

# Cryptic Crossword Records 2020

**Week 64: Thursday 31st December 2020. NEW YEAR's EVE! Hosted by Sue Butler.**

What a keen group we are! Meeting on New Year's Eve! Of course, some of us had a little drink to help us work through the clues!

We almost had a full house today, 7 members. We worked through our 'homework' SUN crosswords 142 and 143.

As always we found several words to interest us.

- NOBEL – Alfred Bernhard Nobel was a Swedish chemist, engineer, inventor, businessman, and philanthropist. He held 355 different patents, dynamite being the most famous. He owned Bofors, which he redirected from its previous role as primarily an iron and steel producer to a major manufacturer of cannon and other armaments. He was the benefactor of the Nobel Prize.
- EXTANT – to be extant means to be still in existence. That's nice!
- OCCIDENTAL – several of us had to resort to a dictionary to find the meaning of this word. It means of 'Western' origin. Oriental is eastern, of the east, of or relating to the orient especially asiatic, but most commonly to the far east while occidental is of, pertaining to, or situated in, the occident, or west; western.

A lovely anagram indicator turned up for the first time – 'flurried'

**Homework:** SUN crossword 144

**Next meeting:** Thursday 7th January 2021. Happy New Year! We will be working on a small CC presentation for the next 'Click & Meet'.

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**Week 63: Thursday 17th December 2020 via Zoom, hosted by Sue Butler.**

Another Zoom meeting attended by 6 members. Today we worked through our homework, which was considered by all to be harder than more recent ones. As always we found some interesting words that stimulated discussion. Here are two of them.

- 'Uncle'. Of course this is noun referring to a male relative, or may be a polite title for a male adult who you know to be older than you (Indian English). It turns out that it also refers to a Pawnbroker. 'Uncle' is the Cockney nickname for a Pawnbroker.
- 'Stir-crazy'. Beginning as a slang term in 19C London, the 'stir' in stir-crazy means 'prison'. Believed to have started at Newgate, a notorious prison. The verb to stir can mean to mix liquids, to cause something to move slightly, to cause emotions or even to intentionally cause hostility.

**Next (EXTRA) meeting: Thursday 31st December 2020 at 10am via Zoom. Aren't we keen!**

**Following meeting: Thursday 7th January 2021, then 21st January 2021.**

**Homework: SUN crosswords 141 & 142**  
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**Week 62: Thursday 3rd December 2020 via ZOOM**

Another Zoom meeting. It now seems quite normal to do it this way! Once again a keen group of CC meet up via Zoom!

Several interesting words came up:

'Avers' can have the meaning 'states or expects to be true'.

'Presage' can mean 'to be a sign or warning of'.

**Homework : SUN crosswords 140 & 141**

**Next meeting: Thursday 17th December via Zoom.** Mince pies and a glass of sherry to hand (optional, of course)!

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**Week 61: Thursday 19th November 2020**

We all seem to be getting used to this new way of meeting via Zoom. We can see and talk to each other and share our experience of working on the two crosswords set as our non-compulsory homework!

There were seven of us today, almost a full group. As always we worked through the crosswords, either listening how others solved the clues or how we managed to do so ourself.

One clue answer gave rise to quite a lot of discussion.

'Cat's paw': a person who is used by another to carry out an unpleasant or dangerous task. "He was merely a cat's paw of older and cleverer men".

'Cat's paw': Nautical:

A hitch made in the bight of a rope so that two eyes are formed to hold one block of tackle. A light breeze that ruffles the surface of water over a comparatively small area. The small area ruffled by such a breeze. In addition, we considered the meaning of 'inure' and the differences between 'insure' and 'ensure' and we also reminded ourselves that a 'reefer' can be a cigarette containing cannabis as well as a short thick coat often worn by sailors.

Clearly then, the CC group is living up to the ideals of the U3A!!

**Homework: Try to complete SUN crosswords 138 & 139**

**Next meeting via Zoom: Thursday 3rd December 2020 at 10am**

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**Week 60: Thursday 5th November 2020 via ZOOM**

Five enthusiastic members meet again today via ZOOM for the bimonthly session hosted by Sue B. This morning we worked our way

through SUN crosswords 134 & 135. Of course it doesn't help if the crossword compiler gets it wrong! A 'coffee time' clue was given as 'a Dutch harbour'. We believe that Ostend is in Belgium! We also know a bit more about 'old Celtic priests'! The answer, 'Druids', led us into unknown areas!

**Homework:** SUN crosswords 136 and 137

**Next meeting:** Thursday 19th November 2020 at 10am via ZOOM

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### **Week 59: Thursday 15th October 2020 via ZOOM**

Five members logged in today for another Cryptic Crossword meeting via ZOOM and hosted by Sue Butler. The group worked through SUN crosswords 132 & 133. It's very intensive via Zoom so members find that about an hour is enough.

**Homework:** SUN Crosswords 134 & 135

**Next meeting:** Thursday 5th November at 10am via ZOOM. Sue B will send out the link nearer the time.

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### **Week 58: Thursday 1st October 2020 via ZOOM**

Finally! The group met up this morning to have our first 'meeting' (via Zoom) since March. Five of us met up and we were all delighted to restart our meetings. We all admitted to being a bit 'rusty' but we hope this is just a temporary phase! Of course, now we each have to provide our own coffee and biscuits!

The homework had been to look at SUN crosswords 130 & 131. During the next hour or so, we worked through both crosswords and the reasoning behind many of the clues. As always several words were found to have alternative meanings that we were not familiar with.

Indigent: Synonyms: beggared, beggarly, broke, destitute, dirt-poor, down-and-out, famished, hard, up, impecunious, impoverished, necessitous, needful, needy, pauperized, penniless, penurious, poor, poverty-stricken, skint [chiefly British], threadbare

Barker: A barker, often a carnival barker, is a person who attempts to attract patrons to entertainment events, such as a circus or funfair, by exhorting passing members of the public,[1] announcing attractions of show, and emphasizing variety, novelty, beauty, or some other enticing feature of the show. A barker would often conduct a brief free show, introducing performers and describing acts to be given at the feature performance. Professional barkers strongly disliked the term and instead referred to themselves as "talkers". Of course, it could perhaps be a person or animal that barks!

Anagram indicators: today we met: 'on the go', 'like this', 'inconsistent', 'covertly', 'type of', 'trouble'

**Next ZOOM meeting:** Thursday 15th October at 10am.

**Homework:** Try to complete SUN crosswords 132 & 133  
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### **Cryptic Crossword Update: 3rd September**

**We plan to have our first CC meeting via Zoom on Thursday 1st October 2020 at 10am. Do contact me (07765575407 / [Frances Gilbert](#) if you are interested.**

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Thursday 2nd July 2020:

Well.....we didn't meet on April 2nd as planned and we may not meet again for some time! As everyone knows, ordinary everyday life has been on lockdown due to the Covid-19 virus pandemic, and only now are there some tentative signs of a return to normal life.

The Cryptic Crossword Group has not been able to meet but that has not stopped our activities. Several members of the group, notably Steve and Pauline have kept us busy by sending out crosswords and anagram teasers and then providing help- as necessary. Answers are provided at a later date. Group self-help has also been evident! Members are keen to get re-established as soon as is allowed, however, by its very nature, members sit near enough to each other to be able to

converse with each other, so .....a social distancing problem, unless we all sit outside on my lawn!

Here is one interesting clue answer provided by Kathy: misericord. noun

1. 1.  
a ledge projecting from the underside of a hinged seat in a choir stall which, when the seat is turned up, gives support to someone standing.

2. 2.

HISTORICAL

an apartment in a monastery in which some relaxations of the monastic rule were permitted. (Wikipedia)

Well .....that's it for now. Keep cruciverbalising, if such a word exists!

Homework: work at your own pace!

Next meeting: uncertain.

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### **Week 57: Thursday 12th March 2020**

Seven of us were soon established around the table and ready to start. As always, we worked through our homework, SUN crosswords 98 and 99.

After that, sustained by refreshments, we worked through Country Walking Cryptic Crossword: November 18 provided by Steve H. We like these crosswords as they are sufficiently challenging to make them interesting but not enough to cause us distress! A large number of anagram indicators were identified today: upheaval, re-created, rough, moving round, involved, might be, breaks, maybe, poor, secretly, well used.....  
Unusually, no words caused us any great surprise today.

Homework: SUN crosswords 100, 101 and 102, if possible! It is three weeks to our next meeting!

Next meeting: Thursday 2nd April 2020. Usual time and place.  
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### **Week 56: Thursday 5th March 2020**

We got straight down to work today. As usual we started by working through our 'homework', this week it was SUN crosswords 95 & 96. We then worked through crossword 97 before starting Country Walking Cryptic Crossword : November 2018. Our efforts were sustained by Sheila K's lovely 'splodge' and Sue B's lovely 'fruit loaf' (sorry Sue, I can't remember it's rightful name)!

Homework: An easy time this time! Just complete the Country Crossword: November 2018 - we only have one week as we are meeting again on Thursday 12th.

Next meeting: Thursday 12th March 2020 at the usual time and place.  
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### **Week 55, Thursday 20th February 2020**

We got straight to work today by working through our homework, SUN crosswords 92 & 93. We also completed 94.

As always we came across a large number of words denoting anagram clues. Today they included: reformed, doing badly, unusually, wayward, adept, somehow, almost, strangely, breaking, liable..

Several interesting 'new' words came to our attention: 'Peri': Peri are exquisite, winged spirits renowned for their beauty. Originally from Persian and Armenian mythologies, Peris were later adopted by other cultures.

Nostrum: Medical Definition of nostrum : a medicine of secret composition recommended by its preparer but usually without scientific proof of its effectiveness. Also Nostrum definition: You can refer to ideas or theories about how something should be done as nostrums ... | Meaning, pronunciation, translations and examples.

Life savers: Life Savers is an American brand of ring-shaped hard and soft candy. Its range of mints and fruit-flavoured candies is known for its distinctive packaging. Artificially flavoured ring-shaped hard candy; Good for lunches, snacks or to share with friends; Ideal for filling your candy bowl at the office or at home

Homework: Complete SUN crosswords 95 & 96  
Next meeting: Thursday 5th March and Thursday 12th March. Usual time and place.

**Please note that there will be NO meeting on Thursday 19th March.**

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### **Week 54 :Thursday 6th February 2020**

A table full of aspiring cruciverbalists (can I say this?) worked hard to complete three crosswords today. Of course, some find it easier than others!

As always, we came across numerous anagram indicators – today they were – confused, ruin, changes, shake, dreadfully, churned, unusually, another way, shattered, variety.

One answer stumped everyone – 'Guyed'.  
guy1  
/gʌɪ/  
past tense: gayed; past participle: gayed  
make fun of; ridicule.  
"she never stopped gaying him about his weight"

Similar:

ridicule; make fun of; poke fun at; laugh at; make a joke of; mock; sneer at; jibe at; jeer at; deride; scorn; scoff at; satirize; lampoon; send up; rib; take off; take the mickey out of; rag; goof on; rag on; poke mullock at; sling off at; make sport of; take the piss out of

Now we know! It's amazing what you can learn in a cryptic crossword group!

Homework: Complete SUN crosswords 92 & 93.  
Next meeting: Thursday 20th February at the usual time and place.

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**Week 53: Thursday 16th January 2020**

Today's meeting was held at Sue B's home and was well attended. The group worked through SUN crosswords 88, 89 and started 90. Country Walking Cryptic Crossword January 2020 was completed.

Homework: Complete SUN crossword 90 and try to complete 91. Members were encouraged to work on Country Walking Cryptic Crossword Feb 2020.

Next Meeting: Group Leader's home. Thursday 6th February 2020 at the usual time.

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**Week 52: Thursday 2nd January 2020**

Meeting held as usual at the GL's home.

Homework: Try to finish SUN crossword 88 and start 89.

Next meeting: Thursday 16th January 2020