



WolfHome

20 Sep 2018 01:05

It used to be, that no matter how miserable I felt, I could stumble through the crossword, and then turn to the comments for a few moments levity, and reassurance. No longer. Welsh Granny mopes in the inglenook, Leo lies on the hearth rug waiting for the Sun to come out. Everyone's a critic who feels cheated when a misleading clue sends them down the wrong path. A pile of dictionaries festers and grows musty in the secondhand bookshop down the road, and there's a plethora of etuis and ewers on eBay. Hey, here's a hint: fodder: *food, especially dried hay or straw, for cattle and other livestock* (as defined by the Oxford Dictionary of English, which seems to be the dictionary of choice for the compilers of the Quick crossword). Blight? A blot on the landscape, and no, that aquatic plant has not been misspelt. Isn't the Quick crossword all about going "argh!", or "doh!", the "oh, for heaven's sake" moment, a cup of coffee, and a cheesy grin? If you want erudite entertainment then piss off to the Cryptic crossword where you belong. If it's just a bit fun you require then consult a dictionary before you imply the setter's an idiot.

BBT syndrome spreads like wildfire. (Brexit, Boris, Trump Syndrome - a malaise inducing despair, disbelief and desperation in equal measure.) There's enough wrong with the world, so please, let's not reduce our haven of surreal mayhem to a coven of whining, moaning wretches more concerned with the specific nuance of meaning of a word than appreciating the wit of the setter in leading us astray. I value my midnight foray into the dusty depths of the English language and its odd accretions. I need refuge from the depressing, and the dismal. If I want to make myself miserable I can read the headlines, if I want to drive myself to the depths of despair I can read what's printed beneath them. What's needed here, underneath the crossword, is a light hand, and a hefty helping of humour.



• myrtacae WolfHome 20 Sep 2018 01:16 Totally agree!



- [FriedFish WolfHome](#) 20 Sep 2018 01:18 Garn, Wolfie, yer borin old fart!



- [siouxsie13 WolfHome](#) 20 Sep 2018 01:21 Wish I'd said that! Beautifully put, Wolfie :)



- [Lex_Klumpes WolfHome](#) 20 Sep 2018 01:28
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- Well said



- [KeopleftJoan WolfHome](#) 20 Sep 2018 01:30
- I think we all look forward to midnight for another crossword challenge, but I have to say I reckon the word 'sleazebag' should be left to the Sun or Daily Star. Much too uncultured for the fragrant Guardian. It was tough tonight.



- [WolfHome FriedFish](#) 20 Sep 2018 01:43
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- Oh dear! What [can I say](#) FFyshie?



- [FriedFish WolfHome](#) 20 Sep 2018 01:44
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- Oh gawd! Now look what's happened. Just nobody shout spoiler.



- [chrissy52 WolfHome](#) 20 Sep 2018 02:16
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Haven't been signing in for a while... my daughter's home from university and has been enjoying doing this daily

crossword with me. She just insisted we sign in to let WolfHome know she "lives for the drama" and didn't expect it on the Guardian crossword comments; full of oldies like me. Both had a fun time with this crossy and a good chuckle at this comment, cheers!



• **WilScotCanada WolfHome** 20 Sep 2018 02:24

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• Couldn't agree more.



• **AutumnalD FriedFish** 20 Sep 2018 03:03

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• FF and Wolfie I know you are both endowed with talent /17a and I'm glad you didn't go to that school/10a.....I was going to make a remark about 24a s, but I have decided to open my new box of Endeavour 4 instead, while Welsh Granny polishes up her best onomatopaeic glasses and shoves a coin in the juke box to play

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KftTPpWdc>

• She says she doesn't know why she thought of playing that!



• **TheOtherAndy WolfHome** 20 Sep 2018 03:06

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• Oh dear. I fear I'm one who is being told to "piss off to the Cryptic crossword where you belong".

Shall I take it personally?

• Turn the cheek?

• No, I gently say.

• The Guardian has been extending its reach, and bringing in people like me. People who have not become acclimatised to the Caff culture. Every community had its own culture, and most newbies try to fit in. Others just don't know any better.

• You can help both groups in the same way. A few days ago

MG posted that he was off to watch the football. I teased about whether it was football, and autumnal firmly but politely responded on MGs behalf. Apparently the kind of humor I used was not appreciated. Lesson learned. Autumnal did not tell me to "piss off to the Cryptic crossword where you belong".

- Maybe I'll never sit at the same table in Caff. That depends on my behavior, and yours. But surely there's more than one table.
- I say there's enough room for all. If a few of the tables are too noisy or snarky then mingle with those whose company you enjoy. Or do as autumnal did, and explain how you like things to be here.
- Politely, and not, to use your own words, in a BBT way, as I feel was the case.



• **AutumnalD AutumnalD** 20 Sep 2018

03:10 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KftTPpWdcCM> Try this one.



• **AutumnalD TheOtherAndy** 20 Sep 2018 03:54

- Oh dear, oh dear.....don't be over sensitive....you are more than welcome in this , shall I say crazy place.....nobody wants to discourage you..we have plenty of round tables if not one huge one!
- Once in a while Wolfie has a rant (forgive me Wolfie for the expression)
- at people for being negative, boring and repetitive and for good reason too (did you miss the straw situation yesterday....what an example of repetition of people who make comments without reading previous comments) as it echoes the feelings of many who just don't always want to actually say so, but he has the gift of spinning his tale in such a way as to make it entertaining. Probably a good thing that

he does as it makes some people be more considerate, for a while anyway.

- So sorry if I upset you over the American football, well it isn't footie/soccer is it, when they wear padding and use a rugby ball!
- Hang in there, we are not such a bad lot, and many people have actually met and made friends through this crossie.



• **WolfHome TheOtherAndy** 20 Sep 2018 04:08

- No, Andy you are definitely not one being told to "piss off to the Cryptic crossword". My ire was directed at those who quibble with the clues to the Quick crossword without checking their facts, and those who take the crossword far too seriously. I've been doing the Quick crossword for about five years now, and in that time I think the setters (there are three of them) have been in error only two or three times. So sit yourself down and make yourself at home. On the whole we are a friendly lot, if on occasion somewhat irascible.



• **LLOWER84 WolfHome** 20 Sep 2018 04:11

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- Totally, totally agree, well said.....however, please sir can I request a chit for the occasional
- "I don't believe it! " Victor Meldrew moment !? (Tongue firmly in cheek)



• **WolfHome AutumnalD** 20 Sep 2018 04:14 Morning Autumnal one! There's nothing to forgive, it was a rant! The setters get it the neck far too often, and for no good reason.



• [LLOWER84 TheOtherAndy](#) 20 Sep 2018 04:38

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- You are most welcome TheOtherAndy. Debate and divergent views are what makes a democracy, although I agree with Wolfie's comment, suggest you take it as I believe it was intended.....in a "friendly banter" type. There is an occasional grumpiness in the caff but It is more a familial malcontent than any intent of malice. Again, welcome.



• [TheOtherAndy WolfHome](#) 20 Sep 2018 06:33

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- Thankyou all, for the kind replies. See you all tomorrow

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• [chrissyk WolfHome](#) 20 Sep 2018 06:58

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- Quite agree WolfHome. Some mornings I see a clue and I just know what's going lurk below. (No offence to anyone bearing a similar name!)



• [Heatherlyn WolfHome](#) 20 Sep 2018 07:36

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- Totally agree and thanks for pointing this out. I was disappointed to see references to a certain political event yesterday. As you say "If I want to make myself miserable I can read the headlines, if I want to drive myself to the depths of despair I can read what's printed beneath them. What's needed here, underneath the crossword, is a light hand, and a hefty helping of humour."



• **GaucheAver KeepleftJoan** 20 Sep 2018 07:52

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- I didn't like it either - but I did not post a spoiler - and I don't see any cause to be snobbish - a few people doing a simple crossword do not represent the intellectual elite of the country.



• **LLOWER84 chrissyk** 20 Sep 2018 08:08

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Your comment reminded me of a teacher whose favourite was to broadcast “ You there boy, stop lurking and get to your class” in a booming voice to disperse sundry students in a huddle.



• **SONIABEHN chrissy52** 20 Sep 2018 08:31

• I'm with your daughter on this one. My son is bemused by my comments about the comments in the daily crossword. But he's happy that his old Mum is happy.



• **FriedFish AutumnalD** 20 Sep 2018 08:53

- Oh NOOOOoooo!!! Squirm, writhe, gnash and roar at the screen it's HANGED, ffs! (08 seconds in) Bist du ein Berliner, Rex???? Classic.



• **thebluehand FriedFish** 20 Sep 2018 09:01

• Hear, hear. Given the apparently universal approval for the original poster's sentiments, I wonder who's posting all the whinges suggesting that the setter is wrong when they find the clue difficult?



• saulger FriedFish 20 Sep 2018 09:03

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- Not Wolfie again, who threatened to leave us and not come back?

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• saulger saulger 20 Sep 2018 09:08

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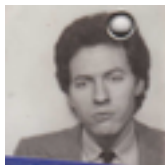
- Sorry, Wolfie. My comment was to FriedFish who threatened before, when the sea got a tad rough, to leave us forever.



• FriedFish saulger 20 Sep 2018 09:59

- No, I never did. I said it was "time for a break".

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• saulger FriedFish 20 Sep 2018 10:11

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- If I remember correctly, you quoted captain Oates: "I am just going outside and may be some time", with no way back. It all started because you used the word "f***", which IMHO is not appropriate in our crossword forum. All water under the bridge, and the QCC has been a source of pleasure and learning for many years, and still is.
- All's well that ends well.

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• spanishscot WolfHome 20 Sep 2018 10:39

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- Hear, hear Wolfie! I've almost forgotten how to be silly....Let's hope somebody remembers. Melmoth, Silly, Sux, PK, why have you forsaken us?



• **NormansRealMum WolfHome** 20 Sep 2018 11:01

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- I get your drift Mr Wolf, and I expect that when the caff was frequented by fewer and more like-minded people it was perhaps more fun. However in recent times I have seen some newbies refer to long standing members as a clique, and noticed that certain "founder" members seem to feel proprietorial and do enjoy sniping newbies.
- I enjoy the variety of comments on here , and of course most people prefer humorous, witty, upbeat stuff to moans and negativity. However eliminating the stuff you don't like would require having a bouncer on the door. I am sorry to hear about this imaginary syndrome BBT which makes you so unhappy. It has taken me years to realise that no matter how passionately I might feel about the ills of the world and the clowns who run it, there is absolutely nothing I can do to alter it. Don't tell me - "If Mrs Pankhurst et al had thought that". In my case it is true. So I avoid the broadcast and printed news as much as possible and live in my own reality where BBT does not amount to much.
- I usually come here for a break if I am involved in some activity at home, or if I have been out and about, and I enjoy reading comments about other peoples lives and interests. I reckon if you see a negative comment or something you disagree with the best thing is to ignore it , pick up your cup, and move along to a table where you feel more comfortable.
- Talking of tea, I am just enjoying some I bought at Betty's in Harrogate last Saturday. It is just as good as a cuppa I had in a caff in Clitheroe on Tuesday. This was en route to [Haworth Art Gallery](#) in Accrington to see their lovely collection of Tiffany glass.



• **FriedFish saulger** 20 Sep 2018 11:03 Yes, I do remember quoting the Captain, but [just for the record](#), and the unreliability of memory <~~< this is the break I was referring to. It was broken briefly on 5/12/17 but then lasted until 18/05 of this year...So much water moving underneath the bridge? That will be part of my funeral music, should you be lucky enough to attend. [Here's a preview](#)<~~<

- (Oh, and I shall still say fuck if and when I want to - no apologies, old habits die hard!
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- [WilliamLongland KeepleftJoan](#) 20 Sep 2018 11:57
- I think you may be new to the commentary, KIJ, so perhaps you may not realize that there are some people who read the comments before solving the puzzle, and not all of them welcome spoilers (the spelling out of answers in the comments), as they still want to solve the crossword for themselves. The general approach seems to be that hints (even heavy ones) are one thing, but spoilers are a step too far.



- [WolfHome NormansRealMum](#) 20 Sep 2018 12:25
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- *It has taken me years to realise that no matter how passionately I might feel about the ills of the world and the clowns who run it, there is absolutely nothing I can do to alter it.*
- No man is an island, NormansRealMum...When I was a nipper a woman's place was in the home, children were told they should be seen and not heard, hanging was a legal remedy for murder, and gay sex was punishable by imprisonment. People like Emily Pankhurst may garner the headlines, and raise the issues, but it is people like you and me who change things, not by shouting, or demonstrating (although I did take part in one of the early Gay Pride marches), but by being yourself. When I was a teenager, like many a teenager I thought I was going to change the world, Last year when I got married, I realised I had. Not on my own of course, it took hundreds of thousands of us, and every one of us counted. Talking to people, saying what you think, every single word makes a difference.
- So NormansRealMum you may not read the news, but you are here on the Guardian's website, saying what you think. Just moving your cuppa to another table is a statement, and it may just be the butterfly that triggers the whirlwind.



• giulina WolfHome 20 Sep 2018 12:26

- Well said, Wolfie. Even in his darkest tragedies, Shakespeare threw in some light relief, and that's what we get from these quick crosswords, along with cerebral stimulation and playful language.
- (Steps down majestically from the podium with a lordly frown and a swish of her academic gown.)



• chrissy52 KeepleftJoan 20 Sep 2018 12:35

- I think you meant that as a joke? that's how I read it anyway. Some people (most?) prefer the answers not to be written in the posts because some of us may read posts before finishing the crossy.



• SirRogerDowler FriedFish 20 Sep 2018 13:21

- Re your response to AutumnalD's posting, I believe that Rex should have consulted a famous consulting detective over the correct usage of this word. In a prison dining hall somewhere in Minsk ... <https://youtu.be/oUvGD6lYh6U>



• BulldogDrummer WolfHome 20 Sep 2018 13:22

- Sooner or later we have all to come to terms with to the reality where some of the words that we have used all through our lives, might not mean exactly what we thought they did. I know, I know. It's a harsh reality, but surely that's what the crossy is for when all is said and done?
- It improves our understanding of our (*blush*) native language.



• **BulldogDrummer TheOtherAndy** 20 Sep 2018 13:48

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- Judging from the 'Humor' and the contra-temps about 'Football', I am led to believe you are a 'Cousin from across the pond'.
- Speaking as one of the inhabitants from the less-noisy table, we don't have entry standards and you are very welcome to muck in, but we do kinda expect people to be in the same book (never mind the same page) when making somewhat oblique remarks that reflect the cultural norms of the UK.
- When not, it is interesting to exchange views about what the differences mean and broaden all of our horizons. It helps to evade the occasional 'faux-pas' and red faces when visiting exotic climes.
- Only for as long as you promise never to raise 'Aluminum' hereabouts. :)
- Note: I have often wondered if the USA ever won the 'Football world cup' (FIA), would they insist that the organisation be re-named 'Soccer world cup' (SIA) for the duration of their tenure?



• **NeilYoung69 WolfHome** 20 Sep 2018 14:03

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- Part of the problem comes from repetition of the same points by multiple respondents but as I've said before not everyone has the luxury of reading every comment before posting. I tend to agree with you re people complaining about the clues. They are mostly exposing their own lack of understanding but let's not shut down debate and discussion.



• **FriedFish SirRogerDowler** 20 Sep 2018 14:06

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- Nice one, Sir.



- [HopelessCase FriedFish](#) 20 Sep 2018 14:32 [Contributor](#)

- (Oh, and I shall still say fuck if and when I want to - no apologies, old habits die hard!) You do that! I'm not a great swearer so when I do drop an f-bomb (or worse) you can rest assured I'm doing it for a reason!



- [susanhenna WolfHome](#) 20 Sep 2018 14:46

- Goodness, 48, and 42, and now 43 with me, and probably more on way. Is this a record? Is there a record? Or is it not Caff etiquette to count Rs and comments!



- [MisspellAny WolfHome](#) 20 Sep 2018 14:50 [WolfHome](#),

- you are on a roll! I love your posts today - the sentiment, and the way they are expressed. I want to give you loads of aRses but can only do one, of course.



- [sarriette MisspellAny](#) 20 Sep 2018 15:02

- It's WolfHome's wedding anniversary on 23 Sept. MissP, perhaps we should send him and his partner a pressie, to show our appreciation.



- [MisspellAny saulger](#) 20 Sep 2018 15:02

- If it is all water under the bridge, long gone, why bring it back? I shake my head. And go back to WolfHome's sentiment.



- saulger MisspellAny 20 Sep 2018 15:27
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- FF's "F" word was old water under the bridge. Calling Wolfie today "an old fart" is undeserved and unkind (IMHO).



FriedFish saulger 20 Sep 2018 15:46

Biggest laugh of the day! Hilarious!