

3D Crossword May 2020 Newsletter 5

This edition covers the following items:

1. Review of the April 3D Crossword
2. Solvers Comments
3. A Special Request for Solvers Comments
4. May Crossword; Trial for entering Solutions online (Most Importantly, read the instructions for the May puzzle extra carefully as some solutions need to be changed after solving.)

APRIL WINNER - HAMISH SYMINGTON of CAMBRIDGE

Many congratulations, Hamish.

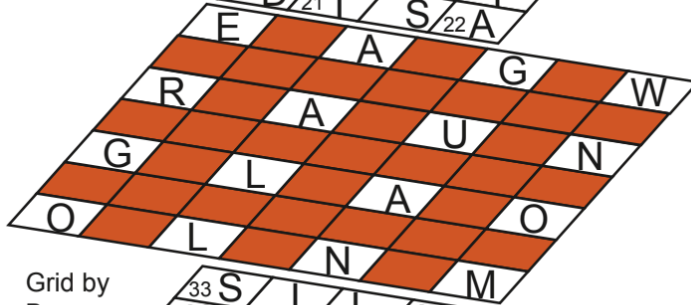
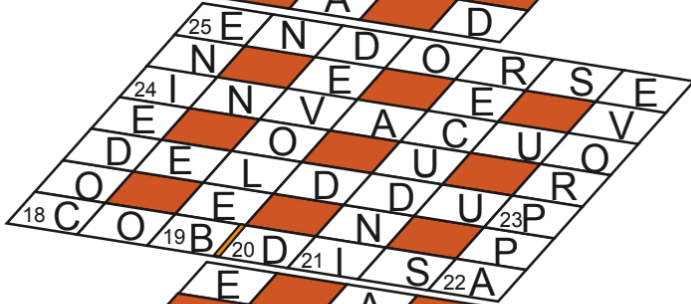
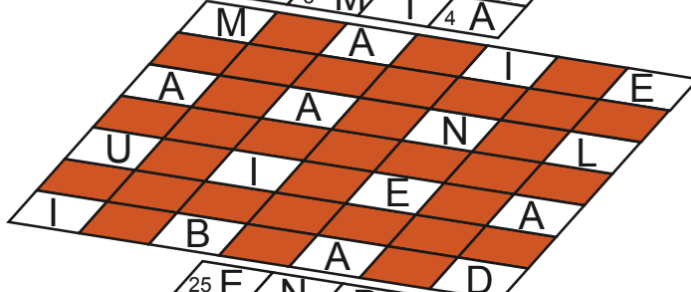
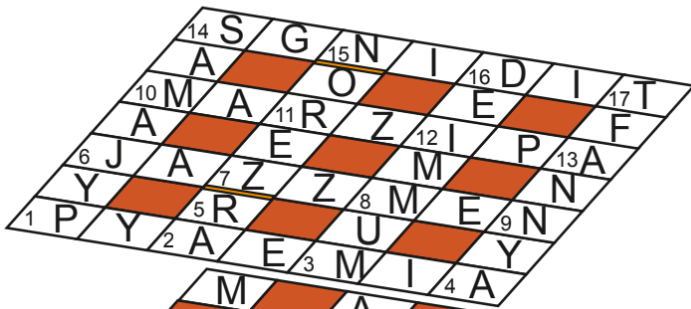
1 Review of the April 3D Crossword

The rubric read; the puzzle marks a 90th anniversary. In each of the asterisked clues the wordplay is lacking one letter in a way that briefly reflects the theme (if the need for correct grammar is ignored). Clues are presented alphabetically. Bozzy, Nora for new solvers, designed the grid and Puck, of Guardian fame and our crossword editor, set the clues. A real team job.

The first clue I solved was Day 1 (13d) Solitary plant found by Vera (5) which was ALONE with the wordplay missing an 'N'. Clearly the missing letter mentioned in the rubric. Excellent an early win.

Rather than just solving I thought let us be scientific this month. With Day 32, going up, toward and down, appearing in a few clues and being the picture clue, it was clearly an important solution and possibly the key to the theme. Let us direct efforts to solving it early. By tackling clues crossing it I managed SWEET FANNY ADAMS as my 9th solution. And the picture clue helped with twisted FEET in SWAN. Definitely a helpful solution but not the theme.

Still miles from the theme. And then a longish gap before solving my 10th clue. However lots of splendid clues with Puck showing his class. One or two of the Day 32 linked clues were special: Day 18 'Spoil 32 with a bit of Christmas Cake' MAR ZIP AN and a typical Puck saucy effort with Day 2 (19aw) "Sweetheart about to have sex with tennis playing 32? On the contrary (7) for BE LOVE D.



Grid by
Bozzy

Photography
Graham Fox

It took me until the 23rd solution to pick up the theme with Day 34 THERE IS NO NEWS. So grammatically it should say 'There are no 'N's' for the asterisked missing letter clues. All is now clear.

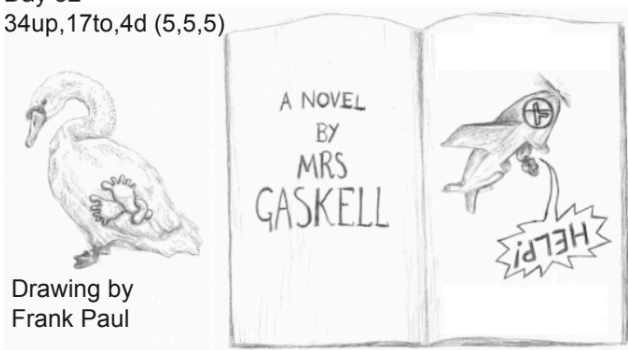
Great fun, a cleverly designed grid and excellent clues. What more could ask.

April 3D
Crossword
Grid by
Bozzy Clues
by Puck

we

This month's theme plays on the BBC radio announcement on 18th April 1930: "There is no news today." Solutions to asterisked clues can only be found once the letter N is added to the wordplay, thereby rectifying the lack of 'new's.

Day 32
34up,17to,4d (5,5,5)



Drawing by Frank Paul

SWEET FANNY ADAMS

EETF (twisted feet) in SWAN + YADAM (reversed mayday minus a Y) inside
NS (for *North and South* by Elizabeth Gaskell)

3D Crossword April Clues and Explanations

The yellow highlights illustrate all appearances of Sweet Fanny Adam's (Nothing) in the Grid

Day	SOLUTION	Direction – Clue – Count	Explanation	Notes
1	ALONE	13d* Solitary plant found by Vera? (5)	Alo[N]e; Aloe Vera	N omitted from wordplay
2	BELOVED	19aw Sweetheart about to have sex with tennis-playing 32? On the contrary (7)	Love in bed	32=Sweet Fanny Adams
3	COB	18ac Radio medium with 36 content? Get something to eat! (3)	0 in CB	36=Zero; allusion to theme
4	CODEINE	18aw* Swimmer taking tablet that is analgesic (7)	Cod + e + ie	N omitted from wordplay
5	DIRGE	16d Lament place where crossword solution turns up online (5)	Grid(rev.) + e	
6	DISAPPROVE	20ac,22aw Avoid prep schools, primarily disposed to have unfavourable opinion (10)	Anag of (Avoid prep + s[chools])	

7	EN GARDE	31ac Warning of attack as grenade explodes (2,5)	Anag of grenade	
8	ENDORSE	25ac* Back suffering sore head regularly (7)	Anag of (sore [h]e[a]d)	N omitted from wordplay
9	ENLARGE	28aw* The Spanish dispute lacking uranium to blow up (7)	EI + arg[u]e	N omitted from wordplay
10	EVANGEL	27aw* Female setter? Good news originally (7)	Eva + gel	N omitted from wordplay
11	IN VACUO	24ac Where you'll find 32 cooking coq au vin? No question! (2,5)	Anag of co[q] au vin	32=Sweet Fanny Adams
12	INCUR	12d* Meet with one scoundrel (5)	1 + cur	N omitted from wordplay
13	INDUCER	21aw* Setter has awfully crude labour encouraged by this (7)	I + anag of crude	N omitted from wordplay
14	JAZZMEN	6ac* Musicians found in car with Puck (7)	Jazz + me	N omitted from wordplay
15	JUDGE	6d Book containing good sentence (5)	g in Jude	
16	MAINE	3d* Old woman, unclothed, lies in state (5)	Ma + [I]je[s]	N omitted from wordplay
17	MAIRE	10d French public official briefly wild with anger (5)	Ma[d] + ire	
18	MARZIPAN	10ac,13to-2* Spoil 32 with a bit of Christmas cake? (8)	Mar + zip + a	N omitted from wordplay; 32=Sweet Fanny Adams
19	MEDAL	8d It's maybe contrary for daughter to ring dinner gong (5)	d in meal	
20	MUMMIED	3aw Note by journalist after parent preserved by embalming (7)	Mum + mi + Ed	
21	NADAL	15d Tennis player left trailing 32 (5)	Nada + L	32=Sweet Fanny Adams
22	NAPOO	9d* No longer "a piece of excrement" (5)	a + poo	N omitted from wordplay
23	ON LEAVE	30ba Working holiday when officially off work (2,5)	On + leave	

24	PICOT	1d Ancient Scotsman seducing 32? That's loopy (5)	0 in Pict	32=Sweet Fanny Adams
25	PUDDLED	23ba Messed about in muddy water, confused after piano used for mass (7)	Muddled, with p for m	
26	PYAEMIA	1ac Blood poisoning? Extremely poorly – plan on returning to A&E (7)	P[oorl]y + AE + aim(rev.)	
27	PYJAMAS	1aw What's going on tonight? Put out and, yes, jolly surprised as piano music starts (7)	Anag of (a[nd] y[es] j[olly] s[urprised] a[s] p[iano] m[usic])	Allusion to theme
28	RABBLE	5to, 2d Mob rule after a bishop repeatedly subs for United (6)	Rule, with (a BB) for U	
29	RAVAGE	11d, 32aw-2 Sack Victoria, in fit of anger (6)	Homophone of "review" [Va in rage]	
30	SILVERS	32ae33ac 19s? You get one for 32 (7)	Solvers, with 1 for 0	19=Medal; 32=Sweet Fanny Adams
31	SMEES	14d Theme's so silly, wanting hot pants for ducks (5)	Anag of (Theme's so) minus anag of hot	
32	SWEET FANNY ADAMS	33up,34up,17to,4d Nix course taken by USA's bum president (5,5,5)	Sweet + fanny + Adams	Ref. John Adams
33	THE NEWS	26aw She went abroad to make regular appearance at 10 (3,4)	Anag of (She went)	Ref. News at Ten
34	THERE IS NO NEWS	26ac,29aw Announcement of theme – if none the wiser, perhaps just start solving (5,2,2,4)	Anag of (None the wiser) + s[olving]	
35	TIDINGS	17ba Dope stupidly drinks gin and it with no ice (7)	Anag of (d[rink]s gin + it)	

36	ZERO	7aw A worthless person, Samuel Mostel? (4)	Two meanings	Ref. Zero Mostel
37	ZILLA	7d Companion abandons 32, north of large city in Indian district (5)	zil[CH] + LA	32=Sweet Fanny Adams Collins/OED

2. Solvers Comments

March PS

Took me ages to get the one about the baker. The penny just wouldn't drop. Definitely need to watch more telly. TC

April

On April 18th 1930, the BBC news bulletin at 20.45 played 15 mins music because there was 'no news'!

Strangely prophetic crossword as there is now only one item of news. RE

The theme escapes me but I enjoyed the puzzle. JM

A welcome distraction during these long days of quarantine. AG

Is there no other news right now? I am writing this when COVID-19 is totally dominating the news - so I wish 18 April 1930 could be repeated - a day whether "there (was) no news".

This puzzle gave me some brief respite. I liked all the references to "nothing" but Sweet Fanny Adams at Day 32 was the best!

Warm thanks to Puck for a playful puzzle! JA

Thanks for the puzzle, Puck! I liked the 'nothing' theme. Try as I might, I couldn't parse 'Trump' into the wordplay for 32!

MEDAL and EVANGEL were enjoyable clues. AM

Excellent, even after 7 + 8 sorting! Lovely grid, Nora! ML

Much ado about nothing. HB

The Day 4 answer was clear enough, but from a long Antipodean viewpoint, needed a Google check. MR

It took a while to get started and tune into the clues.

I spotted a few zeroes, starting with 36, though that has no tie to 32.

I'm not nearly old enough to have heard the "no news" broadcast, but I had heard of it.

19 I'm not sure "contrary" really gives the sense of what's going on.

23 has two of essentially the same meaning for LEAVE. MJ

The biggest problem was discovering the theme - there is no news! RC

Enjoyed the theme? :-) CW

What a change that would make from the present relentless round of speculation about what the news will be, news, and analysis of the news.

We'd probably all be happier.

Good health to all setters and solvers. AHK

A highly original and entertaining theme. I had to look up what happened in 1930 to understand the 'announcement of the theme: there is no Ns', where N = news.

Days 31 and 34 were brilliant.

It was good to see the master's own clue for SWEET FANNY ADAMS after relishing all the contributions to the clue competition at the end of last year.

Abe

A real testing puzzle with Puck's prints all over it and (I suppose it goes without saying) a wonderful gridfill...

Sending this in a day before the actual anniversary: what an amazing thing.

Of course, for the past two years in this country there have only been two stories.

Best wishes to everyone and thanks for the needed entertainment. AC

Brilliant theme - I'd never heard the story! - and beautifully integrated although (as usual!) I don't understand the picture clue (even though it was that Fanny that got me on the right track. EF

I really enjoyed this one - managed to do all but one without help from hints and tips. The theme was great fun and I liked the extra challenge of the missing letters. My favourite clue was 1aw - made me laugh. Thank you for such a good distraction in these difficult times. Stay safe! BS

A beautifully clever grid construction by Bozzy with some typically witty clues by Puck. We particularly enjoyed NAPOO, PYJAMAS and SWEET FANNY ADAMS. Thanks! N&S!

The theme took me forever to get, and then after getting the answer, remembered that it had formed the basis for a clue setting prize! Days 31, 35 and 37 caused the most difficulty and I am not sure of the cryptic reasoning for 37.

Also, I am being very dense, but the anniversary also eludes me. A very enjoyable puzzle nonetheless. JN

Oh, for the days of "No News"! I can't wait for the day when we don't hear the words, "social distancing", "shielding" and "PPE" every time we switch on the radio or TV!

The puzzles are a good distraction so thank you all for keeping going! DS

I loved the challenge of this intricate puzzle and, for once, could parse nearly all of my solutions. I can only wish that there had been no news in April 2020 as there was on April 18 1930. JB

This took days and my niece did a grid printout and drove 3 miles to deliver it on the end alone of those pick-up claws for the disabled. So I hope it's all ok! I could still post the original. MJ

Here's my solution - took a little while to see exactly what the theme was: with the various references to 'nothing' I did wonder that this was an April Fool and there was no actual 90th anniversary involved. However, it eventually came to light that in 1930 there was an occasion for the announcement given on the 34th did occur! How different from these days ;). Then I wasn't sure whether the missing letter was going to be N E W or S, but it soon became clear it is always N.

Although I solved the first couple of Frank Paul's drawings, I don't see how to get to Adams from the flying disaster, or whether Graham Fox's photo is relevant. PM

On 18th April 1930, Good Friday, the BBC decided there was no 'noteworthy' news, so played classical music instead. Could this be replicated today, please?? SF

Very interesting quotation/anniversary and how it was used as a theme. NC What a great theme! If only there were no news nowadays. Stay safe, everyone. SW

My entry for April is below. Having already completed the May crossword, I look forward to taking part in the Online Submission System trial following

your email earlier today and hope it is a great success. Do take care and thanks to you and all the other brilliant minds for every single grid, clue, tip, drawing, etc etc. IL

I particularly liked 31. Now I want to put shorts on a duck. HS

I can proudly state that I deciphered Frank's rebus: SWAN containing FEET* with N(orth and) S(outh) the Gaskell book surrounding inverse MAYDAY with the first Y deleted.

What a clever theme. I'm always cautious about 'special instructions' as my brain cannot always cope with them but I soon enough twigged that wordplay in the starred clues missed an N. Not that helped too much: 'briefly reflects the theme' ... hmm. But day 33 was a gentle way in. All that was then left was proof that PYAIMEA was a real word and not something invented by Bozzy to make everything fit. PA

and Heeeeeere's..... Bozzy!

Great grid Nora, especially the the linking of There is no news & Sweet Fanny Adams GS

An enjoyable challenge, quite tricky with the undefined extra letters. Liking Frank Paul's drawings. SC

The "Anniversary" remained a mystery until the end and the penny dropped! What an interesting story about the BBC, which I had never heard about. And how interesting also to discover the real Fanny Adams before her name was misused!

Once again the drawing is a mystery. I can tour out the SW(AN)EET but not Mrs Gaskell. SB

We liked the puzzle a lot. The grid filled steadily with a very fair set of clues ranging from generous to quite challenging and there ws lots of use of the zero theme making it thematically rich. Thanks to Puck and Bozzy. SC

I finished this eventually, with help from all corners of the world! Not so much in solving it as in parsing answers which I knew must be right. Tricky at times, but I loved the theme.

Just for once, I don't want to win! I honestly don't deserve such an accolade this month! OBE - other buggers' efforts! JJ

I found this quite a hard puzzle. Some of the clues were really good, especially Silvers on Day 30 but with only a concise OED I spent ages tracking down Zilla. I was a bit worried when In Vacuo came out of alphabetic order but everything else seemed to fit with it so I carried on. Last

to enter was day 34. Still not entirely convinced by my answer. I have a useful book called the Encyclopaedia of Dates and Events so I looked up 1930. First non stop Paris London flight? No. Yangtze valley flood? No. Could it be BBC first attempted TV broadcasts? Hope so! PD

Phew what a toughie, in fact the last answer for me was the theme! I did work out fairly early on that the missing letter was N - there were too many for it to be a coincidence.

Fortunately I have an Indian boyfriend who gave me the answer to 37, the only issue was turning the Hindi script into the Roman script as there are several different ways it can be done...fortunately that's where the Collins dictionary came to the rescue. Our original answer of Zilah didn't fit "large city" hence the use of the dictionary.

Thank you for another enjoyable month. SB

Not quite like today when there was only Covid-19 news! Another clue too for SFA! 😊 DM

Looking forward to online submissions. AB

A very well constructed grid by Bozzy (is that you, Nora? If so, take a bow!) since 7x7 elements, of which this is the only example this year, clearly present an extra challenge. As always, Puck's clueing was clever, saucy and witty, with a good number of original clues cryptically related to the SFA focus - very cryptically indeed, but fairly, in SILVERS, PICOT, MARZIPAN & BELOVED, all of which raised a smile.

Altogether a pleasure, but by no means easy, to solve. KMcD

Once I'd extracted the theme it was fun. (It hadn't been).

V. cleverly woven theme.

I hope all are well. ET

A tough one this month, a couple of fairly wild guesses and didn't get the theme until right near the end. GB

Tough one this month with quite a few new words for me but excellent fun. Great theme and a number of wonderful clues (30 and 33 two particularly good 'of course!' moments)! Best wishes to all the 3D crossword team in these troubled times. JG

I am pleased because I have just worked out Frank Paul's picture clue! Initially I was diverted by Mrs Gaskell, who wrote Ruth and Mary Barton but not Fanny. A week ago I'd formed the SWAN and FEET into SWEET FAN but the upside-down aeroplane still had me foxed. But now I have it - N and S and MAYDAY! J&JH

3. A Special Request for Solvers Comments

We love receiving your comments so please keep them coming. However one of the most time consuming tasks that we have (Nora has been doing it on my behalf of late) is transcribing your comments from manuscript on the submission form into print. It would help us enormously if you could in future type your comments onto your submission e-mail. I know that the box is there on the grid solution form and asks for comments. For some solvers who aren't yet on the Internet we have to allow for manuscript entries so we have left it there. Thank you.

4. May Crossword; Trial for entering Solutions online

In the April Newsletter I wrote that for 2021 we are aiming for a technical solution that will enable us to check all entries automatically. Jos, our webmaster and IT expert, has now devised an online solution. The 3D crossword team have tested it and have generally been very positive about it. One comment in particular from one of the Hints and Tips team struck a chord with me:

Just had a go with entering my May answers in the new system, and I think it worked very well! I like the fact that you get instant feedback, and it is certainly quicker (for me at least) than having to print the form, fill it in, scan it and then email to Nora. It is also great that you get a chance to correct mistyping without penalty!

So for the May crossword we are now rolling out the opportunity to join in with the trial to all 3D solvers. Nora has sent out an email with full instructions/guidance. There is a link in the email so that entering your answers will be very straightforward.

Entering the trial is of course entirely voluntary. We hope that as many of you as possible will join in. We are very much looking forward to direct feedback from you so that we can refine and improve the system for 2021.

In case any of you are concerned that somehow we may lose your entry you will be free to send it in the normal way as well as send your solutions in online.

Here are the guidelines we are working to:

- Joining in the trial is entirely optional and doesn't influence who will win the May prize.
- If you are not joining in the trial just send your entry in as normal
- If you enter the trial you can still send in your grid in the normal way if you want but that is optional?
- If you have already sent in your entry please feel free to re-enter your entry online.
- In the case of two entries, one normal and one online, one correct and one with errors, we'll be accepting the all correct entry.
- There is no need to tell us separately that you are entering the trial we shall automatically see your online entry
- We really do welcome feedback and there will be a link on the instructions/guidance email to make this easy to do
- The link to the online submission form is calpuz3dentries@gmail.com

When you have completed your online submission you will get immediate feedback via an e-mail. If your entry is all correct the feedback will simply confirm that. If you have made an error or errors the feedback will say:

Your submission includes at least one incorrect entry, which might just be due to typing error[s]. We suggest you check your answers again.

This doesn't spell out what the error or errors are but does provides you with the opportunity to check and make changes to your entry in order to ensure that it is all correct

Finally we hope that you enjoy the experience of entering online if you do enter the trial.

Invitation to enter online: Guidance/Instructions

If you have just recently downloaded (we updated it yesterday) the May puzzle or answer grid from our website, you will have noticed the new online option for submitting your entry that the Nora alludes to above. We invite all 3D solvers to take up this option if they wish.

If you would like to try this method of entering, first complete the May grid and solve the extra cryptic items, then enter all your answers directly at:

bit.ly/3D2020-May

Solving this puzzle will be challenging enough, so to make entering the form as easy as possible, we've set it up so that:

- Case is irrelevant. Use whatever you prefer: UPPERCASE, lowercase, or a CombiNatioN.
- Spaces are optional between words in phrases. You can enter A SHORT PHRASE as indicated by the letter count (1,5,6) or treat a solution as ALLONEWORD (3,3,4) as it would appear in the grid.
- You won't be penalised for mistyping. We'll let you know if something's not quite right, but we won't tell you what or where. You'll be able to update your answers after you've had a closer look.

Your feedback on the puzzle is highly welcome, as always. The online entry form has space for feedback on both the puzzle itself, and the online entry form. We're keen to hear what you think of this new method of entering your answers.

You can expect an email acknowledging your entry soon after you've submitted the form. In it will be a link to your responses should you wish to update your answers or feedback.

If you submit the form but haven't received an acknowledgement email from calpuz3dentries@gmail.com within a couple of hours, check your spam folder. If you still haven't received it, let us know at calpuz3dentries@gmail.com and we'll see if we can track down your entry.

You can also submit your grid in your usual way in addition if you really want to, but your name will only go into the hat for the prize draw once.

Happy solving
The 3D Calendar Puzzles team

(Editors Note: This article and Invitation to enter online: Guidance/Instructions was also sent out by Nora as an email)