## mensa world journal

## DECEMBER 2023 EDITION 131



2023 Mensa International Poetry Competition winner, Christina Lishen

Results on pp 4-5 and 8

**MENSA INTERNATIONAL** 

TO READ OUR WELCOME LETTER OR ACCESS LINKS TO USEFUL INFORMATION & SERVICES FOR NEW MEMBERS, PLEASE GO TO

https://bit.ly/MI welcome

## from the editor...



- Our Director of Development's first MWJ column is on p4, continued on p11
- on pp 4-5 and 8 are the results of the 2023 International Poetry Competition. I'm delighted that Mensans from more than 24 countries entered; a truly international competition!
- on p6 is the notice calling for applications for the ExComm positions, while on p7 is our monthly Member Profile
- p8 brings us the poems of the 2nd and 3rd place-getters in the Poetry Competition, and on p9, read the latest research on rewiring the brain with regard to the neural code of traumatic memories
- our latest science snippets are on p10, the Officer Directory is on p11 and, as has been the case for many years, Therese's (Brain) Teasers are on p12

Happy holiday season to you all!

Kate

Log in to <u>www.mensa.org</u> to read or download the MWJ in full colour

### Response to verbal stimuli while sleeping

Sleep is generally defined as a period during which the body and mind are at rest - as if disconnected from the world. However, a new study led by Delphine Oudiette, Isabelle Arnulf, and Lionel Naccache at Paris Brain Institute shows that the frontier between wakefulness and sleep is much more porous than it seems.

The researchers have shown that ordinary sleepers can pick up verbal information transmitted by a human voice and respond to it by contracting their facial muscles. This astonishing ability occurs intermittently during almost all stages of sleep - like windows of connection with the outside world were temporarily opened on this occasion.

These new findings suggest that it may be possible to develop standardised communication protocols with sleeping individuals to understand better how mental activity changes during sleep. On the horizon: a new tool to access the cognitive processes that underlie both normal and pathological sleep.

To distinguish between wakefulness and the different stages of sleep, researchers usually use physiological indicators such as specific brain waves made visible through electroencephalography. Unfortunately, these indicators do not provide a detailed picture of what is happening in the minds of sleepers; sometimes, they even contradict their testimonies. "We need finer physiological measurements that align with the sleepers' experience. It would help us define their level of alertness during sleep", said Delphine Oudiette, a cognitive neuroscience researcher.

To explore this avenue, the researchers recruited 22 people without sleep disorders and 27 patients with narcolepsy, that is, people who experience uncontrollable episodes of daytime sleepiness.

Participants in the study were asked to take a nap. The researchers gave them a "lexical decision" test, in which a human voice pronounced a series of real and made-up words. Participants had to react by smiling or frowning to categorise them into one or the other of these categories. Throughout the experiment, they were monitored by polysomnography - a comprehensive recording of their brain and heart activity, eye movements, and muscle tone. Upon waking up, participants had to report whether they had or had not had a lucid dream during their nap and whether they remembered interacting with someone.

"Most of the participants, whether narcoleptic or not, responded correctly to verbal stimuli while remaining asleep. These events were certainly more frequent during lucid dreaming episodes, characterised by a high level of awareness. Still, we observed them occasionally in both groups during all phases of sleep", Isabelle Arnulf says.

"In people who had a lucid dream during their nap, the ability to respond to words and to report this experience upon waking up was also characterised by a specific electrophysiological signature. Our data suggests that lucid dreamers have privileged access to their inner world and that this heightened awareness extends to the outside world", Lionel Naccache, neurologist and neuroscientist explains.

Extracted from Eurekalert.com Oct. 12, 2023

## from your executive committee

## from the Director of Development, Eivind Olsen

It has been some hectic months since I was instated as Director of Development in the middle of the summer - a time when many are away on vacation and/or would rather be out in the sun instead. And just as people start getting back online it is time to prepare for the annual IBD meeting, which is being held in the USA this year (Dallas, Texas).

As you know, there was - and is - a global pandemic (and that effect isn't completely gone yet). There are wars going on. In general, the world could be doing better. The world is changing, and we must change with it. As someone has said once or twice before: "Improvise, adapt, and overcome." - at least if we want to avoid going the way of the dinosaurs.

Development requires us to find out what works and what doesn't. It requires us to be able to identify the obstacles, we must be able to adapt to changes, and we need to seize the good opportunities in a safe and responsible manner. What worked 20 years ago might not work today. And what worked in one country might have the opposite effect in another country.

Some countries see good growth, while others are in decline. That being said, we are seeing an increase in members and are now around

150,000 members all over the globe. That's a high number, and something we should be able to use as leverage on an international scale!

On a somewhat smaller scale, but still important: recently a new IBD motion was approved which revised the policy for Emerging, Provisional National and Full National Mensa groups, and one effect of this was that several Emerging Mensas were upgraded to Provisional National Mensas: Indonesia, Luxembourg, North Macedonia, Pakistan, and The Philippines. They will have some time to fully qualify for that classification, and I'm hopeful we'll get there!

Since we want to keep growing we'll need to find ways to make this happen. There are several areas we could focus on to get a healthy, sustainable growth:

Advertising. We need to be known, people need to be aware of us. We should probably not do a 30-second Super Bowl commercial, at least not yet - unless someone connects us with the right benefactor.

**Testing.** Due to the way Mensa is built we require new members to take one of several intelligence tests.



In several countries there are no inexpensive and easily accessible ways of getting tested. And it's normally not as simple as hopping on a plane and then shout "Come here to get tested!" in a town square. Countries can also have laws restricting who can conduct testing. I don't want anyone to be imprisoned just for not checking the rules in advance.

Recruitment. We want to turn non-members into members. Most of the time this happens after they have attended one of our testing sessions, but there are also many people joining based on tests taken elsewhere.

**Retention.** We have several countries that are very good at keeping their members around, year after year. This works for a while but it's not sustainable if there's not also new recruits coming in.

Continued on p11

## **Mensa International Poetry Competition 2023**

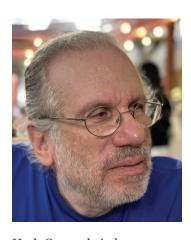
I am delighted to report that the Mensa World Journal International Poetry Competition 2023 has again been an outstanding success! Congratulations to all members for their fine entries!

The theme this year was *Loud!* - as was the International PhotoCup Competition's. Entries came from more than twenty-four countries and all entries were graded and processed into a shortlist of twenty by the original judging team of Mensan Claire Turton, publishing company executive Cassandra McLeod, Mensan and businessman Peter Tankard, and me, Kate Nacard. Many long hours were spent in processing the shortlist for the International Judging Panel. Thank you to everyone for your not inconsiderable time and effort! The International Judging Panel who was asked to rank the top three of the shortlist of thirty was unanimous in its selection (read one of the judge's comment on p5). The 2nd and 3rd place-winners' poems are on p8.

1st place: Christina Lishen (USA)
2nd place: Gudrun Holtmanns (Germany)

3rd place: Melanie Bell (UK)

## The International Judges



**USA** 



UK

Herb Guggenheim's most recent poetry collection is entitled Strange Encounter at the Shakespeare Motel (Finishing Line Press, 2017). Herb is also the author of three novels, Violations of Causality, The Nothingness Imperative and his most recent, RESURRECTION 2020. He holds a master's degree in creative writing from The Johns Hopkins University and a PhD in English from the Centre for Writers at the University of Southern Mississippi. Herb notes that he does most of his writing at a seedy all-night diner in Bradenton, Florida.

Visit Herb's website <u>herbguggenheim.wix.com/author-blog</u> and purchase his books worldwide on Amazon.

Maggie Sawkins is the author of five poetry collections: Charcot's Pet, The Zig Zag Woman, Zones of Avoidance (winner of 2013 Ted Hughes Award for New Work in Poetry), Many Skies Have Fallen and, most recently, The House Where Courage Lives (Waterloo Press).

She lives in an old Station Master's House at Brading Railway Station on the Isle of Wight, England. Maggie facilitates creative writing projects in community settings and has worked with people from all walks of life, and offers feedback sessions on behalf of The Poetry Society. <a href="https://waterloopress.co.uk/books/the-house-wherecourage-lives-2022/">https://waterloopress.co.uk/books/the-house-wherecourage-lives-2022/</a> Read more about Maggie on her website: <a href="https://hookedonwords.me">https://hookedonwords.me</a>

## And The Winner - Christina Lishen!



My writing is drawn from years spent in Arizona, Alaska, Florida, and the distillation of travels along the way. I firmly believe that the written word should be evocative, creating an immersive experience that reaches all the senses to share a moment in time. My challenge lies in meeting that expectation with my random scribblings and stories.

I reside in rural SW Virginia on a small farm with my husband of 32 years. Together, we have four grown children and a very active grandson.

An advocate of sustainable agriculture, I enjoy gardening, baking, photography, all things literary, and more crafts than I can count.

Currently providing Quality, Compliance and Safety services in the mental health industry, my life experience includes iterations in construction, administration, and as a commercial grower and small business owner. I am honoured to have been chosen as the winner of the 2023 Mensa International Poetry Competition.

#### **Nightsong**

Blue, green, sun-bleached gold; shades of my memory stained with streaks of copper and rust. Breathless cicada-shrill afternoons fade into sage-scented summer nights. I cover myself with a blanket of stars, Sleeping rough beneath acacia and ironwood.

The desert wakes at dusk;
Soft breezes blow as a brief caress,
Fading and returning unexpectedly
Lingering like a love long past.
Sere grasses rustle, timid creatures search
fiercely for survival.

Night birds twist against the sky;
Dancing shadows in the dark light
that hangs between earth and evening.
Leather-winged bats dart faster than the eye
can follow and an owl calls ...
just there.

Close your eyes. Breathe mesquite smoke from a smoldering fire.
The rising heat shivers through leaves overhead. Stillness settles with the rise of the moon and silver washes the land; whispering silent in the night.

#### On Nightsong - A comment from Herb Guggenheim...

Our sense of smell is closely linked with that part of our brain that stirs memory. Smells often trigger recollections more intensely than do either sight or sound.

Once, several decades ago, my then girlfriend and I were staying at an old but sprawling hotel-motel-style resort in Scottsdale, Arizona. It was a winter evening and the desert had become quite chilly.

We weren't dressed for that weather and we were shivering in our teeshirts and jeans. On the way to the main building, we smelled a distinctive kind of smoke. Where was it coming from?

We crossed a patio with a wall and recessed fireplace along one side and saw that someone had lit a crackling fire in that fireplace. The fire was mysterious since no one was out there to enjoy it - except, now - us.

(Continued on p8)

## **International Elections 2024**

#### **Notice Inviting Nominations for the International Election 2024**

In accordance with Article X of the Constitution of Mensa, the International Election Committee (IEC) invites registration of Candidates and nominations for the following internationally elected offices:

# INTERNATIONAL CHAIRMAN INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR-ADMINISTRATION INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR-DEVELOPMENT INTERNATIONAL TREASURER

#### **Registration of Candidates**

Candidates for the 2024 Election must personally register their interest in being nominated for a specific position and must secure at least one nomination as detailed in the nomination process below to be permitted to stand in the election. Eligible members may register their interest in being nominated by completing the Registration Form and submitting their documentation.

Eligibility criteria and instructions for registration may be obtained from the IEC at <a href="iec@mensa.org">iec@mensa.org</a> The closing date for registration of Candidates is 23:59 UTC 4<sup>th</sup> of January 2024.

#### **Nomination Process**

After registration closes, the candidates seeking nomination will be verified by the IEC. After the verification process has been completed, a list of all candidates available for nomination will be published in appropriate channels and available via email from the IEC at <a href="mailto:iec@mensa.org">iec@mensa.org</a>. Nominations may be lodged for any or all positions by National Mensa Groups or by petition from members. The closing date for all nominations is 23:59 UTC 1st of February 2024.

Instructions for submission of nominations can be obtained from the IEC at iec@mensa.org.

#### **Nomination by National Mensa Committees**

National Mensa Committees may nominate a registered candidate or a slate of candidates for any or all offices by submitting the name(s) of such registered candidate(s). A national Mensa group may nominate more than one individual for each office. Instructions for the Nomination process will be provided to National Mensa Committees with the list of verified Candidates.

#### Nomination by members

Members may nominate a registered potential candidate or a slate of candidates for any or all offices by submitting:

- 1. the name(s) of such registered candidate(s);
- a petition signed by at least 100 members who are in good standing as of 1<sup>st</sup> of January, 2024;
- 3. verification of such good standing.

Contact the IEC at **iec@mensa.org** for all enquiries regarding the election including registration and nomination. If a communication requires confidentiality use the address iec-chair@mensa.org.

## member profile

## by Susan Jensen

Jakob Majkilde, the current Chair of Mensa Denmark, has a unique ability to see the opportunity in every challenging situation. This enables him to thrive through difficult times, even growing Mensa Denmark during pandemic lockdown.

An only child, born to a single, older mother, Jakob grew up outside Copenhagen. It was a lonely childhood, with few friends. The further Jakob went in his education, the more he met like-minded peers and the more he blossomed academically, eventually becoming one of the top students at his engineering school, the Technical Institute of Denmark.

When Jakob was 20 he threw a party where he met his future wife Maiken, who was 18 at the time. It was love at first sight for both of them. They married seven years later and raised two daughters, Ida (studying to be a pastry chef) and Amalie (works for Novo as an industrial technician).

Maiken was diagnosed with terminal cancer in 2017. Plan A had been to enjoy life together once the kids fledged the nest. Instead, she and Jakob switched to Plan B, ie, two years rich in travel, family, friends and savouring each moment. Maiken died in September 2019, a few months before the COVID pandemic emerged.

Jakob could have drowned in grief and isolation, but instead decided to use this gift of time pro-

ductively. He bought and remodelled two apartments, doing all the work himself. He had passed the Mensa entry exam in 2003 but had never been active in the organisation. During COVID lockdown however, Jakob attended his first Mensa gathering (small indoor gatherings were allowed in Denmark). There he discovered, as another Danish Mensan said, that "people laugh at the same

things I do, and think the way I do." He finally understood why he'd never fit in with most people — his brain worked faster and in more complex ways than the majority of the population.

Tme is Jakob's most valuable resource, and he uses each day to the fullest. Even as a kid he would commit 100% to anything that interested him, such as taking apart his bike to make it work better rather than just lubricating the bike chain.

He threw himself into Mensa, becoming a board member of Mensa Denmark just two months after he joined the group. He is now chairman of Mensa Denmark and participates in everything he can get his hands on. He does IQ testing, edits the member magazine, started a reading club and participates in many gatherings. The Mensans who



live around Copenhagen get together a few times a week — at the Travelers Cafe, at a gaming cafe and for social things such as potluck dinners in people's homes. Being with fellow Mensans has given Jakob far more self-understanding and self-acceptance than he ever had before.

Another reason for Jakob's success at work, hobbies, and life in general is that he combines an unusual blend of concentration and persistence with a willingness to be imperfect. His motto is: *Done beats perfect*.

If you're travelling to Denmark, Mensa Denmark meets a few times a week in Copenhagen, so please come join the group! Feel free to reach out to Jakob at <a href="mailto:jakob@mailto:jakob

SJ

### **Mensa International Poetry Competition 2023**

#### 2nd place winner

#### **LOUD**

Close your eyes and Feel your tense body gliding Into a tub of warm water

Feel the scent of jasmine After a day spent in emptiness

Feel the bits of pastry soaked with honey Caressing your palate and your tongue

Open your eyes and Feel the colours of the sunrise On a beautiful morning

Feel the singing of the birds At the time the day is dawning

Put your feelings down in words And read them out Loud

#### **Gudrun Holtmanns (Germany)**

(Continued from p5)

The burning wood was mesquite. It has a really distinctive smell and we huddled in front of it for a few moments warming ourselves and enjoying the aroma.

The mesquite fire in "Nightsong" brought that memory flooding back.

Of course the poem has lots of other sense data in it as well - a very rich and vivid poem.

Herb Guggenheim

#### 3rd place winner

#### **Objectives**

*This place is too loud* all chaos, noise, and sound. Words string together and ring round my mind 'til sense is lost in din. We're meant to speak up but not interrupt, so I wait for a turn that never comes up. Noisy roomful of patterned shirts and gowns donned by folks whose names have gone to fog. Presentations, declarations, stacked-up goals and metrics frenetic kittens, all of us, chasing a string around. Nothing could be louder than the silence that cradles failure, the certainty of standing on sand that should be ground. "Have another drink!" I think I will. We've got too little left to lose and just enough time to kill.

Melanie Bell (UK)

Congratulations again to our winners, and thank you to all of you who took the time to enter the competition!

# Rewiring the Brain: The Neural Code of Traumatic Memories

Unveiling the neurological enigma of traumatic memory formation, researchers harnessed innovative optical and machine-learning methodologies to decode the brain's neuronal networks engaged during trauma memory creation.

The team, from the National Institute for Physiological Sciences (NIPS) in Okazaki, Japan, identified a neural population encoding fear memory, revealing the synchronous activation and crucial role of the dorsal part of the medial prefrontal cortex (dmPFC) in associative fear memory retrieval in mice.

Groundbreaking analytical approaches, including the 'elastic net' machine-learning algorithm, pinpointed specific neurons and their functional connectivity within the spatial and functional fear-memory neural network.

This pivotal study not only substantiates the principle that memories strengthen through enhanced neural connections but also pioneers the melding of optics and machine learning to elucidate the intricate dynamics of neural networks.

The research utilized a novel method combining optical and machine-learning-based approaches to identify the specific neurons encoding fear memory. The study also detected a neural population that encodes fear memory, establishing a fear-memory neural network with 'hub' neurons that functionally connect memory neurons. The creation

of a novel associative connection between distinct networks (conditioned and unconditioned stimulus networks) was also discovered, proposing a new understanding of information processing that triggers a fear response.

In a study published in *Nature Communications*, the research team used longitudinal two-photon imaging and various computational neuroscience techniques to determine how neural activity changes in the mouse prefrontal cortex after learning in a fear-conditioning paradigm.

Prefrontal neurons behave in a highly complex manner, and each neuron responds to various sensory and motor events. To address this complexity, the research team developed a new analytical method based on the 'elastic net,' a machine-learning algorithm, to identify which specific neurons encode fear memory.

They further analysed the spatial arrangement and functional connectivity of the neurons using graphical modelling.

"We successfully detected a neural population that encodes fear memory," says researcher Agetsuma. "Our analyses showed us that fear conditioning induced the formation of a fear-memory neural network with 'hub' neurons that functionally connected the memory neurons."

Importantly, the researchers uncovered direct evidence that associative memory formation was



accompanied by a novel associative connection between originally distinct networks, i.e., the conditioned stimulus (CS, e.g., tone) network and the unconditioned stimulus (US, e.g., fearful experience) network.

"We propose that this newly discovered connection might facilitate information processing by triggering a fear response (CR) to a CS (i.e., a neural network for CS-to-CR transformation)."

Memories have long been thought to be formed by the enhancement of neural connections, which are strengthened by the repeated activation of groups of neurons. The findings of the present study, which were based on both real-life observations and model-based analysis, support this.

Furthermore, the study demonstrates how combined methods (optics and machine learning) can be used to visualise the dynamics of neural networks in great detail. These techniques could be used to uncover additional information about the neurological changes associated with learning and memory.

neurosciencenews.com October 12, 2023

## supplementally... by John Blinke

#### Thermal Vision

ScienceDaily, August 1, 2023. "Thermal Imaging Innovation Allows AI To See Through Pitch Darkness Like Broad Daylight." (Nature)

In film photography, the colours yellow, cyan, and magenta, are combined to make full colour images. Scientists at Purdue and Michigan State University have done a similar trick with thermal infrared, but it wasn't easy. They used specialised infrared cameras and a lot of help from artificial intelligence. The technique is called HADAR, for "heat assisted detection and ranging" and it can see fine detail in total darkness or in bright daylight. Instead of three "colours", HADAR employs many frequencies in the infrared spectrum and relies on AI algorithms to create images useful for robots or self-driving cars. There is plenty of room for improvement as the hardware is bulky and the processing is too slow for real-time use.

#### **Mammals Strike Back**

Science Daily, July 18, 2023. "Unusual Fossil Shows Rare Evidence Of A Mammal Attacking A Dinosaur." (Scientific Reports) Dinosaurs dominated the landscape for many millions of years. But mammals got in a few licks now and then. This is seen in a unique Chinese fossil that preserves a battle between a dog sized mammal named *Repenomamus robustus* and a somewhat larger, parrot faced reptile named *Psittacosaurus*. The

two were elegantly preserved in the midst of their life and death struggle which both lost to a nearby volcanic eruption. The mammal was on the back of the dinosaur, biting its face and possibly eating it alive as some modern African carnivores still do. The bones of both creatures were so intertwined that they were almost certainly in the same position when they died.

#### **Dinosaur Race Track**

ScienceDaily August 14, 2023. "Scientists Explore Dinosaur 'Coliseum' In Denali National Park." Scientists from the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, knew that Alaska's Denali National Park was a great place to see 70 million year old dinosaur tracks on the petrified shore of an ancient watering hole. But they did not know how special the place was until they visited with the sun at just the right angle. Then, they could see that generations of many kinds of dinosaurs had left footprints there. The detail was wonderful, with toe marks and skin textures clearly preserved. Together with fossil plants, pollen, and evidence of shellfish and other invertebrates, the scientists could see the place had been a huge ancient river system. The resident animals were duckbills, ceratopsians, theropods, and wading birds. Plants included ferns, horsetails, conifers and deciduous trees.

#### **Pocket Probe**

Eurekalert August 24, 2023. "New Pocket-Sized Device For Clinicians Could Spot Infected Wounds Faster." (Frontiers in Medicine)

It isn't a tri-corder, but scientists at Western University have come up with a camera accessory and phone app that can detect signs of infection that are not apparent to the eye. The "Swift Ray 1" uses bacterial fluorescence and infrared thermography to catch signs of early and advanced infection.

https://youtu.be/mv5QCERnp7Y?si =rvpKO7u6bQNpvjR-

#### **Problem Batteries**

What to do about problematic lithium ion batteries? Why not replace them with sodium based batteries? You can "mine" sodium from the ocean. Its power density is lower than lithium, but not all that much lower. China's CATL company is taking sodium very seriously. Check out this Youtube video to find out more: Sodium-ion battery breakthrough. Safer, cheaper and cleaner than Lithium-ion <a href="https://youtu.be/cHNELRnJ\_4Y">https://youtu.be/cHNELRnJ\_4Y</a>

I am reading Suzie Sheehy' book *The Matter of Everything* for the second time. I mean I just finished it, and I flipped back to the beginning again. This is one of those wonderful books that fill gaps in my spotty knowledge of science facts and history. Suzie is an accelerator physicist at both Oxford and Melbourne Universities. She has quite a few talks on Youtube, too.

Continued from p03

Licensing deals and sponsorships could also give us monetary growth which we could then use for our other purposes. A licensing

deal is a means to an end, and not the ultimate goal. There are ongoing initia-

tives to conduct testing in

new countries with the help from neighbouring Mensa countries. This requires planning, volunteers need to have time for it, etc. We can't just say "Be fruitful, and multiply!" and hope it turns out well so we are working on a framework for how to

Some of the groundwork we need to do might be considered boring, but it's still important to have a good online presence, good-looking and

do this in a responsible manner.

functional web pages, and reliable e-mail communication, so work is being done on those as well.

"Contact me if you have something you'd like to ask about or discuss..."

Mensa Norway has provided a free, online intelligence test for some time now, and while it can't be used as an entrance test to become a member it can be used to bring some attention to us. It has over 2 million users every year - or around 6100 users every day! While the test itself is language neutral, the test instructions are not. Work is underway to expand it with support for more languages,

and thanks to help from volunteers, it now has been translated into more languages.

Speaking of tests, there is also a project to develop an adaptive intelligence test. I'm looking forward to being able to use this for development of new Mensa countries!

Contact me if you have something you'd like to ask about or discuss, but I can't promise everything will happen - we don't have unlimited time and resources. At the end of the day we are all volunteers, so let's help each other out!

Floreat Mensa!

Eivind Olsen
Director of Development
development-mil@mensa.org

#### OFFICER DIRECTORY

**Chair:** Mr Björn Liljeqvist chairman-mil@mensa.org

**Director of Admin:**Ms Isabella Holz
admin-mil@mensa.org

**Director of Development:**Mr Eivind Olsen

development-mil@mensa.org

**Treasurer:** Mr Jacek Cywinski treasurer-mil@mensa.org

**Dir. Smaller National Mensas:** 

Mr Tan Kee Aun dsnm-mil@mensa.org

**SIGHT-Coordinators:** 

Mr Henkhenk Broekhuizen Ms Andrea Schwelm sight@mensa.org

**International SIG Coordinator:** 

Ms Nancy McMahan Farrar sigs@mensa.org

Ombudsman:

Ms Vicki Herd

ombudsman@mensa.org

**Mensa International** 

**Executive Director:** 

Mr Michael Feenan mensa@slatebarn.com Slate Barn, Church Lane, Caythorpe, Lincolnshire NG32 3EL, UK

mensainternational@mensa.org +44(0)1400272 675

www.mensa.org

#### EDITORIAL STAFF

Editor: Ms Kate Nacard, 36 Macaulay Rd, Stanmore NSW 2048 Australia mwjeditor@mensa.org T: +61 402152858

Sub-editors:

Science: Mr John BlinkeJohPuzzles: Ms Therese Moodie-BloomtmlProfiles: Dr Susan Jensensue

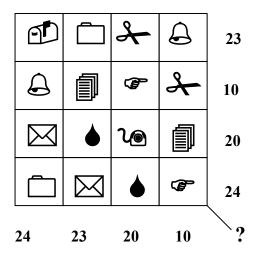
**Features**: Position Vacant **Proofreader:** Ms Christine Pretty

Johnb44221@cs.com tmb@ozemail.com.au suejensen57@gmail.com

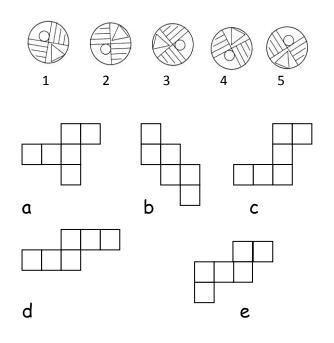
# Therese's BRAIN TEASERS

#### 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.



#### Odd One Out



#### Rebus

Stymied? Here's where to go:



#### Anagram riddle

Four letters have I, you can change them around

To make words which vary by more than a sound.

- Unit of money, perhaps in Iran?
- This one tells whoppers he will if he can!
- A den or hideout, could be under a mound;

Now that you've solved me, which words have you found?

#### Cryptic Clothes

- a) Bottletop parasite for women?
- b) Half-killer runs into treetop in Scotland.
- c) A 'roo for winter wear?
- d) Pugilists favour bottoms

#### Elemental riddle

Put inside Iron, it can save you a walk. Put into Berkelium, it makes a pet talk What is it?

#### **Answers**

Cryptosum: 16 (7 + 1 + 6 + 2) Odd One Out: 2; c (cannot be folded into a cube) Rebus: Back to the drawing board Anagram Riddle: Rial Liar Lair Cryptic Clothes: Blouse Kilt Jumper Boxers Elemental Riddle: Argon (F-ar-e, B-ar-k)

© Therese Moodie-Bloom

The Mensa World Journal (MWJ) is produced under the auspices of the Mensa International Board of Directors. Mandatory content as identified by the MWJ editor must be published in every national Mensa magazine. Publication of other content is recommended but optional. Opinions expressed in the MWJ are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of any other individual or any official Mensa body. Submission Guidelines: Language: English only. Text: MS Word (Macintosh), .rtf (Word/Mac), plain text, PageMaker (Macintosh), InDesign (Macintosh) Length: 500 word limit. Send by e-mail, fax, snail mail to the Editor. The Editor reserves the right to include or edit submissions for space and content considerations. All unoriginal submissions must be accompanied by written permission for publication from the original author. Permission is granted for MWJ articles to be reprinted in any Mensa publication provided that the author, MWJ and MWJ's editor are acknowledged. Permission must be sought from the MWJ editor for reprinting of any part of the MWJ in non-Mensa publications.