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Photo courtesy of www.neumann.photos

EMAG in beautiful Brno, Czech Republic p5

what's in the MWJ this month...



Dr. Joseph S. Renzulli, the Mensa Foundation's 2021 Lifetime Achievement Award recipient

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Download/read the full-colour MWJ at www.mensa.org

For more than 40 years, the research and advocacy of Dr. Joseph S. Renzulli have reverberated across American classrooms, revolutionizing curriculum development, teaching techniques, and learning models. With a focus on the identification and development of creativity and giftedness in young people, his organizational models and curricular strategies have resulted in numerous pedagogical breakthroughs.

Positing that creativity is inextricably linked with giftedness and “viewing giftedness as a displayed behavior rather than a possessed trait,” Dr. Renzulli’s efforts have for decades led to the development of new strategies to identify students for participation in gifted and talented programs. His impact has extended through his advocacy, emphasizing the need to apply the pedagogy and strategies common in gifted education to improve learning environments for all students.

His 1978 publication in Phi Delta Kappan, “What Makes Giftedness? Re-examining a Definition,” would “blaze the trail for what is now a hallmark of gifted education, talent development,” according to Dr. Melissa Mitchell. Later, his groundbreaking work on The Three Ring Conception of Giftedness, the Entrenchment Model, and curriculum compacting and differentiation would all be viewed as pioneering education efforts.

“Dr. Renzulli’s lifetime of pioneering research has led to substantial, positive changes in the theory and practice of

pedagogy for all,” Mensa Foundation President Charlie Steinhice said. “But what impresses me the most is his dedication to putting those ideas into action, especially for low-income students with high potential.”

Dr. Renzulli has been recognized with numerous educational and research accolades. He’s the recipient of three Mensa Foundation Awards for Excellence in Research (2003, 2013, and 2019), has been named one of the 25 most influential psychologists in the world by the American Psychological Association, and was honoured in 2009 with the Harold W. McGraw, Jr. Award for Innovation in Education - one of the most prestigious honours in the field.

Dr. Renzulli is professor of educational psychology at the University of Connecticut and has served as the director of the National Research Center on the Gifted and Talented and as a consultant to the White House Task Force on Education of the Gifted and Talented. A founding director of the University of Connecticut’s Neag Center for Gifted Education and Talent Development, the centre was renamed the Renzulli Center for Creativity, Gifted Education, and Talent Development in 2016 in his honor.

The Mensa Foundation's Lifetime Achievement Award is presented every other year in recognition of a lifetime of contributions to the field of intelligence and related subjects.

FROM THE EXCOMM

José L. Martínez, Director of Development

A clear path forward

In the ever-changing world in which we are all living and trying our best, the COVID-19 pandemic was that surprise punch that leaves any boxer facing the floor, trying to understand what happened while gathering strength to be back on their feet and continue the fight. This added chaos and disarray has left most of us, as individuals, looking for directions and new paths to walk. It has shifted the priorities of almost every person, group, association and country, and that, of course, affects Mensa as an organization, because now it's more difficult than ever to land on a new place, take the first test, and kickstart a new national chapter with the most fundamental benefit of being a Mensan: to meet and establish relations with awesome people.

As the scenario in front of me looks uncertain and difficult for performing my duty as the International Director of Development, I've been looking for an angle, an opening, to face this new challenge. I've found that now, more than ever, new social groups are wanted everywhere, because a crisis is also an opportunity to change. That thought has given me the momentum I need to build a clear path forward in the future of our beloved association.

With that in mind I've started contacting authorities in Uruguay, Chile, Ecuador, Bolivia and Paraguay to get official information about restrictions in travels, social gatherings, quarantines, and places to take the test. I've also been working on the fundamentals for the digital promotion of those tests, as I have received a lot of interest from those countries to start a new Mensa and, based on the experience gathered by Argentina, Brazil and Peru, I know for a fact how our focus group in South America is made up.

That said, after the restrictions to receive Argentinians loosen up a little bit outside South America, I will focus our efforts to form new chapters in Nigeria, Estonia, Portugal, United Arab Emirates and Thailand, and our development efforts to make already established chapters grow larger,



as is the case with Bosnia & Herzegovina, Colombia, Cyprus, Indonesia, Luxembourg, North Macedonia, Pakistan, Peru and the Philippines. I know that sounds like a lot for one person, and that is completely right. That is why I'll be forming teams with other Mensans that offer their help to achieve this beautiful goal of making Mensa bigger and better, day by day.

If you are interested in participating and have a vocation for hard and persistent work, please contact me directly at development-mil@mensa.org, in English or Spanish. We are going to need help taking the tests,

(continued on p11)

Empathy in Everyday Life

Researchers at the University of Toronto are studying our capacity for empathy, or our ability to sense and understand someone else's emotions, and are debunking some common misconceptions along the way.

Their work, recently published in the journal *Psychological Science*, is potentially important since empathy is fundamental to maintaining meaningful and healthy relationships, making it a big part of our daily lives.

“We want to get a description of empathy by looking at it in everyday life, across different emotions and social contexts,” says Greg Depow, a PhD student who is studying social psychology at the University of Toronto Scarborough. “We want to study empathy more in environments closer to how it is actually experienced in real life.”

The study, which was co-authored with Professor Michael Inzlicht, looked at perceptions of empathy in 246 American adults. Depow says one goal of the research is to fill in gaps from previous work to offer a deeper, more authentic view of empathy. This was done by looking at who is more likely to be empathetic and how often we take the opportunity to empathize per day.

The research also looked at how empathy impacts subjective well-being, which is the scientific term

for happiness and sense of purpose in life.

Opportunities to empathize with others occur when one observes the emotions of another person or stranger. This can be done in person or even on social media – for example, when you notice a friend’s emotional status or posts.

The researchers found that people will empathize when they recognize the opportunity to do so, but often notice other people’s emotions without flagging them as opportunities to empathize.

“People were seeing these emotional experiences of other people, but weren’t flagging them as opportunities to empathize,” Depow says. “If you crunch the numbers a bit, it seems as though a third of emotions people see in daily life are not seen as opportunities for empathy.”

Learning what differentiates missed and flagged opportunities may be key to learning how to recognize and provide opportunities for empathy more successfully, Depow says.

“One thing that I’m interested in is differentiating missed opportunities from the ones people are noticing. This is important because people may be missing opportunities to connect with others and promote happiness for both parties.”

While previous studies have typically focused on how empathy is measured based on the suffering of strangers and its effects on the empathizer, it turns out people are three times more likely to empathize with positive

emotions than negative ones.

“If I look just at negative emotions that people are empathizing with, that’s actually associated with reduced subjective well-being,” Depow says. “[But] because people are empathizing with positive emotions three times as often, overall empathy is associated with increased subjective well-being.”

Who we empathize with is also an important factor. Most studies tend to focus on how people empathize with strangers, but Depow says the evidence shows that people are more likely to support those who are close to them. He adds that confidence appears to affect our experience with empathy. People who are confident about their experiences seem to experience increased levels of well-being.

“People find empathy difficult more or less in different situations and that seems to change people’s experience of empathy and the extent to which they empathize.”

The researchers also found that receiving empathy ourselves may make us more receptive to empathizing with others. By contrast, those who empathized with others were no more or less likely to notice another opportunity to empathize with someone else.

Neurosciencenews.com

The 2021 Poetry Competition results will be published in the December issue of the MWJ.

EMAG in Times of a Pandemic – Riding the Wave!

In case you were wondering, the European Annual Mensa Gathering (EMAG) happened between waves 3 and 4 in Europe, participants were vaccinated/recovered, tested with proof, risk assessment and rapid tests done, and, of course, masks were worn...

The 13th EMAG stood up to its number - the first official International major event since the start of the pandemic finally took place, after being postponed from 2020. The Gathering took place in Brno, Czech Republic.

It was not easy for both organisers and participants; the decision whether the event could and would happen was open until the very last minute. Finally, 220 participants from 22 countries decided to join (in 2019 750 participants from over 30 countries attended) – while many of our friends followed and commented online. This time, partakers came from Europe only.

An official program that needed to be reduced awaited us, still with lectures and outside activities, such as seeing and riding a Monoracer, and many slots were filled with self-organized activities, such as flying a Cessna or going to the beach.

After at least five days, people went home, emotionally drained, as both brain halves were working hard, and being with people again had a huge impact as well!

The participants were asked:

“What did you learn during EMAG Brno or other EMAGs?”

- Solidarity and friendship and helping hands from people I hardly knew before.
- What I’ve learned from all EMAGs I’ve been to: that Mensans like to drink a lot! (I’m not judging though!)
- How to eat Grasshoppers correctly...
- That it’s unwise for Belgium to attack both France and Germany at the same time, but it’s great fun.
- That I love going out with Mensans, which is a lot for a loner like me.
- To take if possible a day before and after the event to enjoy the stay even more!
- EMAGs tend to charge your emotional batteries but due to sleep deprivation your physical batteries need to be recharged afterwards!
- It was my first EMAG and what I learned: I want more of this stuff!
 - Once a year I feel as if I had met you recently - lovely people come from everywhere.
 - Never miss one!

Next year’s EMAG: 27th to 31st July 2022 in Strasbourg, France

More on EMAG: <https://emag-mensa.eu>

If you are thinking about organizing an EMAG in your country, please contact us at info@emag-mensa.eu

Christine Warlies for the EMAG panel



Photo courtesy of www.neumann.photos

Reviewing the 2021 International Election

There were several new aspects to the Mensa International (MI) elections this year. Among them were:

- This was the first in which candidates were elected to three-year terms; previously it had been two-year terms.
- The 2020 Referendum resulted in members who had held a particular office for two full terms at any time being prohibited from running for the same office again; previously the prohibition was on serving in the same office for more than two full terms consecutively.
- Mensa International (MI) no longer pays expenses incurred by National Mensas (NMs) for postal balloting; individual NMs could still provide postal balloting to their members, but at the cost of the NM. This resulted in a large reduction in the number of postal ballots received.
- For the first time electronic ballots were sent out by a centralised agency rather than by individual NMs. The list of eligible voters was compiled from the MI database of registered members on the www.mensa.org website plus contributions from most national Mensa groups.

Brexit resulted in some European NMs having GDPR privacy issues and not supplying member contact details to the Agency, which was based in London. This led to a large number of members worldwide not receiving a voting link from the agency. 80% of members in one large NM appeared to experience this problem.

In 2021 only 8.87% of the members in the centralised voter list cast a vote in the international election. We hope the

participation rate will increase in the 2024 Election, and that the centralised voter list will be a more accurate representation of the worldwide membership numbers.

Members, this is your organisation. The people voted in are your choice. If you do not vote, then you are choosing not to have a voice. If you were unable to vote for internal Mensa reasons then we need to change the circumstances that prevented your vote.

The Membership Participation Survey, held immediately after the Election results were released, revealed some common threads in the free-form comments. Basically the member-related issues raised were:

- The members do not really know what the ExComm positions actually do for Mensa or the members
- Members do not feel a familiarity with the office bearers
- Lack of awareness of MI facilities available to members
- Inability to gain entry to some facilities
- Lack of knowledge of the Elections and materials
- Poor visibility of Election and other International matters
- Preference for use of modern technology such as on-line/videoed debates.



The 2021 International Election Committee

The journey into knowledge of, and involvement in, international matters starts with a member creating a profile on the recently revitalised www.mensa.org site. Once you have a profile you have access to a library of materials and links to international groups with special interests that may appeal to you.

With three-year terms the officers have an expanded effective period before the next election campaigns start – time for real change. The potential for change in alignment with modern practices is sitting waiting for members to volunteer, to put up your hand and make your voice heard.

2021 International Election Committee

MEMBER PROFILE

by Susan Jensen

Physician, businessman, sports trainer, whiskey distiller, philanthropist; these are just a few of the many hats worn by Franck Mounier, M.D.

Franck grew up in Paris, France, with an older brother and younger sister.

He was very athletic and earned medals in high school in sailing, gymnastics and table tennis. At 18, he entered the Medical School of West Paris. He took a residency in Functional Rehabilitation and also became certified in Sports Medicine and Hyperbaric/Diving Medicine.

Upon graduation from residency training, Franck spent two years working at Hotel Dieu Hospital, a few yards from Notre Dame Cathedral, then switched to working for pharmaceutical companies. He kept his hand in clinical medicine by being 'on call' one weekend a month in the countryside.

Franck became the local doctor for the French Table Tennis team soon after finishing his residency. He also married and now has three children ranging in age from 23-29.

AstraZeneca saw his leadership



potential and sent him to business school in France. Armed with an MBA, Franck began to rapidly climb the corporate ranks, and garnered international leadership positions in the USA, Japan, and Switzerland. In his last position before retirement, he was head of Novartis oncology division for Africa. He became galvanized to use his organizational skills and contacts to create access to life-saving drugs for poor people in low-income countries, helping to save thousands of lives. He also began volunteering as a doctor in an orphanage in Senegal.

Franck became a member of French Mensa in 1995. He greatly enjoyed the Annual Gatherings in

France and also his Mensa connections. When Schering Plough transferred him to the USA in 2001, he joined Northern New Jersey Mensa, where he is now the Local Secretary, and pulled off a "virtual RG" and a Leadership Development Workshop in 2021 that was a rousing success.

Franck retired from Novartis in 2017. A long time whisky devotee, he became a certified distiller. He is now a whiskey educator, consultant and judge. The

hobby became a business, attracting thousands of participants to his tasting classes.

Franck credits some of his success and much of his personal happiness to two things: his focus on living in the moment and his great respect for the wisdom of his elders. Now that Franck is retired, he is happy to share his own life lessons with others. He gave two very well-received talks at the 2021 Mensa World Gathering in Texas: Whisky: how it is made, and the intimate mechanism of tasting, and, Aikido principles applied to leadership, that is,

Be a better self to lead others.

Global Principles for Professional Learning in Gifted Education

Joi Lin, USA Mensan and PhD student of Curriculum and Instruction, specializing in Gifted Education at the University of Denver, contributed to the creation of the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children's new document, Global Principles for Professional Learning in Gifted Education. The document is filled with guidance for decision-makers at the local, regional, state/provincial, and national levels.



Joi Lin, active volunteer with Denver Mensa and the Mensa Foundation. mensajoil@gmail.com

The ten principles outlined provide clear guidance on professional learning that needs to occur to ensure that children and young people, and their talents, are developed to the highest potential.

This document is intended as a tool to create positive change on behalf of gifted students locally, regionally, and globally. The principles can serve to urge educational leaders and policy-makers to invest in professional learning to benefit gifted education. Policymakers should adopt policies that

mandate and support the inclusion of gifted education in teacher education programs at national, regional, and local levels.

The full document can be accessed at <https://bit.ly/2021GPPLGE>

New Guidance
Global Principles for Professional Learning in Gifted Education

— World Council for Gifted and Talented Children —

When preparing educators to appropriately educate gifted and talented children across the globe, consult these **ten principles** so we may develop children and young people's talents and potential to the highest levels.

Download the Full Guide at
world-gifted.org/professional-learning-global-principles.pdf

Imagined Music and Silence Trigger Similar Brain Activity

Imagining a song triggers similar brain activity as moments of silence in music, according to studies recently published in *JNeurosci*. The results reveal how the brain continues responding to music, even when none is playing.

When we listen to music, the brain attempts to predict what comes next. A surprise, such as a loud note or disharmonious chord, increases brain activity. Yet it is difficult to isolate the brain's prediction signal because it also responds to the actual sensory experience.

Giovanni Di Liberto, Assistant Professor in Intelligent Systems in Trinity's School of Computer Science and Statistics used EEG to measure the brain activity of musicians while they listened to or imagined Bach piano melodies.

Activity while imagining music had the opposite polarity of activity while listening to music, meaning when one was positive, the other was negative. The same type of activity occurred in silent moments of the songs when statistically there could have been a note, but there wasn't.

There is no sensory input during silence and imagined music, so this activity comes from the brain's predictions. The research team also decoded the brain activity to determine which song someone was imagining.

The researchers find music is more than a sensory experience for the brain. Instead, the brain keeps making predictions even when music is not playing. (*Sciencedaily.com*)

Are Narcissistic Mensans Wealthier?

by Inham Hassen

José Mourinho, a famous football coach and manager, in a press interview, said: "I have a problem, which is I'm getting better at everything related to my job since I started."

He also went on to create a jersey for himself, marked "Special 1". Apart from Mourinho, many other famous and wealthy people have been identified by researchers as narcissistic. Tech industry's Mark Zuckerberg, Steve Jobs and former American president Donald Trump are frequently cited as wealthy personalities who demonstrated narcissistic tendencies. They simply adore themselves.

On a different part of the spectrum lie the likes of the famous cartoonist Scott Adams (creator of Dilbert), Sir Clive Sinclair (a pioneer of consumer computing hardware), Maurice Kanbar (real estate magnate and creator of Skyy vodka) and the famous author, Isaac Asimov. They were/are Mensans at some point of time.

This gives rise to a question – would I be wealthier if I were also a narcissist? If I become extremely self-involved, will I be better off financially? A team of academics from Iran recently tried to answer this question. Three researchers from Islamic Azad University in Iran chose a group of 112 participants who were either board members or financial executives from companies listed in the Tehran stock exchange.

To quantify their financial success, they analysed three different financial metrics – accrual earnings using financial reports, and real earnings using a mathematical formula as well as a questionnaire-based self-declaration of earnings. The idea behind using three metrics was to make the measurements more reliable, as financial statements often contain information that can be interpreted in different ways.

Measuring IQ was relatively straightforward. They used Raven's Progressive Matrices, which was made of 60 visual questions with 6 to 8 options for each question. The third factor – which is narcissism, was not as easy to measure as the previous two. Narcissism represents extreme self-love, and it is an inflexible and fixed trait which includes exaggeration, arrogance, and a desire to be admired. A previous study from Sweden concluded that certain facial characteristics (such as face width) has a positive correlation with narcissistic tendencies. The researchers used the findings of the Swedish study as well as a questionnaire with 40 questions, which has been in use since the 1980s to measure the extent of narcissism among participants.

The researchers considered wealth and IQ as the two main variables while narcissism is considered as a moderating variable. In other words, the aim was to find a correla-



tion between wealth and IQ and any effects narcissism has towards it.

The data obtained was assessed using standard statistical models and the results would be slightly pleasing to us Mensans. There was a clear relationship between IQ and both accrual and real earnings of the cohort. However, this was less significant with the scenario (questionnaire) based earnings assessment. More importantly, the researchers found that narcissistic tendencies (measured through facial characteristics) had no significant impact on the relationship between IQ and earnings.

A high IQ does not automatically guarantee success or wealth. Hard work, determination, dedication, courageous decision-making and many other factors determine an individual's success.

This study shows that, thankfully, narcissism is not one of them.

supplementally...

by John Blinke

Not What You Think

ScienceDaily August 18, 2021. "Plastics Aren't What We Think. New Study Finds They're A Tad Rubbery, Paving The Way For Better Products." (*Nature*)

When you look closely enough, most things are different from what you expect. Sometimes those differences can shake the world. Ordinary stiff plastics turn out to have a rubbery outer layer a few molecules thick, while the overall plastic object can be rigid. Ice is like this, too. That is the reason we can skate rather than sticking in place on an ice rink. With a better idea of the structure of plastics, chemists can see how they stick together and therefore how to take them apart when necessary.

JUICE for Breakfast

ScienceDaily July 26, 2021. "Hubble Finds Evidence Of Water Vapour At Jupiter's Moon Ganymede."

The European Space Agency will launch its Jupiter Icy Moons Explorer (JUICE) mission to Jupiter in 2022. But Hubble is examining the Jupiter system right now, and has been collecting data for a long time. Some of its current and archived findings might help JUICE when it gets to work. One interesting thing is the presence of water vapour near the moon Ganymede. The vapour cannot be coming from Ganymede's salty ocean, which is locked under a hundred miles of hard frozen ice. Water vapour must be coming from the surface, which sublimates di-



rectly into vapour. The new finding corrects an older idea that atomic oxygen forms a thin atmosphere around Ganymede. Current observations do not claim to see atomic oxygen.

3D Everything

Veritasium: "The Surprising Genius of 3D Printed Rockets."

<https://youtu.be/kz165f1g8-E>

You know how 3D printers work. There is a laser and a moving stage that slowly descends into the structural liquid. But, what if you wanted to make something out of metal? And really big? Like an entire rocket body? You could use a wire-fed welding robot, a combination of lasers and plasmas, and a really huge moving stage. One company is doing this with whole rocket bodies, and with complicated engines, too. Sophisticated software can design printable parts that maximize strength and minimize weight for rockets or anything else.

More Air Miles

New Scientist, August 14, 2021, p. 17. "Solar Plane That Will Stay In The Air For Months."

Your electric car might go 300 miles on a charge. But the US Navy's new solar plane will fly for 90 days at a time. The Navy has hired a contractor to take the seats out of an experimental piloted electric plane named Solar Impulse 2, and rewrite the software. The Skydweller plane has 72 metre long wings covered in solar panels. It is one of a new category of aircraft that can circle for very long periods of time, serving as a pseudo satellite. Skydweller will do most of its flying autonomously and might be fitted with an auxiliary hydrogen fuel cell motor to help it fly over bad weather.

Aussie Dragon

Smithsonian, August 11, 2021. "Giant, Dragon-Like, Flying Reptile Fossil Discovered in Australia."

(Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology)
Contributed by Stephen Darnell.
Pterosaurs do not fossilize well because of their fragile, lightweight bones. But paleontologists in Australia's University of Queensland found enough of one to declare it a new addition to the 200 known species. The new pterosaur is called Thapunngaka shawi, meaning "spear mouth" in an indigenous language. Extrapolating from the toothy, three foot long skull, the scientists figure the living creature had been as big as a small bus — about nine metres in wingspan. This makes it the largest pterosaur known in Australia, not very much smaller than the giant Quetzalcoatlus with its ten metre wing span.

Photo courtesy Brian Kyed on Unsplash.com

(continued from p3)

help with translations, help with administration, help with PR efforts... So if you have any idea to contribute, the energy to implement it and an open mind to be led on, talk with me. You will be welcomed in our development team!

We have a clear path forward, right in front of us. What we need to walk it is hard work fuelled by the love for our association, a good strategy and a little bit of luck.

Hope you are all safe and living a happy life.

Kind regards,
José.

Save the Date!!
Mensa Youth SIG (MY-SIG) presents: MY-NY RAGNARÖK
Bymose Hegn Hotel, Helsingør, Denmark.
27/12/21 - 02/01/2022
A New Year's blast with the MY-SIG
www.my-ny.org
More info in the December MWJ

*Contributing to the
Mensa World Journal*

*Please send your articles of general interest, your ideas, your poems and your letters to mwjeditor@mensa.org
Articles should be no more than 500 words and presented in MS Word format*

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<http://bit.ly/inham>

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THERESE'S TEASERS

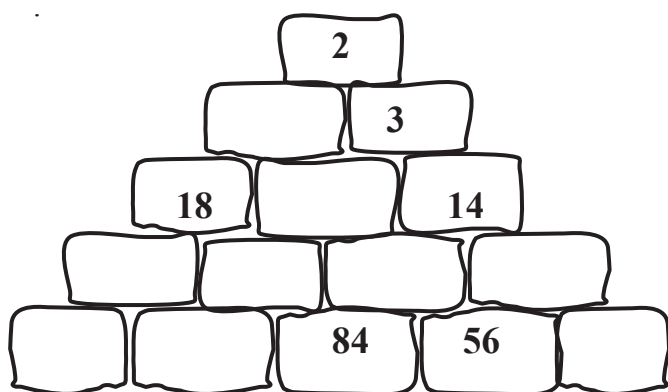
Cryptosum

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 from the top left-hand corner.

				13
				28
				27
				11
17	15	22	25	?

Cairn

The number on each stone represents the difference between the numbers in the two stones upon 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:



Cryptic creatures

Which creatures can be produced by:

- * Adding a measure to five and nine;
- * A pigeon losing an age;
- * A turn following a noise;
- * Turning back a deity;
- * Reversing 50% of a floor covering
- * A row-reversal measure, after heartbreak
- * Putting a partition in a pig
- * Removing Dad from part of a fence

Anagram riddle

Six letters have I, you can change them around

To find words which vary by more than a sound:

- * *Abrade or scratch; or a tough situation*
 - * *The Friendly Ghost, to a whole generation;*
 - * *Summarises all and covers old ground*
- Now that you've solved me, which words have you found?*

Answers

Cryptosum: 17 (1+ 5 + 9 + 2) **Cairn:** 12 39 84 56 70
Rebus: Pal-in-drome **Cryptic Creatures:** Vixen, Pig, Dingo, Dog, Lion, Earthworm, Swallow, Ling (Paling – Pa). **Anagram Riddle:** Scrape, Casper, Recaps
 © Therese Moodie-Bloom