROMEO*	16	11aw (5)	
RUSH	17	19aw (4)	Possible romantic reaction
SAYDI*	18	13aw (5)	Obscure: One Look Dictionary Urban
SIDE	19	16up (4)	
STYES	20	6d (5)	
SWEET NOTHING*	21	2d,10d,21ac-4 (5,7)	Brenda Lee Sweet Nothings. Noting singular use in the singing on actual recording
SWOON*	22	2aw (5)	Old form of 'swoon' – romantic assoc
TASER	23	3d (5)	
TASTE	24	3aw (5)	Potential link to 'Taste of Honey'
TWAIN	25	18aw (5)	Old form of two could link to couple
YEATS*	26	20ac (5)	Love poetry