

Contributions from the  
readership of Big Dave's  
Crossword Blog on the  
occassion of the blog's  
10<sup>th</sup> birthday

26<sup>th</sup> January, 2019



Wonderful site, thanks, and a  
gifted set of bloggers. Ten  
superb years, thanks, Big Dave.

*Chalicea, Curmudgeon, Gnomie,  
Tigger, Bics, Nudnix, Bombina,  
Rasputin, and half a dozen  
others*

SETTER, COMMENTER

Congratulations Dave. Sorry I cannot be there on the 26th.

*Cephas. Pedrock.*

SETTER

Telegraph blogger not mad over  
puzzles? (4,6)

*Donnybrook*

SETTER

Thanks for providing useful feedback for me as a setter and entertaining discussion and help for me as a solver. The overall Toughie experience wouldn't be the same without it.

*Stick Insect*

SETTER, COMMENTER, LURKER

I really feel I owe this site - I somehow gained credibility for becoming the Friday toughie blogger (at the time, Big Dave apologised that it was the only slot available), and I learned rapidly from my Rookie and NTSPP contributions.

I am one of many from this site who progressed to setting for a daily newspaper. Thank you Big Dave.

*dutch*

SETTER, BLOGGER, COMMENTER

"Crossword clues explained in plain English" is a brilliant idea and, as the many thousands of daily site views show, clearly a winner. Thanks so much for creating the site and the community which have almost single-handedly helped me learn to solve, blog, and create cryptic crosswords. As somebody said on one of my surveys, quoting Neil Young, "Long may you run".

*Mr K*

SETTER, BLOGGER, COMMENTER



My flabber never fails to be gasted by the dedication shown by BD and his willing band of helpers to keep this wonderful site running. The opportunity to set crosswords, and the subsequent analysis and encouragement given, is superb and much appreciated. Thank you.

*Faraday / Jaffa*

SETTER, COMMENTER, LURKER

I attended the annual meeting in The George in May 2017 as a fledgling compiler, looking for hints on how to further my career. The help I received from BD and others was enormously beneficial. Prior to the meeting, I was using Excel to produce grids! Now I am the proud owner of Crossword Compiler software and have had five puzzles published in Rookie Corner. The comments and feedback on the website have been both kind and invaluable.

Thank you BD for everything that you do for the crossword

community and apologies that I  
cannot make the bash in  
January.

Best wishes,

*Shabbo*

SETTER, COMMENTER

Would dearly love to be there to share this occasion with you all, just wish it wasn't so far away. This whole blog community is a very important part of our lives and thanks to everyone who has been part of making it happen.

Cheers, Colin and Carol.

*2Kiwis*

BLOGGERS, COMMENTERS

Big Dave's Crossword Blog is a fantastically useful service, but it is so much more than that.

Having found you I went from an occasional mediocre dabbler to someone who can make a decent fist of harder puzzles. Thanks especially for giving me the opportunity to blog: analysing clues in this way has been incredibly instructive, and I continue to relish the varied challenges of finding a good way to present the hints and of finding appropriate (more or less!) illustrations.

The friends I have made through this blog and the crossword

community it revealed to me are ones I will treasure forever. I owe it all to you, Dave. Have a very happy 10th Birthday. May the blog continue to thrive for years to come.

*Kitty*

BLOGGER, COMMENTER

Love the site; really helpful. Only downside is, after spending three hours on the Toughie & getting less than half completed, then finding a post along the lines “read & write; so easy no one will need help” !!! All crosswords are easy.....but only when you know the answers!! Thanks to BD all all contributors; keep up the great work

*Deebee*

COMMENTER, LURKER

Although I've enjoyed solving Telegraph crossword puzzles for more years than I care to mention, I only discovered BD'sB a few years ago when I was desperately Googling for some help for a solution to an extremely cryptic clue. I soon became hooked and became an avid fan. I didn't comment for quite some time, but began to learn so much more about how to solve cryptic puzzles. I don't make comment on a daily basis for fear my comments become too 'samey'. On days when a puzzle takes half an hour or less to solve I won't comment, for unlike the 'Times'blog I feel



that it's poor form to quote solving times - seems too much like bragging to me. Any criticisms of the site if I had to be picky would be regarding the poster(s) who complain about 'religion' related clues and those who seem to blame the setter or setters for their own lack of understanding and knowledge when a solution is beyond their own comprehension. Otherwise a very informative and entertaining blog. Thanks Big Dave - here's to the next ten years :-)

*Shropshirebloke*

COMMENTER, LURKER

Great site which I came upon by accident some time ago. Very rarely comment but look at it most days (hence rather confusingly ticking two boxes above).

*Veronique*

COMMENTER, LURKER

Would love to be there but can only do so in spirit. I love this site, thanks Big Dave et al, whether I need help and believe me most of the time I do, or just to read the hints to clarify, often/sometimes I get the answer right but am not sure why.

I love the fact that we are all here because of a shared interest and, it seems to me, a quirky sense of humour. I also really enjoy reading the descriptions of life of the hinters, I have been to many of the places they hail from and enjoy seeing a snip of life in the places I have been to

but I've not been to some, New Zealand for instance so I feel like I am getting a proper inside look at NZ, that's just one example.

*Carolyn south of Marmora in rural Ontario*

COMMENTER, LURKER

I do the Telegraph cryptic most days now and I nearly always read the Big Dave entry afterwards. Even though I don't always comment I like reading the contributions of my fellow solvers and feeling part of a community. The blogs themselves are always informative and often entertaining. My solving skills have improved dramatically over the last couple of years and the Big Dave site can take the most credit for this. Thank you so much and Happy Birthday!

*Chris Klinger*

COMMENTER, LURKER

Warmest 10th Birthday  
Congratulations to Big Dave's  
Crossword Blog! Many Happy  
Returns of the Day!

I hope when you read this you  
will be enjoying a wonderful  
celebration. My thoughts and  
best wishes are with you.

Big Dave's Crossword Blog is a  
splendid site. The Rookie Corner  
was a brilliant inspiration. It has  
been amazing to see the Rookies  
grow in ability. Indeed, several  
have excelled and are appearing  
regularly in a certain online  
newspaper. What an excellent  
achievement for all concerned!

As for myself, I have learned everything I know about crossword puzzles from this site. They and this Blog are part of my daily life and have greatly enriched it. For which, my most grateful and appreciative thanks always.

*Catnap*

COMMENTER, LURKER

I discovered the site by chance when I was stuck on a DT cryptic clue some time ago. I only comment rarely as I am usually playing catch-up and a few days behind, but I have found the blog together with hints and tips both helpful and hugely entertaining. I inherited my love of cryptic crosswords from my dear departed Dad. Now I am the only cryptic crossword fanatic in my family I enjoy the sense of shared enjoyment and puzzlement on the site. Thank you!

*Peaky C*

COMMENTER, LURKER



It has long been an ambition of mine to become proficient at the DT crossword. I'd say I was floundering until I found BD several years ago.

Today I have the same ambition but have made huge steps forward thanks to Dave and his team.

I'm very grateful to you all and particularly BD for your help. I hope the site continues to prosper for many years to come.

Regards,

*Banksie*

COMMENTER, LURKER

Found this site some years ago and I found it very helpful and educational. Since Mary died 5 years ago I have used the site regularly and with your help, I believe I have almost reached her standard. It was always a competition as to who would get to the back page first. Thank you for your help and the correspondents for their comments. They often cheer up a dismal day.

*Anonymous*

COMMENTER, LURKER

Best wishes to Big Dave and everyone attending the party.

I can't remember how or when I found this blog, but I'm so glad I did.

It's become a must have daily fix help, information, fun, wit and friendliness.

Thanks again to everybody.

*Portobella*

COMMENTER, LURKER

MOH and I do the previous day's crossword over our porridge every morning and so comment only rarely, as the other regulars have long since posted theirs. We find the blog very enjoyable and helpful if we get completely stuck. It's good to feel part of a world-wide DT puzzle-solving community. Our thanks to BD for his initiative in setting up the site, and to all setters, bloggers and solvers. Happy New Year to all.

*Carmen*

COMMENTER, LURKER

Sometime lurker and occasional commenter but constant fan!

The site has assisted me hugely with my understanding and ability and I'm very grateful.

Happy 10th birthday and I hope all attendees have a wonderful time.

Thanks and regards to all,

*Margaret*

COMMENTER, LURKER

Thank you, Dave, for the Blog,  
and thank you everyone for the  
hints and tips.

*Wic*

COMMENTER, LURKER

Happy 10th birthday and so many thanks to BD for your creation and labor of love, and also to the dedicated blogging team. Thank you, BD, for creating such a friendly and helpful place. I wish you many more happy years.

*Ginny x*

COMMENTER, LURKER

Thank you BD a wonderful site,  
so glad it's here.

*Anonymous*

COMMENTER, LURKER



Happy 10th Birthday, Big Dave! I must have discovered this blog soon after it started and now I can't imagine being without it. I love it and look at it virtually every day. I particularly look forward to seeing Mr K's cats on Tuesdays (and I sometimes look at the Toughie too to see what Kitty has to offer) and always look to make sure that Mr T has popped in on "his" Thursdays (it's so nice when the setters make an appearance). I wish I could be there on 26th to help celebrate and meet some of the bloggers and commenters, who now almost seem like friends.

Have a wonderful party and thank you very much indeed, Big Dave, for having such a brilliant idea and for all the hard work you put into your blog. Here's to the next 10 years! With very best wishes,

*Sarah BS*

COMMENTER, LURKER

Late comer to the blog in the last year having been telegraph crosswording for about 25 years. Generally get there but enjoy a little bit of help sometimes and enjoy seeing others in the community. So very many thanks to Big Dave and all the setters and bloggers. All the very best for the Big Bash

*Taking 5*

COMMENTER, LURKER

After 3 years doing the cryptic,  
with the help of your wonderful  
blog, I almost completed my first  
Toughie unaided today! Many  
thanks for all your help and fine  
humour! :)

*Geodebass*

COMMENTER, LURKER

I very much regret not being able to attend, but my own birthday falls on the 27th, and I have never yet contrived to be in London at that time.

I have thoroughly enjoyed participating as a commenter over the last several years, and my own solving skills have undoubtedly improved since finding the site. It is great to be part of such an entertaining and committed group of individuals, and I would like to end by thanking Big Dave, all the hinters and bloggers, and fellow site users. Happy Tenth Birthday!

*Young Salopian*

COMMENTER

I will be there but just want to add my thanks and good wishes for BD and everyone else who makes this site such a friendly place.

*John Bee*

COMMENTER

It's entertaining and helpful if you are really stumped you can always uncover the answer. When the clues could be written in Chinese the hints are invaluable. Also it's nice to have a blog that is free from politics, trouble and strife etc.

Many thanks to Big Dave and all the bloggers for the hard work they put in, also for the humour. Long may the site continue.

Happy Tenth Birthday.

*Spook*

COMMENTER

It was the best day ever when I  
discovered this site. Thank you!

*JB*

COMMENTER



I am fully aware that I am not BD's favourite contributor to the blog but I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to him and all the rest of the people that make the blog such a delight. Especially to CS for her patience in teaching a grumpy old man the delights of cryptic crosswords. I apologise for the occasions when I have upset BD but it is always due to frustration at my inability to get to grips with the likes of Dada puzzles, my comments are never meant personally.

Keep up the good work.

*Brian*

COMMENTER

Having struggled with the DT cryptics for decades, I am so very pleased I found this web site, and profoundly grateful to Big Dave for starting it. Not only has it greatly enhanced my solving skills and filled in lots of gaps missing from my education, but I also love reading the comments and tips from other solvers. On the tougher days, it is comforting to read that some are also struggling. It is very nice to be able to thank the setters. Thanks also go to those smart folk who provide the hints which are a huge help, with the pictures adding an extra fun

element. This is one big friendly club to you can go, while still in your jammies and sipping your morning coffee. Long may it continue.

*BusyLizzie*

COMMENTER

A godsend in times when the brain just won't work! Many thanks and long may it continue.

*Anonymous*

COMMENTER

Really appreciate this site.

*Robin Newman*

COMMENTER

Many thanks and congratulations to BD for providing this great blog, free of charge to all, for the last 10 years. A magnificent achievement! Also, a big thank-you to all the regular bloggers and reviewers who use their free time every week, or every day, to keep the website going and running smoothly. So, have a good night and here's to the next 10 years!

*Jose*

COMMENTER

Have a great time and reinvent  
the wheel, solve Brexit and,  
after a few drinks, talk in  
anagrams!

*KFB*

COMMENTER

This site has brought me great pleasure over the last few years since I stumbled across it. As a novice (albeit since 1990 with many hours spent in the university library with the DT instead of Greek literature essays...) the hints and tips have greatly enhanced my understanding of cryptic crosswords and the skill of the setters.

Many thanks to Big Dave for your vision and those that deconstruct the daily torture - you all deserve to take a deep bow.

Please keep up the good work!

*TQ*

COMMENTER



I comment occasionally, I am grateful to all the bloggers for their hints and good humour.

*Jaydubs*

COMMENTER

I started doing the DT Cryptic with a group of colleagues over 25 years ago. After a rather long break I came back to it a couple of years ago. After struggling away on my own, and rarely completing a puzzle, in desperation I searched the internet for help. The gods must have been with me when I stumbled across the BD site. I have been nursed through clues that I just couldn't see and been encouraged by the comments of the other devotees. I like to think I'm getting a bit good at this but as soon as I get cocky a real stinker stops me in my

tracks and brings me back to earth with a bang. I turn to BD and help is always at hand. A massive thank you to BD and to all the daily bloggers who explain the clues so clearly.

*MsGlad*

COMMENTER

Thanks to all who contribute.  
Knowledgeable, folks who make  
my life happier.

Kind regards,

*Markb*

COMMENTER

Thanks to everyone who comments here and makes it such a friendly circle. I would love to join you and meet all in person, put a voice and face to a name. My best wishes to all.

*Merusa*

COMMENTER

When I retired six years ago, I decided to take up solving the Telegraph cryptic crossword each day as one of my hobbies. Soon after that, while struggling with one particular clue, Google led me to BD's wonderful blog, which has since become an essential part of my daily life.

BD has assembled a wonderful team of reviewers and has built a site which is not only very informative regarding Telegraph cryptic crosswords but is highly entertaining and has developed a life of its own as a social forum for solvers, setters and reviewers.

Inevitably different views are expressed which adds to the interest of the site although occasionally some people overstep the mark and BD is to be commended for keeping us all in order.

In addition BD has worked tirelessly to preserve the integrity of the site from the mindless hackers who are simply cowardly spoilsports.

Ten years! Very well done and thank you so much, Big Dave. I am looking forward very much to the next decade!

*Rabbit Dave*

COMMENTER

3 years ago I could barely complete 1 cryptic clue - now I can generally finish the DT back-pager without hints or electronic help on most days. I can even manage the odd Telegraph Toughie.

The reason is this brilliant site, its creator and the hard work of the reviewers and hinters who donate their time to keep it running smoothly, provide an excellent learning facility for newbies like me and a test bed for novice setters.

On a more personal note, being able to do cryptics has provided a valued connection with my



elderly father who used to be a frequent solver but is now struggling with dementia.

*bjs*

COMMENTER

Thank you for the hints and explanations of how the clues work. My crossword solving has improved immeasurably thanks to your patient help. I love reading the bloggers comments, especially about where they are and what the weather is like. Congratulations on 10 years of crossword blogging.

*Anonymous*

COMMENTER

Strangely it helps me sleep at night, I do not have an unsolved clue keeping me awake. I love to read all the comments and realising others have the same difficulties. The blog always makes such cheerful reading. Are we crucuverbalsists all so upbeat?

*Jen*

COMMENTER

I'm hoping to get to the bash, though it's quite a way for me, in order to meet my fellow bloggers and everyone who contributes to it. The site has helped me so much to improve my solving abilities and made cryptic crosswords in general even more enjoyable.

*Stephen Lord*

COMMENTER

Not sure when I started to use this site but it is a regular visit for me unless I'm travelling. In any event it is a pleasure to read how others fared and I really enjoy the bloggers comments. To the setters, hinters and all who make this site work, thank you.

*Vancouverbc*

COMMENTER

Really enjoy the site and visit most days, it has definitely enhanced my enjoyment of the DT back pager. Like the truly International flavour. Big thank you to Dave and all the people involved.

*Jaylegs*

COMMENTER

Great to “talk” to/with other DT crossword enthusiasts . First came across the DT crossword in the mid 1960s but only when retiring in 2006 did I become a crossword regular and found the site several years ago . A lurker initially .

Have a good bash, put the world right and behave not too badly

*KFB*

COMMENTER

Looking forward to this special anniversary. This occasion is always a joy and it is a pleasure to put faces to pseudonyms. Let us make it a bumper bash!

*Weekend Wanda*

COMMENTER



For me it is a daily joy to complete (usually!) the Cryptic crossword and then to read the BD Comments as they occur. Huge thanks BD et al for all you do for us bloggers. Have a great 10th Anniversary Bash.

*Angellov*

COMMENTER

Thank you Big Dave for your efforts. You have built up a first class site with a very pleasant, friendly and supportive bunch of people who post comments on it. I think I've been using it for about 3 years now and have managed to progress from rarely finishing without help to rarely needing help nowadays. I can even finish the Toughie unaided sometimes and I can tell that I am improving there also. Once again, many thanks.

*Ray S*

COMMENTER

Big Dave's Crossword Blog has given me a huge amount of pleasure over some years. I have only recently begun posting the odd comment as I didn't feel adequately qualified, but it takes all sorts!

Very good wishes to all at the Birthday Bash,(BD in particular) and huge thanks for all the enjoyment.

*Gilesindevon*

COMMENTER

Big Dave, what would we do  
without you? Many thanks!

*Anonymous*

COMMENTER

I can't thank you enough for this site - I can so often solve clues but not understand why, and even more frequently can't get an answer (or 10!), and would go mad if I couldn't complete the puzzle. The main reason I don't comment often as it's very rare that I get to do the puzzle on the day it's published. But my thanks go out to you all for your tremendous efforts in saving my sanity!

*PAH*

COMMENTER

I started doing the crosswords to keep my brain alive when I had a 'non-job' some years ago. Shortly after that I discovered the blog, which has proved invaluable ever since. Many thanks to BD and all involved with the site.

*Anonymous*

LURKER

Extremely welcome site. A great  
help thanks to all.

*Anonymous*

LURKER

Thank you Big Dave. I have been a lurker since 2009 and am a very regular visitor to your wonderful community. The individual elements of your website are excellent, and the sum of their parts even more so. Heartfelt thanks.

*Anonymous*

LURKER



Congratulations, a terrific site & achievement.

Has brought me much satisfaction and appreciation over the years.

*A Cotswold Lad*

LURKER

I've gone from a complete novice to regularly completing the back pagers and making a dent in the toughies. Could not have done it without this fantastic site.

*Anonymous*

LURKER

Hi...

My name is Ben, an ex-pat living in New York State. I've been reading the blogs for 8 years, one of these days I will 'come out'.

I would like to thank all the contributors over the years for keeping me amused and for improving my vocabulary.

Finally, a special thanks goes to The Man himself....great job, BD.

*Ben*

LURKER

I rarely comment because anything I want to say has usually been said at least once. I would expect to finish, or nearly finish, most puzzles without resorting to outside help, and I find the blog hugely rewarding in either confirming my answers or giving me a pointer (or the answer) when I'm stuck. It's also interesting to see whether or not regular contributors share my opinion of a puzzle. Many, many thanks to everyone involved in running this excellent site.

*Anonymous*

LURKER

Thank you very much for all aspects of the blog. I have done the Telegraph cryptic and quickie for 70 years and enjoy them even more now.

*Anonymous*

LURKER

Very new to this cryptic  
crosswording community but  
loving you all more every day!

*Anonymous*

LURKER

Good Luck for the Bash.

Intend to remain a serious lurker. Need to check the site daily. Hopefully am improving slightly.

Like to be kept informed of others' activity.

*Anonymous*

LURKER

From being unable to understand cryptics, this site has taken me to the enjoyment of the challenge. BD, reviewers, bloggers and, of course, setters all contribute in a pleasant, professional and encouraging manner, and it is good that the site is run to such a high standard on every level.

It is truly life enhancing. Thank you.

*jan*

LURKER



I am reasonably new to this  
,really enjoy reading the  
comments and appreciate the  
help whilst struggling sometimes  
with the crossword and the  
Spanish way of life (joke)

Congratulations on a successful  
year and have a great bash.

*Petanque*

LURKER

An extremely informative and interesting site. Thank you

*Anonymous*

LURKER

I think the site is really good. I like the camaraderie of the comment community and also the style in which most of the clue givers work.

Most of the community and the helpers are really good, and I like the rule that times are not used.

*Captain Lethargy*

LURKER

Many thanks to BD and all the  
setters and people who provide  
all the hints and tips. I love  
looking at the website every  
day! A New Years resolution  
stop lurking!

*Pam N*

LURKER

This site transformed my crossword life! Before I found it I struggled for years to make any sense of the clues.

Now I can actually enjoy the time I spend on the crossword wether it is a \* or \*\*\*\*

Thanks to all who contribute.

*Anonymous*

LURKER

Thanks to this site I now  
complete the cryptic crossword  
almost everyday, time  
permitting.

Thanks Big Dave.

*Anonymous*

LURKER

Thanks Dave and the team. I  
only do the crossword on  
Saturdays and holidays and  
often need your hints.

*Helen*

LURKER

Hope it proves an enjoyable  
event

*Anonymous*

LURKER



I am a lurker, and began to use the site just to find out the one or two answers that I was wasting too much time thinking over.

But I enjoy the site so much, that now I generally check to see what every one else thinks..

I can honestly say that it adds to the cheer of the day. Thank you everyone.

*Anonymous*

LURKER

I attempt the DT crossword every day and always read the blog, generally because I need the hints. I, too, find that ease or difficulty of the crosswords is a question of wavelength which most of the contributors allude to. I am put off contributing myself as I feel that, sometimes, the tone of the response is a bit harsh and even, occasionally, defensive. I'm sure that this is not intended but it's sad if it puts newcomers off. Having said that, I do appreciate all the hard work and time that setters, reviewers and contributors give up to help those like me who

simply take advantage of their efforts. Thank you all - and Happy Christmas and successful solving in 2019.

*Anonymous*

LURKER

Thanks so much for this site. I spent years trying to attempt crosswords on my own and really needed to have explanations. Now I get so much delight from solving, even though I'm very slow. I really look forward to checking my answers on a good day and getting more help on a normal day. I love reading the comments of other solvers . I'm always interested in the introduction of the solvers, about the weather, their immediate life and the monthly market! Thanks so much for this

site, it has become a very pleasant and essential part of my life.

*Granny Helen*

LURKER

Thank you so much for this site!  
I have actually improved as a  
result of the explanations. It  
enables me to enjoy doing  
crosswords so much more than I  
did before I discovered it.  
Although I only lurk and don't  
leave comments I do really  
appreciate all the work done by  
BD et al.

*Anonymous*

LURKER

I enjoy the camaraderie of the site but am mostly a lurker because of geography. I live in Wellington, New Zealand - The Cryptic is not available to download until 12 or 1 pm (depending on Summer Time here and in the UK) and as I think crosswords are a breakfast pastime I don't start until the following day. So it's nighttime in the UK (or morning if I have to have two bites at it) and most of you have long departed the site. So think of me hovering over the blog each day! Thanks to all who contribute, and hint, and most

of all to BD for the tireless and  
equable moderation. Enjoy the  
Birthday Bash!

*Grizz*

LURKER



I have learnt so much from reading the blog. I can now complete crosswords or get close. The site is fun and informative. Thanks for all that contribute.

*Anonymous*

LURKER

I've visited this brilliant site since the very beginning ( I remember the clueless club!) and feel that I 'know' many of the regular contributors. I've learned such a lot and my solving has improved to the extent that I regularly solve puzzles without the need for the hints or any other help. Nevertheless I always look in to see how my 'friends' have fared, and enjoy reading the comments. I want to say a massive thank you to all of you who make this site the joy that it is, particularly to the bloggers ( I don't know how you do it ) and especially above all to Big Dave

who makes the whole thing possible. Why do I lurk? Simple, my lifestyle and commitments means I don't get to do the crossword until the following day, by which time it's all been said.

*Anonymous*

LURKER

This a superb site with a great  
community - don't change  
anything - it's just great.

*Anonymous*

LURKER

I refer to this excellent blog on most days even though I do not comment.

It is very useful at explaining hints and answers and increases my enjoyment of doing the puzzle daily.

Thank you for all who contribute!

Best wishes to all at the birthday bash!

*Anonymous*

LURKER

We have been reading and greatly appreciating this site for about a year. We only do the Telegraph cryptic crossword, usually finishing it but only by dint of using two heads instead of one and occasionally benefitting from the hints you kindly provide but always reading the comments when we finish, frequently relieved to find that others experience the same difficulties we encounter ourselves and always enjoying the kind and jolly comments of your contributors.

*Anonymous*

LURKER

Many thanks to Big Dave and  
the other contributors to this  
excellent blog.

*Anonymous*

LURKER

The amusement gained from doing the DT crossword is always added to by the comments of the participants.

*Anonymous*

LURKER



My go to site for help with the DT Cryptic. You have never failed me! Many thanks to the regular contributors, for taking the time to post the hints and tips - you're all brilliant. Thanks also for the wealth of useful information on how to solve cryptic puzzles, which has also been really helpful, and greatly increased my enjoyment. Finally, much gratitude to BD for bothering to get it all going in the first place. Happy birthday to all!

*Anonymous*

LURKER

Enjoy the day everyone. Too far  
for me to come.

*Anonymous*

LURKER

Happy birthday, and thanks for  
your help.

*Anonymous*

LURKER

This blog has markedly enhanced my enjoyment of the DT crosswords. Once I have completed the crossword, I always look forward to reading. I particularly find it useful for explaining the parsing of a clue when I have the answer but don't always know why. I don't comment as my newspaper (Canberra Times) is a fortnight behind in publishing. Thank you to the Hint and Tip providers, and to BD for creating and maintaining this excellent site.

*Anonymous*

LURKER

I love the site and visit every day. I am progressing and value help and advice. A day without a go at the crossword and checking the blog would leave me bereft.(my favourite word of the moment).

I admire the bloggers expertise, feel I know the regulars and applaud Big Dave's ethos and commitment.

Many thanks.

*Anonymous*

LURKER

A great site that gives me so much pleasure. I was a novice but now consider myself reasonably competent thanks to this site. Thank you so much.

*Anonymous*

LURKER

A great site, helping crossword addicts with the poor clues.

*Anonymous*

LURKER

Congratulations BD on your first decade, may there be many more to come. Thank you for the wonderful site.

*Penelope*

LURKER



Having posted an earlier comment which I hope wasn't taken in any negative sense, I do want to say how much I appreciate BD's blog - even more so after I couldn't log on yesterday until late. I was fearing a sleepless night trying to parse a couple of answers! Many thanks to BD for all the time that must be involved in keeping the site running and fighting the gremlins. Happy Birthday and many, many happy returns to the daily blog.

*Anonymous*

LURKER

Excellent

Well produced

Interesting & informative site

*DB, Llandudno*

LURKER

I've lurked for some years now,  
and I appreciate all that I have  
learned from this site. It has  
increased my enjoyment of the  
Telegraph puzzles greatly.  
Thank you and may you have  
many more years!

*R. Hunt, Austin, Texas*

LURKER

Life-enhancing. Cryptics were a mystery until I happily discovered Big Dave and his wonderful team.

A huge and sincere thank you.

Enjoy your birthday bash. xx

*Anonymous*

LURKER

Thank you so much for all the hints and tips.

I couldn't manage without your help and get enormous enjoyment out of the crosswords as a result!

Keep up the good work - there are loads of us out there - and  
**MANY HAPPY RETURNS!**

*Anonymous*

LURKER

Thank you so much for making  
telegraph crossword so much  
more fun and accessible.

*Credway*

LURKER

Excellent site and great support  
for regular amateurs such as me.  
Entertaining, informative and  
humbling in equal measures!

Congratulations on this  
anniversary.

*Anonymous*

LURKER

As a 'lurker' I'd like to thank all concerned for this excellent blog which has been invaluable to me. All your efforts are very much appreciated and a huge help to us learners.

*Anonymous*

LURKER



I wish I was in the right country to attend the Bash, however I want to say thank you for all the pleasure and help you have given me through your site for so many years. All good wishes and much appreciation to you from me in Switzerland.

*Franny*

LURKER

Thanks for making my great but  
sometimes frustrating pastime  
even more enjoyable. The  
laughs are a bonus.

*Anonymous*

LURKER

I have been a lurker for years now ( it is the tech know-how that is involved - and BD's iron rule ! - that prevent me from contributing ) but I love the blog. Even when I don't need them, I read the hints and follow the conversations that ensue. Thank you to BD and to all of you who help to make the site such a valuable addition to the fun of doing DT crosswords. Your efforts are much appreciated.....long may it so continue.

*Anonymous*

LURKER

Happy happy birthday and  
many thanks for hours of  
enjoyment and learning.

*Anonymous*

LURKER

My mum introduced me to your site. It's great and really helpful to understand the trickier clues. It's always good to do a crossword with a friend!

*Anonymous*

LURKER

