MENSA INTERNATIONAL

MENSA WORLD JOURNAL

JULY 2022 | ISSUE 114



Tribal Mensa Nurturing Program (TMNP) p08

WHAT'S IN THE MWJ THIS MONTH...



- thank you to our Chairman Björn Liljeqvist for providing an overview of the Executive Committee's meeting - the first face-to-face meeting in two and a half years! - in London. See p3
- don't forget to regularly check the mensa.org website for details on international events! p4
- on p5, Susan Jensen brings us a detailed report on the 2022 *Mensa Mind Games*, held this year in Portland, Maine, USA.
- did you know that sleep helps to process emotions? Have a look at the latest research on p6.
- Polish Mensan, Doda, is our Member Profile this month. p7
- on p8, have a look at the mission of *Tribal Mensa Nurturing Program*, an initiative of Mensa India.
- ever locked glances with someone across the room and felt an instant chemistry? Science tells you why! p9
- science editor, John Blinke, brings us the latest science snippets on p10
- on p11 is the International Directory of officers
- p12 - Therese's Teasers tease our minds as usual!

Happy reading,
Kate
Kate Nacard, Editor

Poor eyesight unfairly mistaken for brain decline

Millions of older people with poor vision are at risk of being misdiagnosed with mild cognitive impairments, according to a new study by the University of South Australia.

Cognitive tests that rely on vision-dependent tasks could be skewing results in up to a quarter of people aged over 50 who have undiagnosed visual problems such as cataracts or age-related macular degeneration (AMD).

Age-related macular degeneration is a leading cause of vision loss for older people. It doesn't cause complete vision loss, but severely impacts people's ability to read, drive, cook, and even recognise faces. It has no bearing on cognition.

UniSA researchers recruited 24 participants with normal vision to complete two cognitive tests - one involving vision-dependent reactive tasks and the other based on verbal fluency.

Using a set of goggles to simulate AMD, the participants scored far lower on the cognitive test involving reaction time tasks than without the goggles. There was no statistical difference with verbal fluency tests when using the goggles.

The study has been published in *Scientific Reports*.

UniSA PhD candidate Anne Macnamara, who led the study, says the results are a stark reminder that visual impairments - which affect approximately 200 million people worldwide over the age of 50 - unfairly affect cognitive scores when tests involve visual abilities.

"A mistaken score in cognitive tests could have devastating ramifications, leading to unnecessary changes to a person's living, working, financial or social circumstances," Macnamara says.

"For example, if a mistaken score contributed to a diagnosis of mild cognitive impairment, it could trigger psychological problems including depression and anxiety.

"People with AMD are already experiencing multiple issues due to vision loss and an inaccurate cognitive assessment is an additional burden they don't need."

Visual impairments are often overlooked in research and clinical settings, the UniSA researchers say, with reduced vision underestimated in up to 50 per cent of older adults.

And with this figure expected to increase in line with an ageing population, it is critical that neuro-degenerative researchers control for vision when assessing people's cognition.

"Mobile apps can now be used to overlay simulated visual impairments onto test materials when piloting their stimuli," Macnamara says.

"Also, researchers can incorporate quick and simple screening tasks before getting people to do cognitive tests. Verbal tasks should always be part of the assessment, too."

Sciencedaily.com May 9, 2022

FROM THE EXCOMM...

Björn Liljeqvist

A summary of the London ExComm Meeting



London was chilly. Our Thai dinner, on the other hand, was lukewarm, and came with a minor drama as a waitress spilled two bottles of beer over a lady in our midst, and later we could see and smell a woman's long blonde hair catch fire from a lit candle only two tables away. "'Let's call it a night", we said at that point, and went back to the hotel.

The meeting itself was good, though. You see, it had been two and a half years since the Executive Committee of Mensa International last met in person, in real life, viscerally, co-locatedly, or whatever adjective best describes the opposite of online Zoom calls, where nobody will hear you scream because you're still on mute. There's a refreshing dynamic to being in the same room, that allows also for difficult conversations to be rewarding; misunderstandings can be dealt with, and private, one-on-one conversations during coffee breaks make the joint talks around the big table easier.

ExComm is made up of five elected people and the chairs of the three national Mensas with more than 10k members (US, UK, Germany), and we carry out the day-to-day work, together with our staff at the International Office.

We handle quite a lot of minor issues that would bore our readership, but which are our job to take care of, so you can happily ignore them (you can always read our detailed meeting minutes on mensa.org). We discussed issues of member administration, volunteer management, compliance, keeping our financial reserves safe, and so on. Then there were the more profound questions that come back over and over again.

What's the point of Mensa International to begin with? First of all, to guarantee that Mensa remains recognizably similar, regardless of where in the world you are; that it's the top 2%, not 5% (and on a proper IQ test, not some cheap personality quiz); with the same purpose of identifying and fostering intelligence; and, in a democratic, round-table society where all members are equal. All famous franchises have to make sure their local branches do not veer off in weird directions, and Mensa is no different. Also important is to expand Mensa to new countries: we have members in 100 countries, but established groups in less than half that number. For the individual member, the 7% of your membership fee paid to MI ensures your membership does not end at your border. Whether it's Canada or Japan, if you're a Mensan somewhere, you're a Mensan everywhere. Also, you get access to our international online community, activities and services.

Examples are: **Special-Interest Groups (SIGs)**. If you run a SIG in your national Mensa, and you want foreign members to join, make sure you have it listed on mensa.org. To do that, contact Nancy McMahan Farrar,the International SIGs coordinator. If you want to create a SIG that's international from the start, directly under MI, that works, too.

Communications. Time-sensitive announcements will increasingly be made through our e-mail newsletter, in order to shorten lead time. In addition, we will use our Workplace community to keep members updated on what's going on through the group, "Mensa News".

International member database. Following the policy decision made by the IBD last year, work is under-

(continued from p03)

way to create an international member database. We are currently investigating possible CRM systems that can be used for this purpose, and expect to have a first version ready before the end of this year.

Charity. The paperwork for our new Mensa International Charitable Foundation is being submitted to the UK Charity Commission. Meanwhile, we're exploring ideas for fundraising, as well as charitable initiatives to support.

Conflicts. We often deal with diverse complaints against national boards, which can be quite time-consuming, and it's well known that conflicts sprout all the time in Mensa, whether that is intelligent or not. The assumption is often that Mensa International should step in to correct a national board when they stray; in reality, Mensa International is the very last resort – when all else fails. The first step is always to resolve trouble internally; e.g., with an ombudsman or a supervisory committee. Ultimately, a board has to answer to the membership, who can always elect new people.

Litigation. This is another hazard because when members take Mensa to court, it can end up costing a lot of money, not only for the member (or, as is mostly the case, the ex-member) who sues, but also for Mensa. By our Constitution, taking legal action against Mensa before exhausting the internal avenues of redress can be an act inimical to Mensa in itself. However, we should not assume that a Mensa board is always right, and that complainants are always wrong. Any board can make mistakes, and without vigilant members keeping a watchful eye, boards would make even more mistakes and never correct them.

Mensa International is always ready to help clarify the rules of Mensa, and to guide boards and members on appropriate measures and procedures. It is not, however, Mensa International that should correct errors or hold board members accountable in the first instance. That is the job of the members of the national Mensas themselves. Of course, if a national Mensa does not correct an error or persists in violating the Constitution, it is the International Board of Directors that, at the end of the day, derecognizes the wayward group and appoints a new board to start over again.

However, it is always better if problems can be resolved internally at the national level at an early stage before something escalates that far.

These were among the topics discussed at our London meeting. Next, we look forward to the first real IBD meeting in three years, in Budva, Montenegro, from 6th to 9th October. If you'd like to join the meeting as a member of the audience, you're more than welcome to come along. Regards,

Björn Liljeqvist

Chairman, International Mensa

Join our online Mensa community!

Find like-minded people and groups to engage with from all over the world.

https://bit.ly/MIworkplace

what's on the International events calendar...

Mensa at Cambridge September, 15-18, 2022

Mensa at Cambridge 2022, Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, UK.

Organised by British Mensa, this annual event is open to members worldwide. With an excellent list of speakers, Mensa at Cambridge 2022 is sure to be a popular event, so make sure you don't miss out!

www.mensa.org.uk/events/mensa-cambridge-2022

Mensa South Africa National Annual Gathering September 16-18, 2022

Open to members worldwide, this get-together in the historic fishing village of Arniston, a couple of hours from Cape Town, and a few minutes from the southernmost tip of Africa, is going to be one to remember!

Details and registration at https://mensa.org.za/nag-2022/

International Board of Directors Meeting October 6 - 10, 2022

Hotel Avala, Budva, Montenegro

www.ibd2022.mensa.me
www.facebook/com.groups/ibd2022

American Mensa Mind Games

by Susan Jensen

Mensans gather every year to play and evaluate the newest board games on the American market. *Mensa Mind Games*, as this event is called, was the brainchild of American Mensan Steve Weinrich and has been a rousing success since its inception in 1990.



from l to r, Nico Pandi, Susan Jensen, Tamar Pandi

Judges at the Mind Games rank their favourite games. The top five winners get the coveted gold Mensa Select seal. Winners in the past include *Scattergories, Quarto* and *Trivial Pursuit*.

Registration for Mind Games opens between May and September of each year; the 400 available Judge slots usually sell out within a month. The judges are allowed to bring guests who can play the games but aren't allowed to cast votes. Each of the Mensan judges is required to play and evaluate thirty games over the course of a weekend. In the past, playing time lasted from Friday morning until 5 am Sunday morning. This year they added Thursday afternoon for game playing, to the relief of many long-time attendees.

Any intrepid soul who is able to play all thirty games and has time on their hands is welcome to play games not on their list.

Mind Games is always held at the end of April/beginning of May, with the location switching each year to a different American city/host Mensa group. This year the games were held in lovely Portland, Maine, at the DoubleTree Hotel. Both the DoubleTree and its sister hotel next door were filled to capacity with Mensan judges and their guests.

The games are graded on a 1-5 basis in the following categories: Aesthetics; quality of instructions; originality; play appeal, and play value (i.e. is the cost of the game good value for the level of fun/quality of its components?). Most importantly, Mensans and their guests fill out paper or digital comment cards for each game which manufacturers use to improve their games.

Judges are given stickers for each game. At the end of Mind Games the judges place the stickers in the slots labelled 1-7, ranking their top seven game choices. The top five highest ranked games get to put a gold Mensa Select label on their games.

This year the top five games were *Atheneum, Genotype: A Mendelian Genetics Game, Shifting Stones, Life of a Chameleon* and *Miyabi*. Some of the games that were quite popular but didn't make it into the top five had too many small, easily lost pieces, were considered too costly for what was being offered, or had inadequate or confusing instructions.

Many attendees gathered a small group of compatible players together so they didn't have to search high and low for enough people to play the 4-6 player games. My little group included myself, Beth MacLean of Portland, ME, Tamar Pandi of Winston-Salem, NC, Nico Pandi of Alexandria, VA and Bob Waddell of Virginia. Beth, Tamar, Nico and I, all first-timers, met at registration. Bob, who has been to Mind Games before, joined our group on Friday morning.

On Sunday morning everyone gathered together to hear the five top ranked games and select, one person at a time, the game they wished to take home. Chief Judge Laura Heffernan managed to keep things organised and flowing as hundreds of people stood up when their name was called and selected a game to take home with them.

Anne Allen, this year's Mind Games Chair, did an amazing job of organizing the many small details that made this weekend flow smoothly. Folks could go up to the microphone to announce they needed X number of players for Y game; or they could put a tree stand on their playing table to indicate more players needed.

Anne is one of those stalwart

continued on p11

How Sleep Helps to Process Emotions

Researchers at the Department of Neurology of the University of Bern and University Hospital Bern identified how the brain triages emotions during dream sleep to consolidate the storage of positive emotions while dampening the consolidation of negative ones.The work expands the importance of sleep in mental health and offers the way to new therapeutic strategies.

Rapid eye movement (REM or paradoxical) sleep is a unique and mysterious sleep state during which most dreams occur together with intense emotional contents. How and why these emotions are reactivated is unclear. The prefrontal cortex integrates many of these emotions during wakefulness but appears paradoxically quiescent during REM sleep.

"Our goal was to understand the underlying mechanism and the functions of such a surprising phenomenon," says Prof. Antoine Adamantidis from the Department of Biomedical Research (DBMR) at the University of Bern and the Department of Neurology at the Inselspital, University Hospital of Bern.

Processing emotions, particularly distinguishing between danger and safety, is critical for the survival of animals. In humans, excessively negative emotions, such as fear reactions and states of anxiety, lead to pathological states like Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). In Europe, roughly 15% of the population is affected by persistent anxiety and severe mental illness.

The research group headed by Antoine Adamantidis is now providing insights into how the brain helps to reinforce positive emotions and weaken strongly negative or traumatic emotions during REM sleep. This study was published in the journal *Science*.

A dual mechanism

The researchers first conditioned mice to recognize auditory stimuli associated with safety and others associated with danger (aversive stimuli). The activity of neurons in the brain of mice was then recorded during sleep-wake cycles. In this way, the researchers were able to map different areas of a cell and determine how emotional memories are transformed during REM sleep.

Neurons are composed of a cell body (soma) that integrates information coming from the dendrites (inputs) and sends signals to other neurons via their axons (outputs). The results obtained showed that cell somas are kept silent while their dendrites are activated.

"This means a decoupling of the two cellular compartments, in other words soma wide asleep and dendrites wide awake," explains Adamantidis.

This decoupling is important because the strong activity of the dendrites allows the encoding of both danger and safety emotions, while the inhibitions of the soma completely block the output of the circuit during REM sleep. In other words, the brain favors the discrimination of safety versus danger in the dendrites, but blocks the over-reaction to emotion, in particular danger.

A survival advantage

According to the researchers, the coexistence of both mechanisms is beneficial to the stability and survival of the organisms:

"This bi-directional mechanism is essential to optimize the discrimination between dangerous and safe signals," says Mattia Aime from the DBMR, first author of the study. If this discrimination is missing in humans and excessive fear reactions are generated, this can lead to anxiety disorders.

The findings are particularly relevant to pathological conditions such as post-traumatic stress disorders, in which trauma is over-consolidated in the prefrontal cortex, day after day during sleep.

Breakthrough for sleep medicine

These findings pave the way to a better understanding of the processing of emotions during sleep in humans and open new perspectives for therapeutic targets to treat maladaptive processing of traumatic memories, such as post-traumatic stress disorders (PTSD) and their early sleep-dependent consolidation.

Additional acute or chronic mental health issues that may implicate this somatodendritic decoupling during sleep include acute and chronic stress, anxiety, depression, panic, or even anhedonia, the inability to feel pleasure.

neurosciencenews.com May 13, 2022

MEMBER PROFILE by Susan Jensen

Polish singer Doda is ranked by CNN as one of the ten most famous Poles in history. She is an award-winning vocalist, lyricist, actress and film producer who arose from a humble background on the strength of her talent and determination.



Born in 1984 in the small town of Cienchanow, to Wanda (a state official) and Pavel (an Olympic weightlifting champion), Doda's musical, academic and athletic abilities were apparent at an early age. In primary school, she won championships in track and long jump and did outstandingly well in school - especially in mathematics, science and language. By first grade she was performing as a singer. At one audition, the director realized that Doda could hear musical notes perfectly and sing exactly on pitch. At age 13, she left home to live in Warsaw, where she was singing in musicals at the famous Buffo Theatre, the youngest performer in their history.

Doda's singing career became so successful that she turned away from sports and was often absent from her high school classes. The school overlooked her truancy because of her charm, fame and ability to do well on exams despite her chronic absenteeism.

Doda founded a rock band, Virgin, at age sixteen, with whom she released three studio albums including the triple platinum Ficca. In 2007, Doda began a solo career that has stayed successful to this day, winning 140 awards and two more platinum albums. She is the director behind all her concerts and music videos and writes all the lyrics to her songs. In 2015 Doda performed on stage with Slash from Guns N' Roses to a sold-out crowd that went wild when she sang "Sweet Child of Mine."

Doda is always expanding into new territories. In 2018 she made her acting debut in the film *Pitbull*: *Last Dog* and just finished producing her new movie, *Girls to Buy,* which will be released soon. She is in negotiations with Polish TV to start her own reality show.

Doda is a self-described "igniter." In 2009 she spearheaded a campaign for stem cell donors and in six months' time, got 100,000 people to sign up for a bone marrow registry. In January 2019, she organized a concert called Artists Against Hate, the first such event in Polish musical history.

She is not afraid of controversy. In 2010, she was charged with "offending religious sensibilities" for remarking in a TV interview that she believed more in dinosaurs than the Bible because it is "hard to believe in something written by people who drank too much wine and smoked weed." She unsuccessfully fought this in court and had to pay a large fine. Doda recently had her entire body 3D scanned and turned it into an NFT puzzle. She is selling pieces of the puzzle to collectors.

Doda keeps her body in tip-top shape, and shows it off in revealing costumes. Part of her reason for joining Mensa was to prove that beautiful women can have a brain. Doda "lives in harmony with herself," and lives and speaks her truth. She says she isn't afraid of anyone or anything, except perhaps her mother :).

SJ

Tribal Mensa Nurturing Program



Tribal Mensa Nurturing Program is an initiative working to identify and nurture gifted children among tribal populations in India. We aim to enable and empower these children to become future leaders.

We believe that there is a strong need to recognize gifted youth, as their accomplishments, potential, the capacity to lead, their concerns about the world, and their ability to think creatively are in fact national assets. However, for these children to be successful, they need support and encouragement from peers, families, educators, programs, and organizations.

Through the Tribal Mensa initiative, we sincerely hope to be able to impact the lives of many of our country's most able young people. We hope to be able to offer them recognition, resources, and opportunities which will play an important role in their overall development.

We understand that these gifted children need to be nurtured, supported, and challenged in order for them to reach the heights that they are capable of. We hope to be a stepping stone for these children to advance, excel and flourish. The Tribal Mensa Giftedness Identification Program conducts tests to screen tribal school children in order to identify those who are gifted.

Once identified these children are nurtured through a series of activities designed to ensure maximum learning and development of the child's mind and body. Our team members make two trips a month to each school that we work with and conduct nurturing activities based on the 'Pancha Kosha' Model of Human Development which is derived from ancient Indian texts.

Each student receives a "Nurturing Kit" which contains activity books and games that challenge the child's intelligence. The Bal Yogesh Project provides the gifted students with training in basic yoga and philosophy. The Bal Mitra Upasak Project guides the student's development through physical, mental and spiritual exercise. Not only are the subjects made challenging and enjoyable to these gifted children, but special care is taken to nurture their curious minds.

To ensure that every child receives the nurturing they deserve, we provide individual counseling and conduct teacher training programs and workshops at regular intervals to enhance the quality of education.

Once the child completes school, our team provides scholarships to those students who wish to study further and improve their chances for a brighter future. Through this initiative, we strive to create future leaders among these tribal youth. We hope with time that these individuals will be able to empower their communities and our society. With the help and support of our donors, we have since the inception of this program screened more than 50 schools spread across Maharashtra, Karnataka, Arunachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Assam and have identified over 2,500 high IQ (gifted) children. These children are now undergoing skill development programs and are in different stages of intellectual nourishment. I am sure that if we work together we can help and support these young people who represent our nation's future leaders, educators, and professionals.

Reprinted from www.tribalmensa.org

When eyes meet, neurons start to fire...



Their eyes met across a crowded dance floor, causing specialized neurons to begin firing in multiple regions of both brains that are tasked with deriving meaning from a social gaze.

Although not as romantic as the first dance floor encounter, a new Yale study was able to chart this surprisingly widespread neuronal response in multiple brain areas when the eyes of two individuals meet and social gaze interaction happens, researchers reported recently in the journal *Neuron*.

"There are strong robust signals in the brain that are signatures of an interactive social gaze," said Yale's Steve Chang, associate professor of psychology and neuroscience, a member of the Wu-Tsai Institute and the Kavli Institute for Neuroscience, and the senior author of the study.

The phenomenon of extracting meaning in the gaze between two people has been documented in art and literature for millennia but scientists have had a difficult time uncovering how the brain accomplishes such a subtle feat. They have extensively studied the neurobiology of social perception, usually by giving brain scans to individuals as they are presented with specific static images, such as angry or happy faces or direct or averted gazes. However, the interactions of two individual minds as they dynamically and reciprocally extract information from each other's eyes are difficult to tackle.

Chang's lab overcame this obstacle by monitoring the brain activity of monkeys while simultaneously tracking the eye positions of two animals. This enabled them to record a large array of neurons as the animals spontaneously gazed at each other.

"They were spontaneously engaging in social interactions while we examined neural firing," Chang said. "Importantly, we were not imposing any tasks, so it was up to them to decide how and when they would interact."

They found that specific sets of socially tuned neurons fired across multiple brain regions at different times during mutual eye contact. For instance, one set of neurons fired when one individual initiated mutual eye contact, but not when that individual followed the other's gaze. Another set of neurons were active when the monkeys were in the process of deciding whether to complete mutual eye contact initiated by the other. And interestingly, when fixing a gaze onto another individual some neurons marked the distance relative to another's eyes, but when receiving a gaze yet another set of neurons signaled how close the other individual was.

The brain regions in which neuronal activation took place provided hints into how the brain assesses the meaning of the gaze. Surprisingly, part of the network activated during social gaze interaction included the prefrontal cortex, the seat of higher-order learning and decision-making, as well as the amygdala, the centre for emotion and evaluation.

"Multiple regions within the prefrontal cortex, in addition to the amygdala, are recruited to compute selective aspects of interactive social gaze, suggesting the importance of a more contemplative role during social gaze interaction," Chang said.

These areas in the prefrontal-amygdala networks activated during the processing of social gaze interaction are also known to be disrupted in cases of atypical social conditions, such as autism. This attests to their importance in achieving feelings of social connectedness, he said. Social gaze interaction likely serves a critical role in shaping social connectedness, he added, and the prefrontal-amygdala networks might make that happen.

"The fact that interactive social gaze neurons are found widely in the brain also speaks to the ethological importance of social gaze interaction," Chang said.

Yale's Siqi Fan and Olga Dal Monte are co-lead authors of the study.

medicalexpress.com May 10, 2022
graphic: Amanda Dalbjörn, unsplash.com

supplementally...

by john blinke

Get Crazy

ScienceDaily, March 28, 2022. (Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences)

"Invading Hordes of Crazy Ants May Have Finally Met Their Kryptonite."

Crazy ants are survivors. And that is a problem for humans because the ants get into everything — and they eat all organic things, living or dead. The ants are expanding their range through the American southeast and now the southwest with no evidence of slowing. But scientists at University of Texas, Austin, think a naturally occurring microsporidian might stop the creatures' spread. Researchers have been dropping infected ants into problematic colonies and this has reduced their numbers significantly in those areas. Some populations disappeared completely. Researchers are not exactly sure how this is working. It could be that the fungus kills so many worker ants that the colony can't function. Whatever the mechanism is, it only seems to affect crazy ants without bothering other insects.



Blowout

Yale News March 17, 2022. "The Oxidation Of Volcanoes — A Magma Opus." (Nature Geoscience) Contributed by Stephen Darnell.

Some volcanic eruptions are more violent than others. The difference is the amount of oxygen in the lava, according to Yale scientists. As ocean plates sink at subduction zones like the famous Pacific Ring of Fire, they take water-soaked sediment with them. The water leaves the plates and rises toward the surface on its own, lowering the melting temperature of the rock it infiltrates and lending oxygen to the melt. This oxygenated lava caused the biggest known historical eruptions, like Mount Tambora in 1815 and Mount Pinatubo in 1991.

Liquor Quicker

C&EN March 19, 2022. "Quicker Liquor and Printed Drinks." Contributed by Tom Ott.

The best consumable alcohol is said to be the stuff that is aged in wood for a number of years. But taste is just a matter of chemistry, so it should be possible to replicate the experience of vintage booze without waiting for years. Scientists working for the craft distilling company, *Bespoken Spirits*, put fragments of appropriate wood into a reactor along with selected base spirits. During a short "aging" process lasting a couple of days, they manipulate the mix of key flavor chemicals like vanillin, whisky lactones, and ethyl acetate. This yields custom-designed booze in a few days. And it uses much less water, wood, and energy than traditional methods as well as whetting the whisky whistles of customers in far less time.

Big John

New Scientist. "Triceratops Named Big John Seems to have Been Stabbed in the Head."

Given the behaviour of modern animals with horns or antlers, it seems reasonable that triceratops might have used their formidable face gear to compete for mates. This would mean locking horns and pushing each other around. But scientists prefer to see evidence to support ideas no matter how reasonable they seem. So it is with great relief that they study a privately owned triceratops specimen named Big John. At three metres tall, this is the biggest triceratops ever found. The 60% complete skeleton has a partly healed hole in its neck shield that may have been caused by the horn of another triceratops during combat. One small mystery: it seems to have been stabbed from behind!

Big Bird

ScienceDaily, June 26, 2019. "Bird Three Times Larger Than Ostrich Discovered In Crimean Cave." Somewhat to the surprise of paleontologists worldwide, giant birds once lived in Europe. Their remains had already been found in Madagascar, New Zealand, and Australia. A femur of Pachystruthio dmanisensis, an extinct bird three times the weight of the modern ostrich, was found during road construction on the north shore of the Black Sea. The bones are up to two million years old, judging from other animal fossils found nearby. So the mega birds could have co-habited with ancient humans.

(Graphic p10 by Marco Neri on unsplash.com)

Smarty Birds

ScienceDaily, March 9, 2022. "Non-Social Jays Surprise Scientists by Learning as Skilfully as Birds Living in Groups." (Nature Scientific Reports)
Good news for loners: non social California scrub-jays learn as well as gregarious Mexican jays. This is contrary to expectations because braininess is usually associated with group living due to the necessity of dealing with many flock members. Even so, according to researchers at Oregon State University, there is a difference in learning style. Mexican jays like to learn by watching others while scrub jays prefer to figure things out for themselves. **JB**

(continued from p05)

heroes who calmly pick up enormous amounts of responsibility while remaining cheerful and pleasant.

Mind Games will be held in Columbus, OH next year. If you would like to attend as a judge or guest of a judge you can check the https://www.us.mensa.org/ website under the ATTEND button and look for registration for 2023 Mind Games to open some time before September 2022.

SJ

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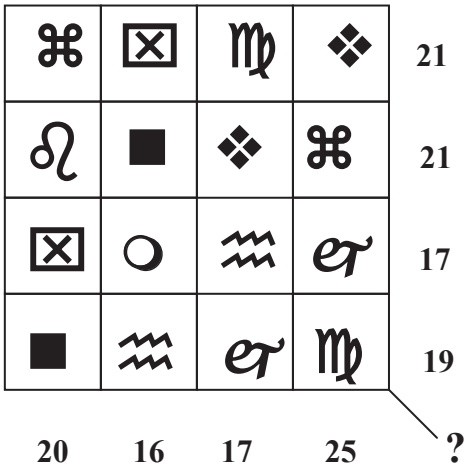
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THERESE'S TEASERS

Cryptosum

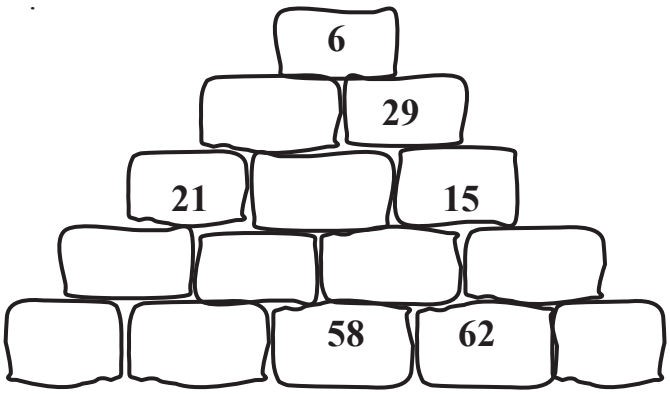
Each symbol represents a different digit from 1 to 9. The sum of the digits in each row and column is shown. Find the sum of the numbers along the diagonal line starting from the top left-hand corner.



Cairn

The number on each stone represents the difference between the numbers in the two stones on which it sits. There is a two-digit number in each of the bottom stones, using the digits 0-9 once each.

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Rebus

Decipher the rebus to find a mathematician:

50 ew =  ro 50-50

Wordplay

* Rearrange the letters of a synonym for **unnecessary** to find a synonym for **reduced**;

* Add a letter to a word meaning **something you get for work** to find a word meaning **something you do instead of work**.

* Rearrange the letters of a synonym for **perspire** to find a synonym for **refuse**;

* Decapitate a word meaning **clever** to find a **large shop**

Cryptic Wordsquare

Each solution has five letters. Place your answers in a 5 x 5 grid so that 1 Across = 1 Down, 2A = 2D etc

1. The lady is a scapegoat
2. Eli gallops in reverse – partly very nimble
3. Prong, a fungus?
4. Precipitation lets poor egghead in
5. Last boy devours poet!

Answers

Cryptosum: *22 (9 + 5 + 1 + 7)* ***Cairn:*** *79 10 58 62 43*
Rebus: *Lewis Carroll* ***Wordplay:*** *Needless, Lessened; Pay, Play.* ***Cryptic wordsquare****: Patsy Agile Tinea Sleet Yeats*

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