

2023 Cryptic Crossword Record

Week 128: Thursday 7th December 2023 at 9.30am via Zoom and hosted by Sue B

All members were present today. We had a very busy session and lots of interesting conversation.

Anagram Indicators today included: spoiled, crazy, bubbly, revitalised, might be, broken, gone bad, soused, explosive, exploded, disturbed, bad, strangely and terrible.

There were no unusual or strange clues today.

Homework: SUN Crossword 10, crosswords 19 to 24 (six in total).

Next meeting: The group agreed to meet again in the New Year on Thursday 4th January 2024 at 9.30am

Week 127: Thursday 16th November 2023 at 9.30am via Zoom and hosted by Sue B

We completed our meeting in record time today!

Anagram indicators today included: smashed, messy, nasty, disturb, restructured, unique.

One interesting word is worth mentioning. The clue? 'Old song about duke and duchess'. (4). Answer? 'Lady'. A 'lay' is a term for an old song. The 'd' of course, comes from the first letter of duke and duchess. A 'roundelay' is a simple song or poem with recurring refrains.

Homework: SUN crosswords (Collection 10) 16, 17 and 18.

Next meeting: Thursday 7th December 2023 at 9.30am via Zoom

Week 126: Thursday 2nd November 2023 at 9.30am via Zoom and hosted by Sue B

Despite the dreadful weather, we were able to meet up this morning via Zoom from the warmth and comfort of our own homes! Six of us tackled three interesting crosswords today and this stimulated more than the usual amount of discussion.

Anagram indicators today included: chopped, cooked, collapsed, transformed, agitated, uproar, upsetting and wrong.

Several clues stimulated interesting discussions.

Ashram: Clue: 'Retreat when sheep surrounding horse' (6). Answer: Ashram. Ashram is a place where a group of Hindus live together away from the rest of society, or a place where Hindus can go in order to pray.

Harry: Clue: 'Room to keep horse in Sussex resort' (7). Answer: Harry. The verb 'to harry' means to repeatedly demand something from someone, to assault, to persistently harass.

Homework: SUN crosswords (Collection 10) 13, 14 and 15.

Next meeting: Thursday 16th November 2023 at 9.30am via Zoom

Week 125: Thursday 26th October 2023 at 9.30am via Zoom and hosted by Sue B

We met today via Zoom after a three week gap rather than our usual two. Five of us tackled three interesting crosswords today and this stimulated plenty of discussion. Overall, I think it is fair to say that we are enjoying this compiler's crosswords.

Anagram indicators today included: strange, unfortunately, exotic, reckless, roused, cracked, cooked, turning and bizarre.

Homework: SUN crosswords (Collection 10) 10, 11 and 12. Yes, three crosswords to try and complete in one week (to return to our usual 1st and 3rd of month slots) is a lot, but we agreed to give it a try!

Next meeting: Thursday 2nd November 2023 at 9.30am via Zoom

Week 124: Thursday 5th October 2023 at 10am via Zoom and hosted by Sue B

We are getting used to the way this compiler sets these crosswords and so far we are enjoying the change. Certainly, we are meeting far more hidden words, and the clues are, dare I say it, considered to be more cryptic!

Today, anagram indicators included rebuilt, perhaps, stirred, moving, crumbling.

Homework: SUN Crossword Collection 10, crosswords 7, 8 and 9

Next meeting: THURSDAY 26th OCTOBER at 9.30am via Zoom. The meeting on 19th October has been cancelled.

Week 123: Thursday 21st September 2023 at 10am via Zoom and hosted by Sue B

Another productive meeting. Today we commenced our new Crossword Book: SUN Two-Speed Crossword Collection 10. We completed three crosswords as usual and the group soon noticed that there was a subtle change in the nature / construction of the crossword clues and also an increase in the number of hidden words.

Anagram indicators today included: sabotaged, wounded, out, rude, madly, crushed, drunk

One clue was of special interest: ‘Codger as drunk remains here! (4,4)’. The answer: ‘God’s Acre’. It seems that the term comes from the German for churchyard (Gottesacker meaning Field of God), specifically the burial ground. There is even a Charity called ‘Caring for God’s Acre’ – a Conservation charity for Burial Grounds across the UK. <https://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk>

Next meeting: Thursday 5th October at **9.30am via Zoom. Please note earlier time.**

Homework: SUN Collection 10, 4,5&6.

Week 122: Thursday 7th September 2023 at 10am via Zoom and hosted by Sue B

The group was almost complete today with 7 members ready to finish the last few crosswords in Sun Collection 2. We started it on 4th February 2021 and it has taken us 2 ½ years to complete!

Anagram indicators: several previously unmet indicators today: savaged, scuppered and abandonly.

No clue words were considered to be worthy of further elaboration on this occasion.

Next meeting: Thursday 21st September 2023 at 10am via Zoom.

Homework: **SUN Two-speed Crossword: Collection 10.** Crosswords 1 to 3

Thursday 17th August 2023 at 10am via Zoom and hosted by Sue B

We had several apologies today, but undaunted, a brave group of 5 worked our way through the homework.

Along the way, several words stimulated further discussion: ‘anneal’, ‘lien’ and ‘smelt’.

Next meeting: Thursday 7th September 2023 at 10am via Zoom

Homework: SUN crosswords 156 to 160. Yes, five crosswords, if possible! This completes Sun Collection 2! We will then start our new SUN Collection 10

Thursday 8th August 2023 at 10am via Zoom and hosted by Sue B

We finally restarted again today with six of the group ready to pick up their pencils, rubbers and SUN Crossword Book (Collection 2)!

All of us felt somewhat out of practice, but we soon settled down and worked through crosswords 148 to 151.

Homework: Complete crosswords 152 to 155

Date of next Meeting: Thursday 17th August at 10am via Zoom

Thursday 20th July 2023 at 10am via Zoom

Today's meeting was planned to be our first meeting following an 8 week break. However, there were some difficulties at the start of the meeting, so it was decided to restart on Thursday 8th August.

Week 118: Thursday 1st June 2023 at 10am via Zoom and hosted by Sue B

A busy morning working through our three cryptic crosswords 'homework'.

Anagram indicators: today these included: gnarled, irregularly, out, wildly and ruined.

Homework: SUN crosswords 148 – 160. This completes our SUN two-speed crossword Collection 2. Yes, twelve crosswords!! We agreed that we would just do the best we can! it does seem a lot but we will not be meeting again until 20th July. We decided to have a break for the Summer holidays. We will start our new book, Collection 10 after that.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 20th July 2023 at 10am via Zoom

Week 117: Thursday 18th May 2023 at 10am via Zoom and hosted by Sue B

An interesting morning working through our three cryptic crosswords 'homework'.

You might think that after some years doing these crosswords the group members would find them much easier – but no – we are often challenged, and very occasionally, cannot fully explain the clues! You could say that is what makes doing them so interesting!

Anagram indicators: today these included: thus, special, display, modified, important, strangely, upset, ruptured, shaken up, clumsily, incorporate.

One interesting word was considered worthy of further comment – ‘evince’. The clue? ‘Display in Venice’ (6). The verb ‘to evince’ means ‘to make something obvious or show something clearly’. It’s obvious when you know!

Homework: SUN crosswords 145, 146 and 147.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 1st June 2023 at 10am via Zoom

Week 116: Thursday 4th May 2023 at 10am via Zoom and hosted by Sue B

A busy morning as six of us met up to work through our ‘homework’.

There were, as usual, a number of anagram clues, some of which included: possibly, amendment, unusual, deformed, contrived.

Homework: SUN crosswords 142, 143 & 144

Next meeting: Thursday 18th May at 10am via Zoom

Week 115: Thursday 20th April 2023

Meeting as usual

Meeting on 4th April 2023 cancelled

Week 114: Thursday 16th March 2023

Meeting as usual

Week 113: Thursday 2nd March 2023 at 10am via Zoom and hosted by Sue B

Once again, the group had a busy morning working through the three ‘homework’ crosswords.

There were numerous anagram clues today, but all the indicators were quite familiar to us.

Several clues stimulated further discussion.

1. Can't / Cant. The clue? 'Is unable to use it, being insincere' (4). We discussed some of the many uses of 'cant'. A cant refers to hypocritical and sanctimonious talk of a moral, religious or political nature. It may refer to language used by a particular group or profession and regarded with disparagement. It can also refer to an affecting singsong or whining speech. As a verb 'to cant', it refers to the action of leaning or sloping as in 'the roof canted gently'. Most interesting!
2. We also spent a few minutes chatting about the word 'discompose'. The clue? 'Agitate, having record award put forward (10)'. No one owned up to the use of the word but all of us preferred the word 'discombobulate'!?

Next meeting: Thursday 16th March 2023 at 10am via Zoom. FG gave her apologies.

Homework: SUN crosswords 132, 133 & 134

ADVANCE NOTICE: It was agreed to CANCEL the CC meeting on Thursday April 6th. The Following meeting will be on Thursday April 20th

Week 112: Thursday 16th February 2023 at 10am via Zoom and hosted by Sue B

Another busy morning working through our three selected crosswords.

Today's anagram indicators included: organised, unusually, requirement, rough and badly.

There were no especially unusual or interesting words today except perhaps 'esparto'. The clue? 'Sort of seaport handling grass' (7).

Not all of us were aware that esparto is a coarse grass with tough narrow leaves, native to Spain and North Africa. It is used to make ropes, wickerwork and good quality paper. Since the u3a is about 'Live, Laugh and Learn' it's fair to say that we do this in the Ru3a CC group!

Homework: SUN crosswords 129, 130 & 131.

Next meeting: Thursday 2nd March 2023 at 10am via Zoom.

Week 111: Thursday 2nd February 2023 at 10am via Zoom and hosted by Sue B

Another busy morning working through three quite challenging crosswords. Fortunately, the collective mind power of the group always ensures that all clues are eventually solved!!

Today's anagram indicators included: attainable, aimlessly, unexpectedly, of sorts, new look, otherwise.

We were especially interested in one clue answer, 'game'. The clue? 'Willing to play it?' (4). Of course, there are many words associated with 'game', and these include all the names of games and associated words. It's an activity that one engages in for amusement or fun.

However, it can also mean 'eager or willing to do something new or challenging' as in 'they were game for anything'. It can also indicate manipulation. For example, 'they were game for anything, perhaps in a way they way that is unfair or unscrupulous'.

Homework: SUN crosswords 126, 127 & 128.

Next meeting: Thursday 16th February 2023 at 10am via Zoom.

Week 110: Thursday 19th January 2023 at 10am via Zoom and hosted by Sue B

We were soon at work and finished our crosswords in good time. There were a number of challenging clues, but between us, all clues were solved. A good brain workout!

Anagram indicators today included: hotchpotch, converted, unusual, appear thus, changed, tangle, taking shape, secreted, upset.

Homework: SUN crosswords 123, 124, 125.

Next meeting: Thursday 2nd February 2023 at 10am via Zoom.

Week 109: Thursday 5th January 2003 at 10am via Zoom and hosted by Sue B

It was nice to be back in the routine again after the Christmas break. Today we managed to work through four SUN crosswords and still manage time for a coffee break and a chat!

Anagram indicators: We encountered many anagram indicators today: many old favourites and several less well used. Today these included: on the move, in a mess, type, wild, out of shape, like this, capable, alteration, acting this way, perhaps, obvious, made available, breakdown, somehow, silly, ruin, change and unease.

Interesting word: Several of us had not come across the word 'theist' before. Always keen to improve our knowledge base we found that the word describes a person who believes in the existence of a god or gods, specifically of a creator who intervenes in the universe.

Homework: SUN crosswords 120, 121 & 122.

Next meeting: Thursday 19th January 2023 at 10am via Zoom

Week 108: Thursday 15th December 2022 at 10am via Zoom and hosted by Sue B

Six members were able to meet up via Zoom today and we were soon at work! Even so, we were still able to discuss some of the burning issues of the day especially relating to the state of the public's health!

- Anagram indicators today included: mixed, incorrectly, in, so changed, confused, devious, lively.

One clue answer was unknown to most if not all of us, Otiose. The clue? 'Is too confused to take note – so serving no purpose' (6)

The word 'otiose' can be used as an adjective to mean 'serving no practical purpose or result'. It can also mean 'indolent or idle'. All we need to do now is to find some reason to use the word and then we might remember it!

Next meeting: Thursday 5th January 2023 at 10am via Zoom