

SEMantics

August 2014

Issue 286

The British Mensa Newsletter for the South East

Online Changes for SEMensa

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There have been lots of online changes for South East Mensa over the past few months. I have spent a lot of time working alongside Roger Skidmore to enhance South East Mensa's online presence. I have specifically been looking at developing our online presence.

As I mentioned in the previous issue, I am looking to gain as much journalistic experience as possible to help me begin a career as a writer and editor, and everyone at South East Mensa has been extremely helpful. I have been lucky enough to be allowed the opportunity to trial a new development website for the south east region. You can find a link for it on the home page of southeastmensa.org.uk. Just follow the link for the New Development Website, have a look and let me know what you think in the Comments Box at the bottom of the screen.

I'll briefly talk you through the changes I have made. The development site still contains all of the same useful information as the original site, but I have changed the layout in an effort to make it more user-friendly. I have changed the colour scheme to go for a monochrome design that makes it more visually appealing. I have also added a blogging page. I will be keeping this regularly updated with



articles and discussion topics, which will hopefully interest members. This blogging feature is also a perfect place for anything you would like published, so if you have any written pieces, short stories or photographs, please send them in. I am also considering other additions, such as a regularly updated online list of upcoming events, posting regular quizzes and questions, or creating a discussion forum to inspire lively debates between members. This is your website, so please let me know what you would like included.

I am very keen to hear your feedback on these potential changes, as well as on the website I have been developing, so please go online and let me know what you think.

Catherine Hiley
semantics@mensa.org.uk



A Few Words from Your RO

Hi Everyone

Well, my latest trip was brought to an abrupt end. I was sailing on a friend's yacht around the Aeolian Islands north of Sicily. We hit a rock off Isola di Salina at 6 knots and all 7 of us were knocked over. Cut and bruised and the aft of the keel was ruptured causing a slow leak. Bob, who was steering and has health issues, got haematomas on his knees, so we motored slowly to Santa Marina village on Salina to get him to a Doctor. He put Bob on a ferry to the next island of Lipari, where there was a clinic, and we followed. After a night there he was helicoptered to Messina in Sicily where he remained for 2.5 weeks. Three of us flew home from Sicily and the owner with the skipper and his wife motored slowly to Malta for a major repair. A sad end to our holiday. We did, however, see some stunning wildlife. The photograph below was taken while on board.

Catherine Hiley is kindly developing the new website for our Region. Have a look by logging on to www.southeastmensa.org.uk and click on the link to the Development Site.

This month we have 16 events in our Region, so I hope there will be something for everyone to enjoy. How about a BBQ and swim in Chelsfield, a visit to Sissinghurst Castle, a lunch, a pub get-together, a quiz, dancing, walking or games? I am organizing a dinner at the Royal Southampton Yacht Club overlooking the Beaulieu River and Solent. Please see the Events page of *SEMantics* for details of all these and many more.

*Anne Paterson
Regional Officer*



Pauline Paul

I am so sorry to have to tell you that one of our members, Pauline Paul, passed away on Sunday 18th May 2014. She lived in Southampton and for many years joined us at our South Hampshire dinners and events. We always enjoyed her company and will miss her greatly. I have spoken with her husband Robert, and son Christopher, and said how much we appreciated Pauline and will miss her. She was a devout Catholic and was very involved with her Church, St Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, Lordswood, Southampton, where her funeral was held on 3rd June. She had been ill for a long time.

Anne Paterson



Reminder: 2014 Photographic Competition

The 2014 Photographic Competition is open to Mensans and their partners featuring photographs taken at events advertised in *SEMantics* in East Kent, mid Kent and West Kent between 1st January and 20th September 2014.

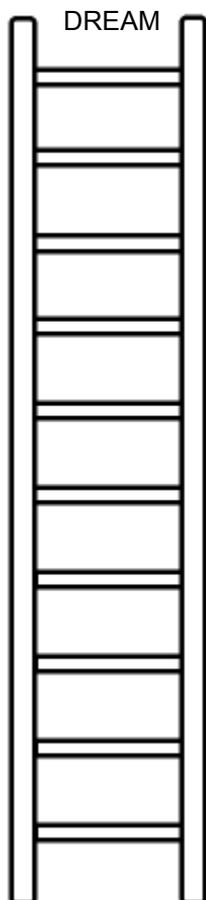
There will be two categories - CREATIVITY and FUN with an entry of 1 photo per entrant in each category. Photographs must be presented by the entrants on Saturday 27th September, who will then become the judges of the entered photographs. For more details and a full copy of the rules please contact Olive & Bob Cherry on oandbcherry@googlemail.com.



Word Ladders

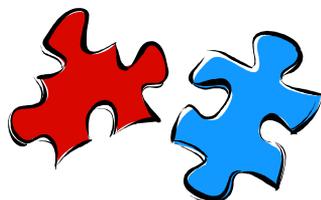
A Word Ladder is a sequence of words formed by changing one letter each time, for example: *HAT—BAT—BIT—PIT*. Use the clues below to help you solve these word ladders.

1.

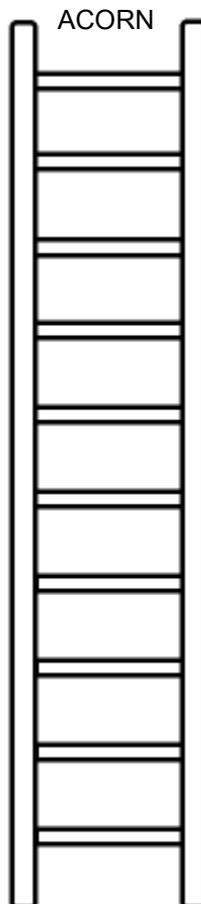


SMALL

- Fear
- Trample
- Chord
- Test
- Warble
- Weave
- Slops
- Static
- Delay

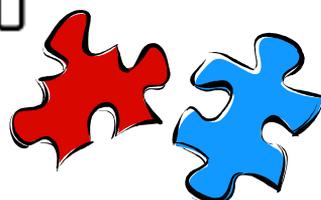


2.



TREES

- Contempt
- Result
- Ambit
- Gradient
- Swill
- Failures
- Ice Masses
- Runs Away
- Liberates



NOTICES & SMALL PRINT

Please send meeting announcements for listing in the magazine to the Meetings Coordinator. Send contributions for the next issue of *SEMantics* by 20th of the month to the Editor. *SEMantics* is published by British Mensa Ltd. The Editor reserves the right to decide whether or not to publish any item submitted (unless clearly marked 'not for publication') and to edit any item. Each contribution is copyright of its contributor. Prior permission to reproduce anywhere all or part of any contribution must be given by that contributor. However, unless specified otherwise, contributions may also be reproduced within other Mensa publications and will be attributed correctly. In all cases, send enquiries to the Editor in the first instance. Terms & conditions apply. Any opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of its author and not those of British Mensa or South East Region nor are they necessarily shared by the Editor.

Competition entry: Anyone connected with the organisation of the competition or the production of *SEMantics* is ineligible to enter. There is no alternative to the prize and the editor's decision is final.



From Inceptio(n) to Successio(n)

Since leaving these shores for France a few years ago, talented one time West Kent LocSec Alison Morton has embarked upon a career as a writer of alternate history novels. In March last year, Olive and I were honoured to be invited to the launch of the first of the novels in this series, *Inceptio* and we thoroughly enjoyed reading and immersing ourselves in this unusual thriller. Alison is very modest about the success of this absorbing tale but we understand that a reprint was necessitated to meet demand.

Never one to allow grass to grow under her feet, Alison then set to and produced the second in the series, *Perfiditas* which continues to be set in the fictional country of Roma Nova but, being unable to keep up with Alison's prodigious output, I confess that I still have to get around to reading this follow-up

tale, but Olive has beaten me to it and she thoroughly enjoyed reading it. Astonishingly, we recently received yet another invitation from Alison to launch her very latest in the series, entitled *Successio*, in Tunbridge Wells library on a sunny June evening. Instead of introducing her book with readings of selected passages,

Alison chose instead to subject herself to a grilling from writer friend Denise, who concentrated mainly upon the dramatis personae. This was followed by questions from the audience prior to signing of the books that many of us purchased. Although remaining fairly tight-lipped upon the subject, Alison let it slip that book number 4 is already under way with yet more to come in the future!

Bob Cherry

Solution to Word Ladders on Page 3:

1. DREAM, DREAD, TREAD, TRAIT, TRAIL, TRILL, TWILL, SWILL, STILL, STALL, SMALL.
2. ACORN, SCORN, SCORE, SCOPE, SLOPE, SLOPS, FLOPS, FLOES, FLEES, FREES, TREES.

Error in May's Crossword

For those of you who attempted to complete May's crossword, there were three errors in the clues published. Sorry about that and well done to everyone who completed it anyway.

A Tour of the Vaults

It's amazing what you find underground! On Wednesday 11th June a group of us from Mensa South Hampshire had a spellbinding tour of Southampton's mediaeval vaults followed by a meal in La Margherita on Town Quay. The tour was led by Don Robertson of the Southampton Tourists Guides Association. Southampton boasts the largest number of purpose built vaults in the whole of Britain. Most started out as wine vaults, some dating back as far as the 12th Century. Several are very similar to those in Bordeaux, where the earliest wine imports came from. Many of Southampton's were later used as World War Two air raid shelters and Don related fascinating anecdotes of when he was a boy and had been taken down to the vaults during air raids.

Chris Thomas
LocSecSouth Hampshire



Left Handers' Day

13th August was named as *Left Handers' Day* in 1996, to bring awareness to the difficulties faced by lefties in a right-handed world. Here are some fun facts about being left handed:

- 10% of the population are left handed
- 20% of Mensa members are left handed
- Left handed people are more likely to be creative
- Left-handedness runs in families. Lefties in the British royal family include the Queen Mother, Queen Elizabeth II, Prince Charles, and Prince William
- One in four Apollo astronauts were left-handers
- Mothers who are over 40 at the time of a child's birth are 128% more likely to have a left-handed baby than a woman in her 20s
- 4 of the 5 original designers of the Macintosh computer were left-handed



Studio(us) Visit

Mensans from as far afield as Pevensy and Bermondsey took part in a tour of the BBC South East studio in Tunbridge Wells on 21st May, which proved to be informative, enjoyable and interesting. Our tour included a visit to the Gallery which is, in effect, the main control room where inputs from various sources are edited and the final programme is compiled for transmission. This area has a wall completely filled with monitor screens and is equipped with desks holding the mixing consoles.



From there we made our way into the main Studio, which was immediately recognisable to those who watch the SE local news, as shown in the photograph. This area is smaller than you may think with a low ceiling and the numerous spot lights meant that some of us had to watch our heads. We had the opportunity to take the programme presenters' seats and to pretend to be reading the news bulletins while others tried their hand attempting to keep pace with the autocue, with variable and noisy results! We were surprised to learn that the usual 'weather girl', Rachel, did not use the autocue and relied entirely upon a combination of ad lib and memory for her presentation, a very impressive feat. Finally, we made our way into the main office area where the latest communication methods of the hub were described and demonstrated, which included the internet, 4G phones, memory sticks and magnetic tape. We are grateful to our host and guide, Robert for making our visit possible and for providing an entertaining insight into what goes on behind the scenes.

Bob Cherry

SEE MAIN MAGAZINE FOR MORE DETAILS OF MEETINGS

WHERE	WHEN	WHAT	WHO	CONTACT
Eastbourne	Every Wed 8pm	Dancing	Lindsay Kelly	07845 235400 (text) linjek729@yahoo.co.uk
Farnborough	Every Thu 8pm	Holiday Inn	Paul Carter	01252 548601 paulcarter777@yahoo.com
Canterbury	Sat 2nd Aug 7.30pm	Evening Meal	David Dreebin	07540 610985 david.dreebin@btinternet.com
Chelsfield	Sun 3rd Aug 12.30pm	BBQ and Swim	Frankie and Alan Jepson	01689 608785 alan.jepson@sky.com
Canterbury	Sun 3rd Aug 1.30pm	Informal Concert	David Dreebin	07540 610985 david.dreebin@btinternet.com
Portsmouth	Tue 5th Aug 8pm	Pub Quiz	Tony Howard	02392 637447 tonyhowardlocsec@btinternet.com
Bognor Regis	Fri 8th Aug 8pm	SFotM Chat and Drinks	Elizabeth Wallace	07709 035453 fancyferret@talktalk.net
Lightwater	Mon 11th Aug 8pm	SMOTM Pub Meeting	Les Christian	01276 476305 les.christian@btopenworld.com
East Grinstead	Thu 14th Aug 8pm	Dorset Arms	Bill Trueman	07864 958000 bill@trueman.at
Eastbourne	Sat 16th Aug 7.30pm	ThSOTM Art and Cafe	Kevin Farmer	01323 647047 ki.farmer@virgin.net
Milton Heath	Sun 17th Aug 12pm	10 Mile Walk	Paul Duffy	01932 229664 paulmensa@googlemail.com
Guildford	Mon 18th Aug 7pm	Cafe Scientifique	Les Christian	01276 476305 les.christian@btopenworld.com
Beckenham/ Bromley	Mon 18th Aug 7.30pm	Pub Meeting 3MOTM	Jane Champion	treeskoi@yahoo.co.uk
Horsham	Tue 19th Aug 12.30pm	TTueOTM Pub Lunch	Beryl Reading	01403 243159 berylreading@hotmail.co.uk
Beaulieu River	Wed 20th Aug 7.30pm	Restaurant Meal	Anne Paterson	07764 607710 anne@silkcottage.com
Staines	Tue 26th Aug 8pm	Last Tuesday Pub	Paul Duffy	01932 229664 paulmensa@googlemail.com
Redhill	Tue 26th Aug 8.30pm	Pub Social	Mike Genge	01737 770891
Cranbrook	Sat 30th Aug 11am	Visit to Sissinghurst Castle	Olive and Bob Cherry	01732 458240 oandbcherry@googlemail.co.uk

SEE MAIN MAGAZINE FOR MORE DETAILS OF MEETINGS

Meeting announcements for the South East should be sent by email (preferably) to jeffdavis174@btinternet.com or by post to Jeff Davis, 4 Centurion Walk, Kingsnorth, Ashford, Kent, TN23 3FQ. The deadline for announcements is the 20th of every month except February and December when it is up to 10 days earlier. Queries: 01233 503735.

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**Please check your details and
notify the editor of any errors.**

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www.southeastmensa.org.uk

Site has links to our e-groups for
Members, Officers,
MensaWessex, MensaWight
and main Mensa website.

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cgthomas51@btinternet.com



*No Local Secretary or Contact
Member in your town?*

Nothing happening near you?

*Contact the Regional Officer
for help and advice in setting
up a meeting or becoming a
Local Secretary or Contact
Member. It's not as difficult as
you might think!*

Across

7. Titanic bar ale, strangely effective against microbes. (13)
8. Attendant with her hair in a braid begins with a bow, palms together, Thai style. (8)
9. It's accurate: priority is to junction meeting
10. Sensitive exotic herb evoked by endless silent gesticulation, then nothing until South Africa. (6)
12. Before very long, we find a chap can cope. (6)
14. Is a cry before the Spanish line showing where there are equal amounts of sunshine? (6)
16. This is nothing — not around such a cry of
18. Maori mystic power revealed in front of a
20. Naïve credulity of seabird near French island around Belgium.(8)
22. Why PM goes to palace in Seay poem. (2,3,3,5)

Down

1. Formic, *inter alia*? Heartburn relief! (8)
2. French fast food place? Again? Too much; not *quiet*.(6)
3. Nice with icing on, in Canada and Kenya. (4)
4. Ancient Greek theatre song for DDR police shortly after the weekend. (8)
5. Bent or altered somehow, perhaps from Quimper. (6)
6. Both antipodean lands briefly involved in Mugabe's party. (4)
11. Papal envoy in news scandal about his powers and competence? (8)
13. Has glove off, but can share equally. (2,6)
15. Vomit toward the north in paradise. (6)
17. College briefly, before ... what? Spanish! It's
19. Indivisible element when the piper played 440Hz before his son. (4)
21. Falsehoods! That is, in Lesotho. (4)

The prizewinner for 284 is
Keith Wildey of Whitstable.
 Congratulations!

Entries to Ian P. Hudson, Polymetis, Glayshers Hill,
 Headley Down, Bordon GU35 8AQ, please, by
20th August 2014.

Solution to Crossword No 284:

Across: 7. FILIBUSTERING; 8. EGYPTIAN; 9. NEWT; 10. CLARET; 12. AGENCY; 14. BYGONE; 16. DAMPER; 18. ARTS; 20. SATIRIST; 22. DIFFERENTIATE

Down: 1. KINGSLEY; 2. KIPPER; 3. TUPI; 4. STANDARD; 5. ORANGE; 6. KNOW; 11. TREASURE; 13. CREOSOTE; 15. OSSIFY; 17. MARGIN; 19. RUIN; 21. TONG

✂

	1		2		3		4		5		6	
7												
8									9			
10					11		12				13	
14			15				16		17			
18	19				20		21					
22												

SEMantics Prize Crossword No 286

A £10 gift token prize will go to the first correct entry drawn.

Name and address:

To enter by mail, please cut along the dotted line as marked so that entries are uniform for the draw (but don't cut off the page footer!).

To enter by email, get answer number list from Yahoo SEMembers website and paste into message (do not attach).