

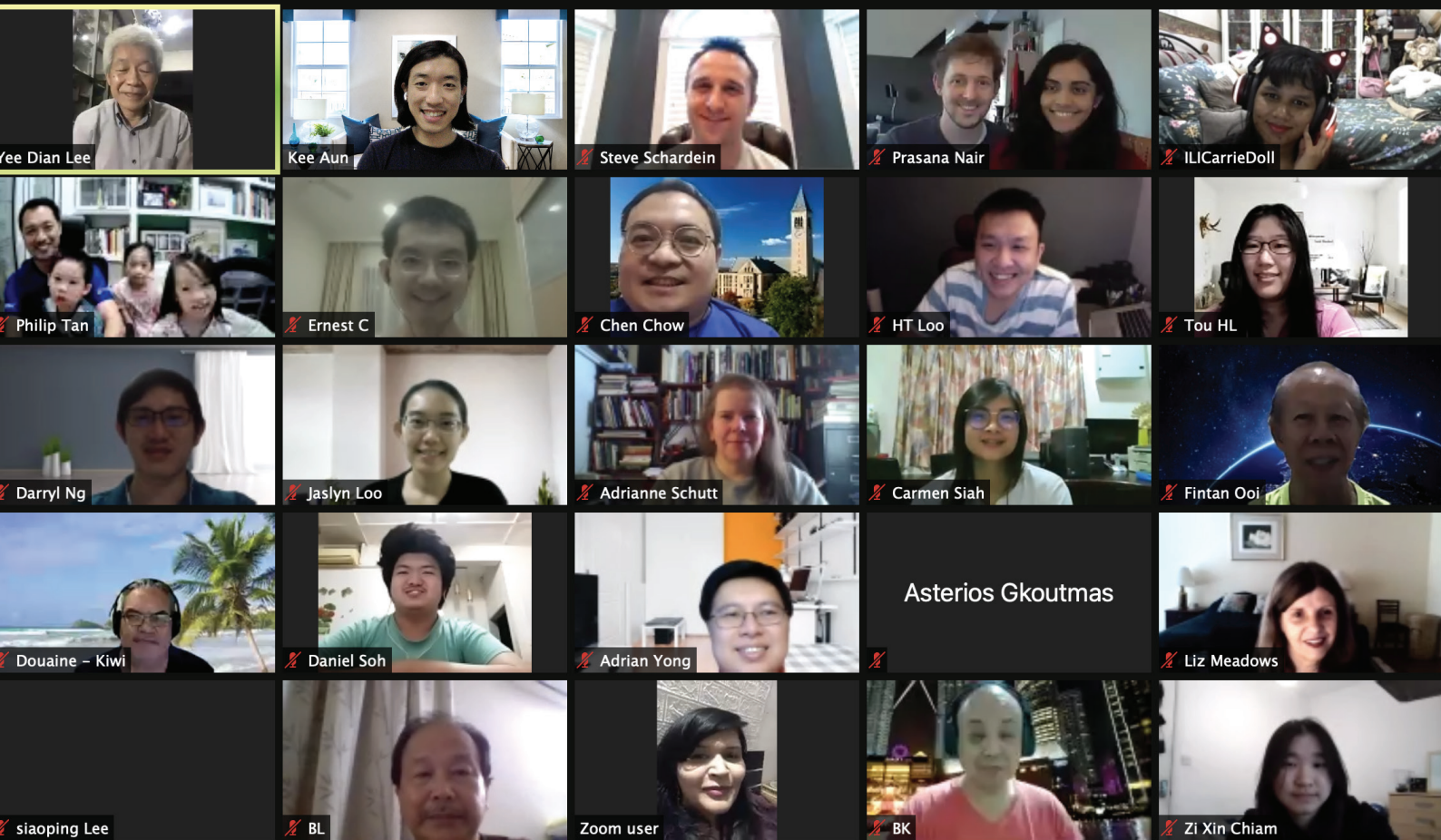


MENSA
INTERNATIONAL

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MENSA WORLD JOURNAL



Puzzles Around the World p5

what's in the mwj this month...

- on p3, **Chris Leek**, Chairman of British Mensa talks about the many advantages of being a volunteer; now it's your opportunity to join the wonderful volunteer team at Mensa International (details on P2).

- grab your camera for some serious photography; the quest for the Mensa International Photographer of the Year 2021 has begun! General information is on p2 and the rules for our DIMs are on p8.

- what does Mensa mean to you? On p4, **Simone Dogu**, International Communications Officer, outlines a new digital project to help celebrate Mensa's 75th birthday.

- a Malaysian Mensa e-group has extended its puzzles forum to members worldwide. Read about their first meeting on p5.

- on p7, our Member Profile this month features young French perfumier **Andréa Lefébure** and on p9, we learn that sleep is irreplaceable for the recovery of the brain.

- sharing page 9 is the poem of one of the finalists in the MWJ International Poetry competition, 2020, **Annabelle Higgins**. (Information for this year's competition is on p7.)

- on p10, our Science guru, **John Blinke**, explains (among other things) how some electric eels coordinate attacks to zap their prey, while **Therese Moodie-Blooms** confounds a lot of us (as is usual) with her Brain Teasers on p12.

Happy reading!

Kate Nacard, Editor

Download the full-colour MWJ each month from www.mensa.org

Join our volunteer team!

If you are interested in volunteering for Mensa International, now is your opportunity to apply! Take the chance to become part of a great international team!

The following international positions and committees are due to be appointed in 2021 with the term commencing after the IBD meeting in August:

Awards Committee 2021-2023

Constitution Review Officer 2021-2023

Strategic Management Advisory Committee 2021-2023

International Volunteers Network committee 2021-2022

What to do?

Job descriptions for each role and the application form are available on www.bit.ly/MIVolunteers21 (you must be logged on to view the page).

Who can apply?

These positions are open to all members worldwide. Members currently serving in a position or on a committee are requested to reapply if they wish to continue to serve in that role.

Any questions? I will be happy to answer them!

Isabella Holz, Director of Administration

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Mensa International Photographer of the Year 2021

The art of photography is an area where Mensans from over fifty countries with different languages, customs and traditions can converge with a single, visual language! Use your creativity, skills, and technical expertise to produce your entry in this year's Photocup competition. The theme for 2021 is **Balance**.

If your Mensa chapter is holding a national competition to select entries for the International phase, a set of the rules and closing dates will be available from your national office or board. Top three national entries will be sent to the Mensa International competition.

Direct International Members and members from countries not holding national contests are eligible to enter the International competition by sending two entries only to photocup2021@gmail.com by July 15, 2021. (Complete rules for DIMs on p8)

**The Mensa International Photographer of the Year 2021
could be you!**

The past few weeks have been quite a roller-coaster here in the UK...

John Stevenage, Chief Executive of British Mensa, is stepping down from the role after 21 years in the post, with our thanks for all his hard work on behalf of Mensa. Given Covid restrictions, the search for a new Chief Executive involved carrying out all interviews via Zoom – a new experience for me.

We identified Cath Hill as an excellent successor to John and she took up her post at the beginning of February, bringing with her a wealth of fresh ideas. Shortly before Cath's arrival, we experienced an extended 'brute force' attack on our national Mensa website and, separately, some confidential data was published on an internal forum. We had to shut down the British Mensa website while carrying out a full security review and passing on our findings to the Information Commissioner's office (ICO). In parallel, a director, and his partner, resigned their posts on our national board, following a unanimous 'vote of no confidence' in the Director, and promptly gave interviews to a national paper resulting in damaging press for Mensa. I am still dealing with the repercussions. A true 'baptism of fire' for our new CEO, in her first week, and one she survived without flinching – which bodes well for the future.

On a more positive note, the last public talk I gave about Mensa was to students (an advanced learners group) at Tytherington School, while in a few days I'm looking forward to giving a talk to members of the University of the Third Age (U3A) - the other end of the age spectrum. These varied experiences this past week have brought home to me again both the challenges and the benefits of being a volunteer.

It's involved a lot of hard work and quite a few long days - that's the downside. On the other hand, I have had the opportunity to learn new skills and refresh old ones. I've been faced with challenging problems and had the fun of resolving them. I've learnt a lot talking to our IT companies, reviewing our systems, and gained fresh insights talking to applicants for the Chief Executive role. Researching what's happening around the Mensa world while pulling together presentations for both ends of the age spectrum, reminded me again of what a varied group we are and how we cater for a huge range of interests. While struggling to work through fresh challenges, I have had help and support from the British Mensa office, and fellow

FROM THE EXCOMM

Chris Leek



volunteers, but also great support from other members offering assistance and advice, or simply expressing gratitude for what the board has been doing. It's amazing and humbling, to experience again at first hand, as I have in the past, what a great

(continued from p03)

support network Mensa can provide.

Around the world Mensa has an army of volunteers serving on boards, organising meetings, producing newsletters, administering test sessions, and doing all the tasks that keep our society running smoothly and help provide such a welcoming and stimulating environment for members.

The benefits this brings for the society are clear - but what are the benefits for the volunteers who give up their time and expertise? The answers are many and varied. For some it's to learn new skills. Even after 23 years as a volunteer I regularly find more to learn - or relearn - I know a lot more about data security today than I did even a week ago, and also received a good lesson in communication.

For others, it's about gaining valuable real-world experience. Something to put on your CV and improve employment prospects, or simply doing something you enjoy. It may be editing a newsletter, organising a meeting or, these days, learning how to run a virtual party. Whatever it is you will find - as I have - people happy to help. That can be through your national Mensa (for instance British Mensa's professional Mensa Magazine editor runs development workshops for the editors of Regional and SIGs magazines, and we have annual conferences and workshops for regional officers). Or it can be through offers of help from other members -

digital campaign for facebook and twitter

As Mensa is celebrating its 75th birthday this year, we've decided to introduce Mensans from all over the world and ask them, "What does Mensa mean to you?" The feedback has been great, and we've received some very interesting views and perspectives. From now on, you will see regular postings like these from Mensans worldwide on our social media channels.

So, be curious! Find out what Mensa means to your fellow Mensans.

But we also want to know what Mensa means to YOU! So, if you would be interested in being part of this campaign, please send us your statement, along with your name, national Mensa and a photo of yourself - and please make sure it's a high-res image. Thanks!

We look forward to hearing from you!

You can follow us here:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/mensainternational>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/MensaInternat>

Simone Dogu, International Communications Officer

digitalmarketing@mensa.org



for instance in a shared Special Interest Group. Some volunteer simply because they can make a difference - it's a chance to contribute to making this the sort of society, and world, you want to be part of. There are also the spin-off benefits - getting to meet members from all walks of life, finding yourself forming relationships that can last a lifetime. For me, at least in part, it's about giving something back to a society that has brought me a great deal of pleasure over the years (not least being meeting my wife through Mensa). Taking on new challenges is a great way of expanding your horizons - always worthwhile - and, especially knowing you have the support to fall back on of your local or national group or fellow volunteers if you hit problems, a good way of boosting self-confidence.

As a complete aside - I mentioned above about learning a lesson in communication. Recently I became completely focused on working with our IT support to block the cyber-attack on our IT infrastructure, track down the culprit(s), and handle PR issues arising - and forgot about keeping clear and open communication. Two members promptly reminded me - one of them, who had been a sister in a busy Intensive Care Unit, told me how communication had been one of their priorities as it was no good waiting for a relative to walk in, while they were resuscitating a family member, and ask what was happening. They were quite right - and I was glad of the reminder.

Finally - I am told studies show volunteering is good for your health - helping give a sense of purpose, higher confidence, decreasing stress levels and strengthening your immune system. I don't know if that is true, though I can well believe it, but it definitely can be both challenging and fun!

Chris Leek
Chairman, British Mensa

Puzzles Around the World - an introduction.

The world of puzzles can be puzzling for many. They come in all shapes and sizes and at the mercy of human ingenuity, continue to show up, blurring the lines of what is possible.

Think puzzles, and most people think about the Rubik's Cube, perpetuated into pop culture fame as the epitome of all that is ingenious and puzzling. But there is much more beyond.

In our *Puzzles Around the World* event, Mr. Lee Yee Dian introduced ten different types. A nomenclature defined by American historian, collector and author Jerry Slocum was shown to us, and that formed the backbone of the conversation for the rest of the night.

He first took out a box that contained a book written in ancient Chinese and with a square hole in the middle of it. Carefully, he removed the pieces from the hole and revealed them to be pieces

of a tangram. While common today, this particular set dates back to 1840, demonstrating that puzzles go way back into history.

As we worked down the list, Yee Dian introduced a padlock which he had come across in the markets in the streets of Mumbai, India. It was a fascinating contraption - at first glance it presented itself as an ordinary lock. The puzzle was that no matter how much you turned the key, it wouldn't unlock. A swivel shields the hole and the keen puzzle-solver will soon realise that it's not to cover the keyhole, but when turned at an angle, allows for the real keyhole to be revealed - the vital "aha" moment that keeps puzzle-solvers coming back for more!

Another piece Yee Dian brought out was a curious Dodecahedron from Israel. Created by Philippe Dubois, it consists of 30 wooden rods interlocking to create a geometrical sphere-like structure. And unlike many types of interlocking puzzles, this one does not have a "key" to hold it together. Usually in puzzles like these, there will be a linchpin piece; which removed, unravels the puzzle. What makes this puzzle special is that it does not have that unique piece. They are all the same.

If there's one thing one can take away from this session, it is that puzzles, in many of their forms, are unique works of art in their own right. Purposefully designed, it is no surprise that the creators of these puzzles put a lot of thought into the craft





and many of the designs also display aesthetic beauty. Be it in form or choice of materials, these pieces exude beauty as finely-crafted sculptures carrying their own weight in value. But layering the aesthetics of these pieces is a unique appeal to the human affective.

It taunts, teases and conceals. It compels us to work it, negotiate, pry, demand, beg, and use everything at our disposal for it to give up its secret. And yet it will not budge. Not until it has deemed us worthy that at the final moment, the "aha" moment arrives. The puzzle is finally solved. We breathe a sigh of relief and in that instant, find ourselves in an eternal bond of secrecy with this artifact - wondering if in the puzzle's unravelling, that perhaps, just perhaps, the puzzle was also unravelling us.

*The Malaysian Mensa mChats is a monthly event where members come together to share topics of interest with one another. This is the first time this event has been made available to members from around the world through online streaming. Look out for more events on the Mensa International Workplace. For a recording of this event, please visit the event at Mensa International Workplace:
<https://mensainternational.workplace.com/events/681812385824906/permalink/693094064696738/>*

Tan Kee Aun - Malaysian Mensa

Jerry Slocum Mechanical Puzzle Classification

1. **Put-Together Puzzles** -
Object: Putting puzzle together (eg. Tangrams) 
2. **Take-Apart Puzzles** -
Object: Taking puzzle apart (eg. trick locks) 
3. **Interlocking Solid Puzzles** -
Object: Puzzle disassembly and assembly (eg. burr puzzles) 
4. **Disentanglement Puzzles** -
Object: Puzzle disentanglement and entanglement (eg. Chinese Rings) 
5. **Sequential Movement Puzzles** -
Object: Moving puzzle parts to attain goal (eg. Rubik's Cube) 
6. **Dexterity Puzzles** -
Object: Manual dexterity to solve puzzle (eg. Cup and Ball) 
7. **Puzzle Vessels** -
Object: Filling vessel or drinking without spilling (eg. puzzle jugs) 
8. **Vanish Puzzles** -
Object: Explain vanished or changed image (eg. Get Off the Earth) 
9. **Folding Puzzles** -
Object: Fold object to specified pattern (eg. Fifth Pig Puzzle) 
10. **Impossible Puzzles** -
Object: Explain how object was made (eg. arrow through bottle) 
11. **Other Mechanical Puzzles** 

how do our memories take shape?

Your brain is constantly evaluating which aspects of your experiences to either remember for later, ignore, or forget. Dartmouth researchers have developed a new approach for studying these aspects of memory, by creating a computer program that turns sequences of events from a video into unique geometric shapes. These shapes can then be compared to the shapes of how people recounted the events. The study provides new insight into how experiences are committed to memory and recounted to others.

The results are published in *Nature Human Behavior* and were based on how people remembered the experience of watching an episode of *Sherlock*, a BBC television show.

“When we represent experiences and memories as shapes, we can use the tools provided by the field of geometry to explore how we remember our experiences, and to test theories of how we think, learn, remember, and communicate,” explained senior author Jeremy R. Manning, an assistant professor of psychological and brain sciences, and

director of the Contextual Dynamics Lab at Dartmouth.

“When you experience something, its shape is like a fingerprint that reflects its unique meaning, and how you remember or conceptualize that experience can be turned into another shape. We can think of our memories like distorted versions of our original experiences. Through our research, we wanted to find out when and where those distortions happen (i.e. what do people get right and what do people get wrong), and examine how accurate our memories of experiences are,” he added.

The Dartmouth research team examined a public dataset containing brain recordings from 17 people who had watched the *Sherlock* episode and then described what had happened in their own words. The dataset also contained detailed scene-by-scene annotations of the episode.

The team ran those annotations through their computer program to identify 32 unique topics or themes that were present in each moment of the episode. Through computer modelling, the researchers then created a “topic model” of the episode, which was comprised of 32 dimensions to reflect each thematic topic. Different moments of the episode that reflected similar themes were assigned to nearby locations in the 32-dimensional space. When these results are visualized in 2D, a connect-the-dots-like representation of successive events emerges.

The shape of that representation

reflects how the thematic content of the episode changes over time, and how different moments are related. The researchers used an analogous process to obtain the shapes of how each of the 17 participants recounted the events of the episode.

When the geometric shapes representing the *Sherlock* episode were compared to the shapes representing a participant’s recounting of it, the researchers were able to identify which aspects of the episode people tended to remember accurately, forget or distort. The coarse spatial structure of the episode’s shape reflects the major plot points and acts like a building’s scaffolding.

The shape of every participant’s recounting reproduced this coarse-scale scaffolding, indicating that every participant accurately remembered the major plot points. The episode’s shape also comprises finer-scale structure, analogous to architectural embellishments and decorations, that reflected specific low-level conceptual details. Some participants accurately recounted many of those low-level details, whereas others recounted only the high-level plot points.

“One of our most intriguing findings was that, as people were watching the episode, we could use their brain activity patterns to predict the distorted shapes that their memories would take on when they recounted it later,” explained Manning. “This suggests that some of the details about our ongoing experiences get distorted in our brains from the

(continued on p11)

MEMBER PROFILE

by Susan Jensen



Andréa Lefébure, a member of Mensa France, knew at a very young age that she wanted to create an exceptional perfume. At fifteen, she began working toward that goal.

Growing up in Versailles, Andréa was an outstanding student in art and science. She became an accomplished painter, took ballet, and learned to fence. Andréa became fluent in English and conversant in Italian and Chinese.

As a young teen, Andréa began dreaming of marrying her interests in art and science into a fine perfume. Andréa's high school was the Lycée Claude Monet, and inspired by the school's namesake, she began thinking about creating a perfume that conveyed the subtle florals of an Impressionist painting.

After receiving a degree in biochemistry from Paris Diderot University, she obtained a degree in management at Sciences Po Paris, focusing on entrepreneurship and marketing. While in college she spent a year in Milan at Bocconi University studying how to incorporate great art into luxury brands.

Andréa launched her own perfume brand in November 2019 at age 23, called *Les Fleurs De L'Art*. She and a friend, Marie, do all the blending to create the perfumes.

Funded entirely by her own savings,

Andréa was able to achieve complete artistic control over her product. She set up her factory in Domaine Sainte Blanche in Grasse, France's perfume capital. The glass bottles are made in Normandy with a serigraph of real gold. The labels are Monet/Degas watercolours. Under her brand, she has three perfumes, each inspired by a different Impressionist painting: *La Danseuse d'Edgar*, *Le Pont De Claude* and *La Fleur de Claude*.

The pandemic hasn't slowed her down. In 2020, five French museums agreed to carry her perfumes in their museum shops and her online business has taken off. She hopes to break into the American market soon.

Andréa lives alone in a small apartment in downtown Paris. She is up at the crack of dawn, enjoying the view on the Seine. She likes to take long walks to boost her creativity. For relaxation, she fences. She often visits her parents who live in a building across the street. At this young age, Andréa is already giving back to the community, especially the artistic community. Her first philanthropic endeavour was contributing money to the *Musée D'Orsay* so they could buy a new painting.

Andréa joined Mensa just as the pandemic hit, so she has not yet been able to participate in Mensa gatherings. She looks forward to meeting new friends and single male Mensans once in-person get-togethers resume.



Like so many French natives, Andréa enjoys reading philosophy. She has been particularly drawn to Helen Keller's motto: *Life is either a daring adventure or nothing at all.*

MWJ INTERNATIONAL

POETRY COMPETITION 2021

Members are invited to submit their original poems to the editor, mwjeditor@mensa.org, by August 1, 2021.

Poems are to be previously unpublished and no longer than 30 lines in length. The theme for the competition is *Reflection*. All entries must be in English and following the judges' decision, no correspondence will be entered into.

By submitting an entry (maximum of one entry) into the competition, members understand that their poem may be published in the *Mensa World Journal* or in any other National Mensa journal at the editors' discretion. The author will, of course, be acknowledged.

Please include your National Mensa and membership number with your entry.

MENSA PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

Intercontinental Project Convergence “IPC”

the Search for the

Mensa International Photographer of the Year 2021

Rules of the competition for Direct International Members (DIMs)

1. This competition is organized by Mensa International as part of the International Project Convergence.
2. The theme for 2021 is “BALANCE”
3. There is no fee for entry into the Competition. To enter as a Direct International Member (DIM) the entrant must be a member in good standing of Mensa International, or of a national Mensa group that is not running a national competition, for the duration of the competition. Important: Members of national groups should ask their national office or board for details of their national competition. Only submit using these guidelines if your national group confirms they are NOT taking part in Project Convergence.
4. Photos should be in .jpg format. Entries in the DIM category must be received by July 15, 2021.
5. Name, country, membership number and title of photograph should be included in the photo information/ label or in the text of the email.
6. The photos should be e-mailed to the following address: **photocup2021@gmail.com**.
Please note: any entries sent to Mensa International by members of a national group that is running a national competition will be declared invalid and will not be passed to the national Mensa for inclusion in their competition.
7. Each entrant may submit two colour images.
8. All entries must be the sole work of the entrant.
9. Any promotion of entries is not allowed.
10. The three best entries in the Direct International category (including members of non-participating national groups) will be selected by a judging panel organized by Mensa International separately from the International judging panel. Entries will be judged on the effectiveness of how they convey the theme as well as composition, technical and other considerations. The decision of the Judging Panel is final.
11. The three best entries in each national Mensa competition and in the DIM category will be included in the Mensa World Photo Cup competition run under the supervision of Mensa International.
12. The International winner (MI Photographer of the Year) will be selected by a judging panel.
13. Winning photographs will become part of the ‘Mensa IPC Collection’ and will be exhibited at the Annual Gatherings and otherwise publicised, inside and outside Mensa.
14. Entrants will retain copyright of their photos but will grant Mensa non-exclusive rights for publication in Mensa journals, on Mensa websites, on Photo SIG posters, for display in exhibitions, or other appropriate places as part of the Mensa IPC Collection without any financial reward to the contestant.
15. Contestants agree that their name and country may be published nationally and internationally.
16. By submitting entries for the competition, the entrant accepts all the conditions listed above.

Closing date for DIMs’ entries: July 15, 2021.

NB: The results of the Photographer of the Year 2020 will be published in the May issue of the MWJ.

Sleep Is Irreplaceable for the Recovery of the Brain

Sleep is ubiquitous in animals and humans and vital for healthy functioning. Thus, sleep after training improves performance on various tasks in comparison to equal periods of active wakefulness.

However, it has been unclear so far whether this is due to an active refinement of neural connections or merely due to the absence of novel input during sleep. Now researchers at the Medical Center – University of Freiburg have succeeded in showing that sleep is more than rest for improving performance.

The findings, which were published in the journal *SLEEP* on January 6, 2021, provide important information for planning periods of intensive learning or training.

“Sleep is irreplaceable for the recovery of the brain. It cannot be replaced by periods of rest for improved performance. The state of the brain during sleep is unique,” says Prof. Dr. Christoph Nissen, who headed the study as research group leader at the University of Freiburg and is now working at the University of Bern, Switzerland.

In earlier studies, Nissen and his team provided evidence for the notion that sleep has a dual function for the brain: unused connections are weakened and relevant connections are strengthened.

In the current study, the researchers conducted a visual learning experiment with 66 participants. First, all participants were trained in dis-

tinguishing certain patterns. Afterwards, one group was awake watching videos or playing table tennis. The second group slept for one hour and the third group stayed awake, but was in a darkened room without external stimuli and under controlled sleep laboratory conditions.

Not only did the group that slept perform significantly better than the group that was awake and active, but the sleep group also performed significantly better than the group that was awake, but deprived from any external stimuli. The improvement in performance was linked to typical deep-sleep activity of the brain, which has an important function for the connectivity of nerve cells.

“This shows that it is sleep itself that makes the difference,” says co-study leader Prof. Dr. Dieter Riemann, head of the sleep laboratory at the Department of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy at the Medical Center – University of Freiburg. In control experiments, the Freiburg researchers ensured that fatigue and other general factors had no influence on the results.

The study shows that sleep cannot be replaced by rest during phases of intensive performance demands at work or in everyday life.

Neurosciencenews.com January 7, 2021

Girl With Peaches

by Annabelle Higgins

*The doors ever closed, the walls ever plain,
In the aura of silence all's ever the same,
The fragile plate hanging, stationary, will not
fall,
The world staring is large, and a painting is
small.*

*Layer by layer, he painted my skin,
Caught every true shade, and the meaning
within,
He dressed me in pink with an eloquent bow,
Speaking silently, but its message does show.*

*He made a bright window to tempt, not see
He did it all well, with no thought to me
My master the painter, to whom I refer,
He's long in his grave; mine does ever defer.*

*I feel layers of medium, breathe in painted
fumes,
See all other pictures in their gay, bright cos-
tumes,
I wonder what they see when they look in my
frame,
They all wonder too - it's the artist's old game.*

*We paintings are dumb; we have no real sense,
And for all your admiring get no recompense
We are skill incarnate, yet have none ourselves,
But live like dead things on walls or on shelves.*

*I've hands, you see, purposed to interact,
But they are clasped together, permanent,
intact,
Fingers that writhe inwardly to grasp my intent,
But my figure can't fulfil my mind's simple bent.*

*They lie in front - right there, still ripe and
sweet*

*Though my longing tongue their juice shall
never meet,*

*Fate is cruel, you see - never permitting
breaches,*

*A picture is just that - I'm only the girl with
peaches.*

supplementally...

Wasps vs Airplanes

New Scientist, December 5, 2020.

“Wasps In Australia Are Endangering Planes By Building Nests On Them.”

Murder hornets are bad news for bee colonies. But keyhole wasps in Australia can wreck airplanes! They don't drag jet liners home for their young to eat. But they build nests in confined places like the pitot probes that measure air speed. This confuses flight computers and can cause planes to crash. In order to prove the wasps were causing the problem, researchers 3-D printed some decoy pitot probes and set them where the wasps would find them. Sure enough, the small wasps built nests in the decoys. Now ground crews cover the tubes until a plane is ready to take off.

Heart of Darkness.

Archaeology, September/October, 2020.

“Dark Earth in the Amazon.”

Tropical soil is famously poor in nutrients. Yet ancient peoples of Amazonia fed huge populations 6,000 years ago. They did this by creating plots of fertile land many yards deep and hundreds of acres in size. They probably noticed that plants grew better on refuse heaps. So they started mixing refuse with the soil. Pot sherds, charcoal, and all kinds of food leftovers were used to create ADEs - Amazonian Dark Earths - where they could grow food crops in the midst of the jungle.

Mysterious Steve

Science News, November 12, 2020.

“STEVE May be Even Less Like Typical Auroras Than Scientists Thought.”

The night sky still has mysteries, but technology is pushing them back. Luminous sprites and jets were found over

thunderstorms when high speed, high sensitivity videography became available. Then STEVE, a mysterious ribbon of purple sky glow, was found to be distinct from aurora. Now, STEVE has company. There are green picket fence features crossing the purple streamers. They are the same green colour as ordinary aurora, which implies some kind of connection. But their origin is unknown and their geometry inexplicable.

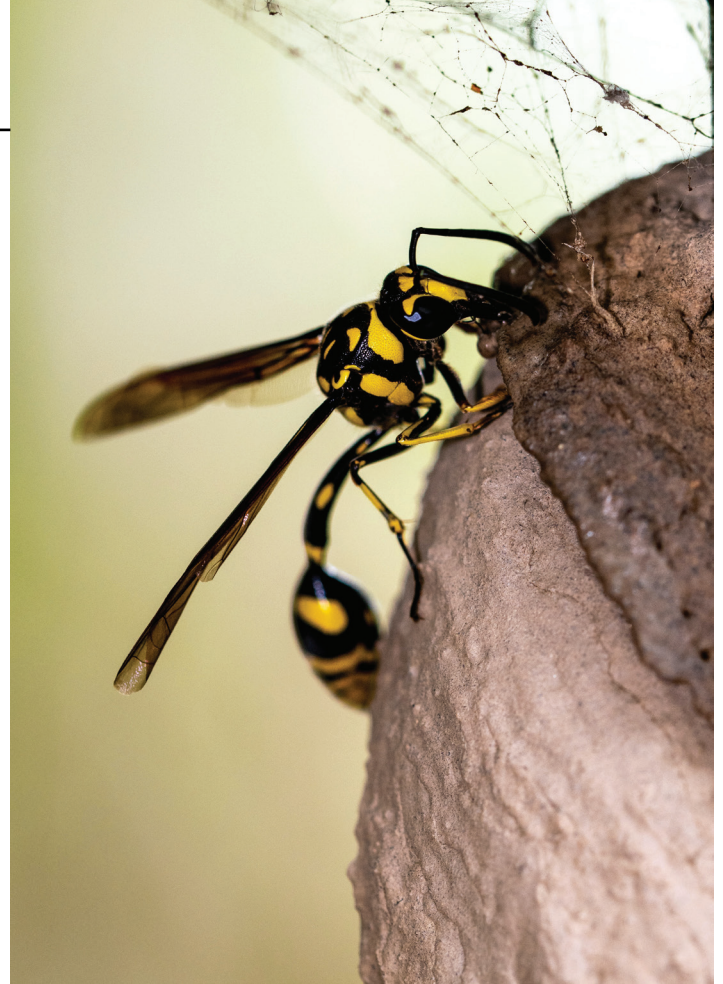
Hunting Land

New Scientist, December 5, 2020. “Climate Change Has Revealed A Huge Haul Of Ancient Arrows In Norway.”

If you fire an arrow at a deer, you probably will not get the arrow back. Scientists from the Universities of Cambridge, Oslo, and Bergen, have found evidence that this has been going on for thousands of years. Melting glaciers in Norway have deposited 68 wooden arrow shafts and many arrow points in about 40 acres of forest between 4,100 BCE and 1,300 CE. That is a huge number of arrows to find in one place. The points were made of iron, bone, slate, and quartzite. Except for the relative proximity of the weapons to each other, researchers can't say much about their locations because moving ice has pushed them around. Wood, of course, can be carbon dated.

Plant Evolution

Science News, November 20, 2020.



“These Plants Seem Like They're Trying to Hide From People.”

In *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, the Haggunenons are a disgruntled species that evolves randomly in less time than it takes to have tea. The Chinese medicinal plant *Fritillaria delavayi* isn't quite that bad, but it seems to have evolved camouflage very quickly. The plants are naturally bright green and easy to spot on the rocky slopes where they live. But they become mud coloured in areas where they are harvested heavily. They have no natural enemies, so they must be reacting to harvesting

New Drugs

ScienceDaily, December 23, 2020. “New Class Of Antibiotics Active Against A Wide Range Of Bacteria.”

What do bacteria have that people lack? They have a methyl-D-erythritol phosphate (MEP) metabolic pathway. Because bacteria depend on it and we don't, medical scientists should be able to use drugs to target that path without harming human patients. Scientists at Wistar Institute have isolated a chemical that does this and also invokes a strong

immune reaction. This constitutes a two-pronged attack that bacteria may not evade easily.

Eel Circus

Science News, January 14, 2021. "Some Electric Eels Coordinate Attacks to Zap their Prey."

We think of electric eels as solitary hunters. But researchers have seen hundreds of them working together to feed. They swarm to corral thousands of small fish in shallow water. Then groups of a dozen move in to stun the prey and eat them. After a couple of hours, all the eels have had their fill.

john blinke

(continued from p06)

moment they are stored as new memories. Even when two people experience the same physical event, their subjective experiences of that event start to diverge from the moment their brains start to make sense of what happened and distill that event into memories."

The research team plans to apply their approach to other domains, including in health and education, as their methods of modelling the shapes of memories could be used to provide a more nuanced way of assessing if a patient will understand or remember what their doctor is telling them, or whether a student understands specific concepts in a course lecture.

neurosciencenews.com February 2021

Writing for the MWJ

The *Mensa World Journal* is your magazine; by and large, most of the articles are written by Mensans - for Mensans - and the opportunity is there for you to be one of these authors.

Topics can cover reports of Mensa events you've attended, your achievements, unusual hobbies and interests, or your successes.

Please limit your article length to 600 words and send it to me at mwjeditor@mensa.org. Please also include a hi-res photo to accompany the article, your National Mensa and your membership number.

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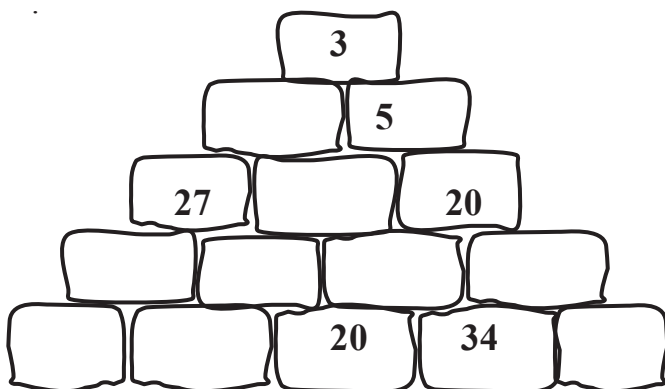
Cryptosum

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.

◆	♁	□	◆	15
⬆	◆	☯	♁	19
☯	♁	⊗	⬆	25
□	♁	♁	♁	20
24	14	19	22	?

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.



Rebus

Decipher the rebus to find a place:



Wordplay

Use all ten letters in PERCUSSION to find another audio-related word.

Riddle

My first letter's in SINGER, but isn't in ROUND;
 My second's in TRUMPET, but never in SOUND.
 My third is in CELLO, but isn't in STRING;
 My fourth is in CHOIR but isn't in SING.
 My fifth is in SERVICE but not in MASS;
 My last is in organ but isn't in BASS.
 My whole is a system, for listening to Jazz.

Anagrams

The Actress: E.IN A COLD MINK (6,6)
 The Movie: OLD MAN, I COUNT (4,8)
 The Director: MY HOG, THEN, LANA-LIN (7,9)

Answers

Cryptosum: 19 (4+ 2 + 7 + 6) **Cairn:** 71 59 20 34 68
Rebus: The Red Sea **Wordplay:** Supersonic
Riddle: Stereo **Anagrams:** Nicole Kidman; Cold Mountain; Anthony Minghella

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