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1. August Competition

The August Competition with a Paradise Lost themed grid by Philostrate and clued by Picaroon was won by Alan Goddard of Chesterfield. Excellent solving!

Feedback included:

Would you Adam and Eve it! I actually guessed the theme from the preamble without cheating. Such an enjoyable challenge with some super clues: CHESS, LIMEADE and TONAL. MLJ

"Nothing is here for Tears, nothing to wail". (Ref Samson Agonistes JM). Very enjoyable. Ref AS) AS

I found this a bit easier than some recent puzzles, but fun and a nice commemoration. TH

September Newsletter re August Picaroon

Neat reusing of letters saved me ink. Thanks. ET

I've never read the work but the themed answers were clear from the clues which were superb throughout with mostly v.sensible surfaces. Well done Philostrate and Picaroon. JBs
Many thanks to Picaroon for a very nice 3D. I liked clues to Limeade, Pitch and Unman most of all. PC

...this month's puzzle, although an easy one, lightened our gloom and here it is. Thanks as usual! JM

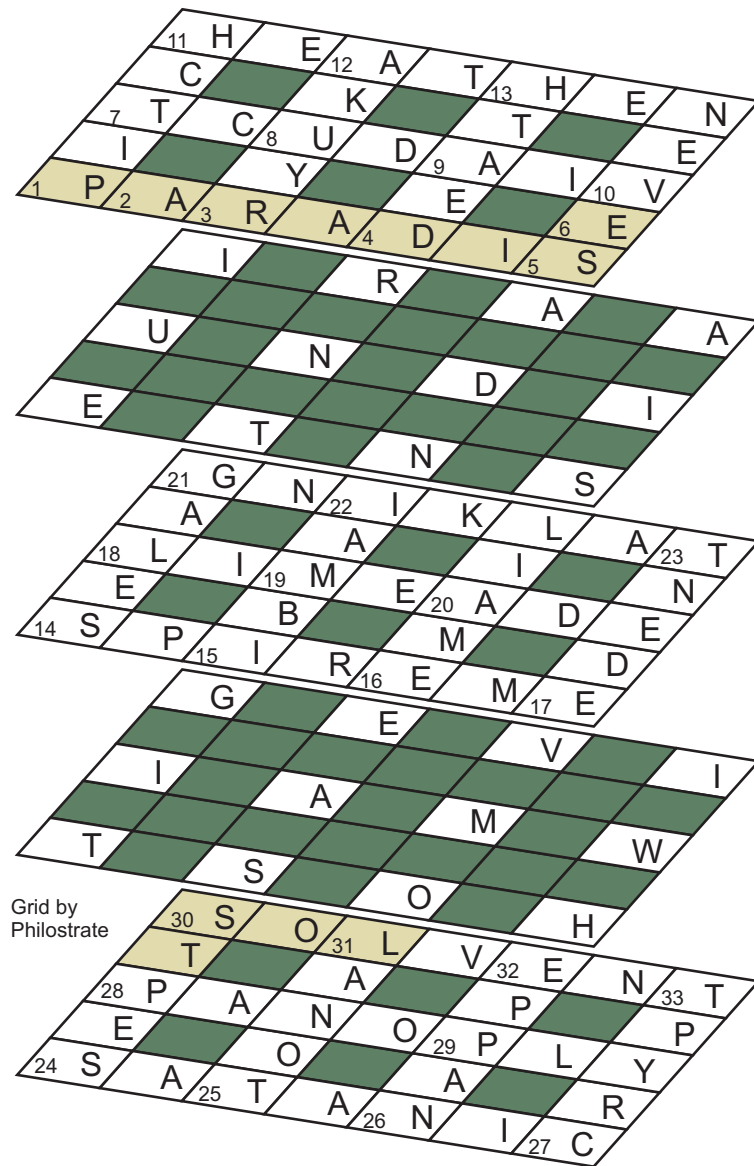
Enjoyed this one though we've never read Paradise Lost. NI
Another fairly easy one - I have a feeling of foreboding that a real stinker is looming. AW

Good to have a literary theme and a slightly easier puzzle.

Thanks to Picaroon. S&CC

For the first time in several months I think I have cracked the crossword! AG

Another good challenge. HB



August 2017 Picaroon Philostrate



This puzzle celebrated the first publication 350 years ago, August 1667, of Paradise Lost.

Theme came quickly. 4 caused trouble as CREWS seemed to fit 'end' but not quite 'red ship'. Clearly 'CHE' is the red! Enough said! Sorry about the mess filling in. Sending early as off to The Eclipse.D&SM smiley faces.

Is it embarrassing to admit that everything I know about Paradise Lost is a result of doing this puzzle? JT

Here is my August answer grid, which I enjoyed very much (once I managed to finish it!) Paradise has now been regained.

I hope to have the brilliant August extra with you soon. DS

I enjoyed this nice mixture of straightforward clues, more challenging ones, a bit of (for me) new vocabulary (24 & 29), and a couple of very inventive ones which made me smile (13 & 16). A nice summer solve. Thank you! JB
Enjoyable but not so challenging as some. I hope we don't have to wait until 2021 to celebrate the regaining of Paradise. MC
Some really nice clues in this one. I really liked 17. GB
A nice clean crossword this month. Some fine clues none of which caused me to query the logic !! HE

After a summer full of “sea-sex-and-sun” , well ,salt water and burnt noses at least, how nice to be back on terra firma with the puzzle for August. A surprisingly gentle re-entry into the world that is. Not that I can say the same for September's puzzle. I am hoping that that nice Mister Saille is going to give some pointers to its decoding , else, I'm afraid you may be holding your breath (for my September answer) a very long, long, time! GS

I enjoyed this one. It was on the easier side, but with a few new words to keep me on my toes. Unfortunately it made me read the book. Good grief It's dull! MN

This was a refreshingly uncomplicated and satisfying challenge and I enjoyed solving it. I've never read Paradise Lost and don't think I'll manage to digest it during my forthcoming trips abroad!! SF

A nice grid by Philostrate who has done well to get so much thematic material in, and a fine set of relatively easy clues from Picaroon; I was glad for an easy solve due to time pressures but equally glad for some clues I had to think about - it was not the walk-over I had feared, having guessed the theme from the preamble and first couple of clues.

Favourite clues were those for ARTISTS, CHESS, EDEN, EVE, MILTON, SATANIC, TONAL, and VIEWY.

Many thanks to Picaroon and Philostrate and of course to yourself Eric.

BL

Herewith my August solution. I am sorry that it is a day late. I enjoy Picaroon and this puzzle was no exception. The theme emerged early on and most of the rest of the crossword solved fairly readily. However, with two clues remaining to be solved, a sting in the tail revealed itself. I had great difficulty in convincing myself that Clue 36 10d VIEWY meant the same as visionary. The wordplay clearly lead to VIE + W + Y so it had to be right but I still felt uneasy. The other tricky clue was for Clue 2 12d ARIEL. Ariel was a pretty minor angel in Paradise Lost and difficult to locate on the web, and this coupled with Picaroon completely fooling me with the reference to King Lear caused considerable angst. Eventually the penny dropped (Anag of I + LEAR). A considerable relief. AGd

4. September Extra

The September Extra will be posted on the 15th as a tough Sirius jigsaw. Jigsaw solutions have a deadline of midnight September 30th.

After this the puzzle becomes more accessible by the supply of directions for clues and the competition continues till midnight 16th October. A prize will be awarded for each of the two stages.

2. Clues & Explanations

SOLUTION		Direction – Clue - Enumeration	
ADAM	1	9d-4 An old lady who stars in 21 (4)	A + DAM
ARIEL	2	12d Rebel in 21 performing second in King Lear (5)	{K}I{NG}LEAR*
ARTIST	3	2ac,3d One has creative traits (6)	TRAITS*
CHESS	4	27up Red ship, or what takes place on board? (5)	CHE + SS
CRYPT	5	27aw Wail and point in burial place (5)	CRY + PT
DEATH	6	4aw Awful, hated, hellish figure in 21 (5)	HATED*
EDEN 7	7	17aw-4 21's scene of contented enchantment (4)	Hidden
EDENTAL	8	17aw,23ba-3 Journalist taking top off nuts, having few teeth (7)	ED + {M}ENTAL
EMAIL	9	16aw Message: trouble follows compiler around (5)	AIL after ME rev
EVE	10	6aw-3 Errant soul in 21's late period (3)	2 defs
GALES	11	21to Gladys's coat penetrated by bitter winds (5)	ALE in G{LADY}S
HALVE	12	13d Volume contained by well that's split (5)	V in HALE
HEATHEN	13	11ac Maybe roast chicken for a sceptic, according to 21? (7)	HEAT + HEN
HIGGS	14	11d Chap's importing goods for physicist (5)	GG in HIS
IAMBI	15	22to A doctor dissecting Roman pair's feet in 21 (5)	A + MB in II
LIMEADE 16	16	18ac One drink or another with pork pie passed around (7)	MEAD in LIE
MILTON 17	17	19ba,25aw-3 The author here wants (roughly) 1207 metres and 907 kilos? (6)	(3/4 of) MIL{E} + TON
NAPPE	18	26aw Record vessel overturned in sheet of water (5)	EP + PAN all rev
NO END	19	26up Gas about Democrat a lot (2,3)	NEON rev + D
PANOPLY	20	28ac Warrior's equipment gets censure publicly, but heartlessly (7)	PAN + OP{EN}LY

PARADISE LOST	21	1ac,5aw-2,31ba,30to-2 Pastoral side represented in work in garden? (8,4)	PASTORAL SIDE*
PESTS	22	1d Steps out of line will be annoying things (5)	STEPS*
PITCH	23	1aw Spurs' number 2 with long throw (5)	{S}P{URS} + ITCH
RYUKA	24	3aw Lines by this country and American in Japanese poetry (5)	RY + UK + A
SATANIC	25	24ac One involved in diabolical antics, like 21's antihero (7)	A in ANTICS*
SEPTS	26	24aw Month's for clans (5)	SEPT'S
SEVEN	27	5aw Number that's small and not odd (5)	S + EVEN
SOLVENT	28	30ac What you do, not disheartened and in the money? (7)	SOLVE + N{O}T
SPIRE ME	29	14ac Corrupt empire's mass in cells (7)	EMPIRES*
TALKING	30	23ba Discussing mostly lofty leader (7)	TAL{L} + KING
TITAN	31	33up Giant bird, also tailless (5)	TIT + AN{D}
TONAL	32	25aw Like Chinese cooking a lot, starter from Nanjing (5)	A LOT N{ANJING}*
TULIP	33	7d Bulb may be lit up (5)	LIT UP*
UNMAN	34	8d Feminise a foreign queen? (5)	UN + MAN
VIADUCT	35	10ba Bridge through channel (7)	VIA + DUCT
VIEWY	36	10d Visionary's struggle with the unknown (5)	VIE + W + Y

3. September Puck Aramis

What a tour-de-force! Beautifully constructed and excellently clued. We could hardly ask for any more! JM

It is several months since looking at this superb, challenging puzzle from Puck to a spectacular grid by Aramis. Mrs Sirius made a few points as we tackled it anew:

The puzzle is referred to earlier in the calendar. The direction 'aC' does **not** mean 'across' here but '**anti-clockwise**'. There are sometimes uncertainties, not knowing which fork to take going round a star. (Across would be ac)

Down solutions have only one place where they can go.

Asterisked clues have solutions shown by the letter count in brackets at the end of the clue as usual. But the grid entry (also a word) is one letter less than the letter count in brackets.

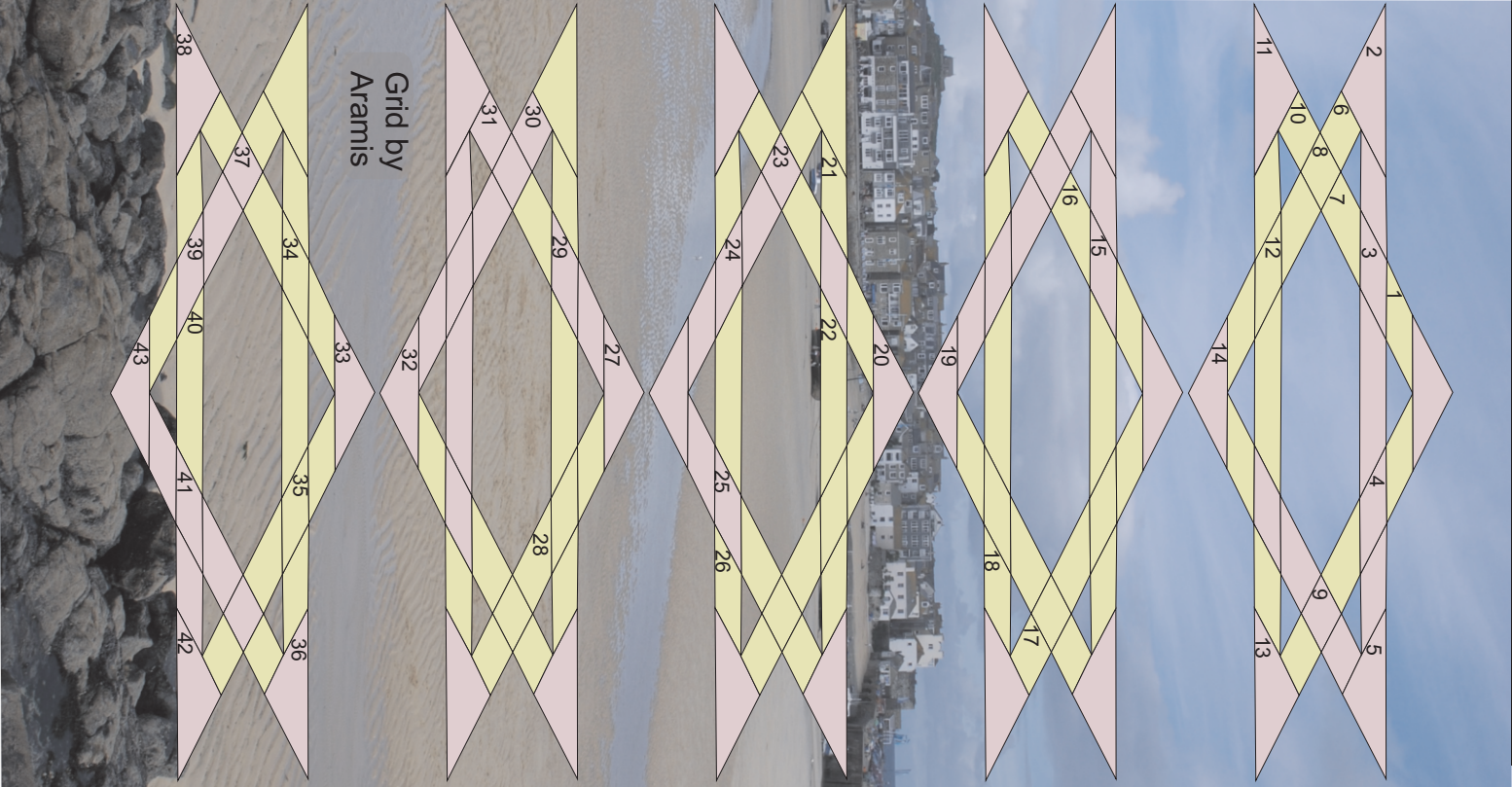
With thanks to GB, in the grid diagram, the line of six cells from 30 to 32 should all have a mauve highlight. One of the 12 thematic words fits here. See updated diagrams on the next page and on the website.

This is a wonderful puzzle and well worth the candle. I found Adam Saille's Hints & Tips helpful to get over the line.

There will be a September Extra to be posted on the 15th Se[ptember].

BBC CiNA 3D Crosswords
World Championship 2017

Answer Grid - September - Puck
(Complete and return to enter competitions)



Please return by midnight
of **September 30th** to:

Calendar Puzzle
PO Box 4823
Coventry
CV6 9FN

Solvers with 12 correct
solutions throughout the
year qualify for the world
championship finals. We
acknowledge receipt of
solutions.

Name	
Title	
Address	
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Entrants to the world championship are 3D Calendar Puzzle owners (printed or internet versions) having thus donated at least £5 to BBC CiNA	
A monthly prize of a reference book is awarded to a successful solver drawn from the hat. In the first instance this is the Chambers Standard Reference Dictionary. These monthly competitions are open to all.	
Feedback	

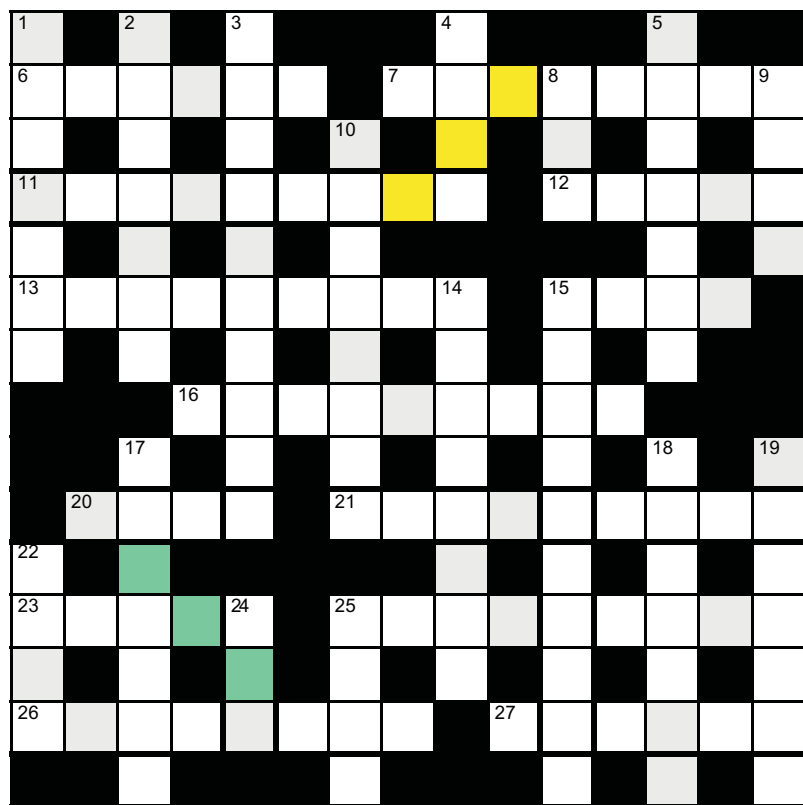
Or scan and email to:

sirius@calendarpuzzles.co.uk

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3. August Extra 2017 “3,3” by Enigmatist

Themes referenced by the clues form a complete set of 45. The 26 little grey cells each contain a different letter of the alphabet. One cell is to be filled RPM-istically.



Across

- 6 Note pinned to rear of toilet cleaner (6)
- 7 "Flower Power" not included in revised *Magpie* run (8)
- 11 Kind of play bizarrely lacking a theme group (4,5)
- 12 Director's cut not *quite* director's last after massive blow (5)
- 13 See 26
- 15 Called to speak (and spoke) (4)
- 16 *The 22s*, this thematic master's work, make hay fast! (9)
- 20 While doing 22, knight psychologist (4)
- 21 My thematic master's a posh motor you'll have to write song about (9)
- 23 Music that's fashionable – it impresses 25ac 4! (5)
- 25/4 These had merged to acquire musical theme pub (3,6,4)

Ray Parry-Morris, '45', passed away peacefully Friday morning August 19th 2016.

Ray applied his genius to many things not least of which was to design the most fantastic 3D crossword grids for Enigmatist (Ray's choice) to clue. The combination of those two magnificent creative brains producing the jewel in the crown for several BBC CiNA/RNIB 3D puzzle calendars. The December 2017 puzzle is a fine example of such a partnership.

Since his retirement a few years ago Ray has walked the UK and globe. It was lovely to receive an email from some exotic location, with an idea for another brilliant '45' grid.

Ray was also one of the most amazing crossword solvers I have come across. He would chuckle away at a stream of Enigmatist clues whilst I would still be scratching my head for days until it really hurt.

26/13 In challenge, retract USA record: their golfer's left 27 11's theme (4,4,2,3,4)

27 Huge partridge finally roasting, 3's theme with head tightly squeezed (2,5)

Down

- 1 Give a hand to new thematic performer (7)
- 2 A bit of an animal, Zeppo's gutted over time *he* didn't spend At The Opera (7)
- 3 In enigma, cryptically represented, fine line's separated spymaster-ly theme (3,7)
- 4 See 25 Across
- 5 Member of literary quintet that's Famous, being a literary theme (7)
- 8/17 Thematic book clubs National champ's upset pumping muscles (3,7)
- 9 Hurt by family theme (4)
- 10 Plants maybe 78 Feds south of base? (8)
- 14 Is blinking nuisance initially in charge of London Gallery? (8)
- 15 Perhaps wolf sweet sporting theme? (10)
- 17 See 8
- 18 Botanist's cross about reduced view over edges of temporary wall (4,3)
- 19 Ka Mate, perhaps – something to get fire going in the belly of a Grace (3,4)
- 22 Sentence one of 16's theme group – who judged legitimacy of appeals? (4)
- 24 Part of 45 RPM collection file (3)
- 25 Old Mrs Branning's raising a hoo-ha (2-2)



Enigmatist (left) presents the individual prize to '45' RNIB All England Cup 2013 Penderels Oak, Hailborn.

Ray's 3D solutions were always correct and he was a perennial qualifier for the tie-break competitions and almost invariably awarded 'Best Grid'.

The ABC Murders grid in January 2016 exemplifies many things about Ray. First of all, to have the imaginative idea of clue solutions starting with A,B or C which when decapitated leave proper words – all in Chambers. Then all that shunting and shuffling, fiddling and fitting. Then the determination and stamina, tearing up and starting again. Then, meeting yet another brick wall, finding the inspiration to solve the problem with double worded solutions to achieve a 100% success. Judging the tie-break, it took my breath away. An absolute pioneering triumph. Furthermore, Ray donated to the charities we support, with £1 per correct solution.

Ray won our world championship 2012 and also the individual section of our last RNIB Cup event in 2013. This last showed another aspect of Ray's character. Threatening to finish the 3D spinning jigsaw first and before previous champion team of Jane Teather, Richard Grafen and Tony Roberts, he was held up by one clue. This was due to my error. There was a mistake in the alphabetical order. Ray missed winning the overall competition and smashing the world record. It was Ray who came to console me!

Ray has been a tremendous force in developing the 3D format because it fascinated him and because of the fundraising to help youngsters in need. A genius with a heart to match. A very rare combination. A Prince amongst men.

Thank you so much Ray.

Sirius

BBC CiNA 3D Crosswords World Championship 2017 Answer Grid Aug Extra Enigmatist

(Complete and return to enter competitions)

Please return by
midnight **Sept 16th** to:
Calendar Puzzle
PO Box 4823
Coventry
CV6 9FN

Solvers with 12 correct
solutions throughout the
year qualify for the
world championship
finals. We acknowledge
receipt of solutions.

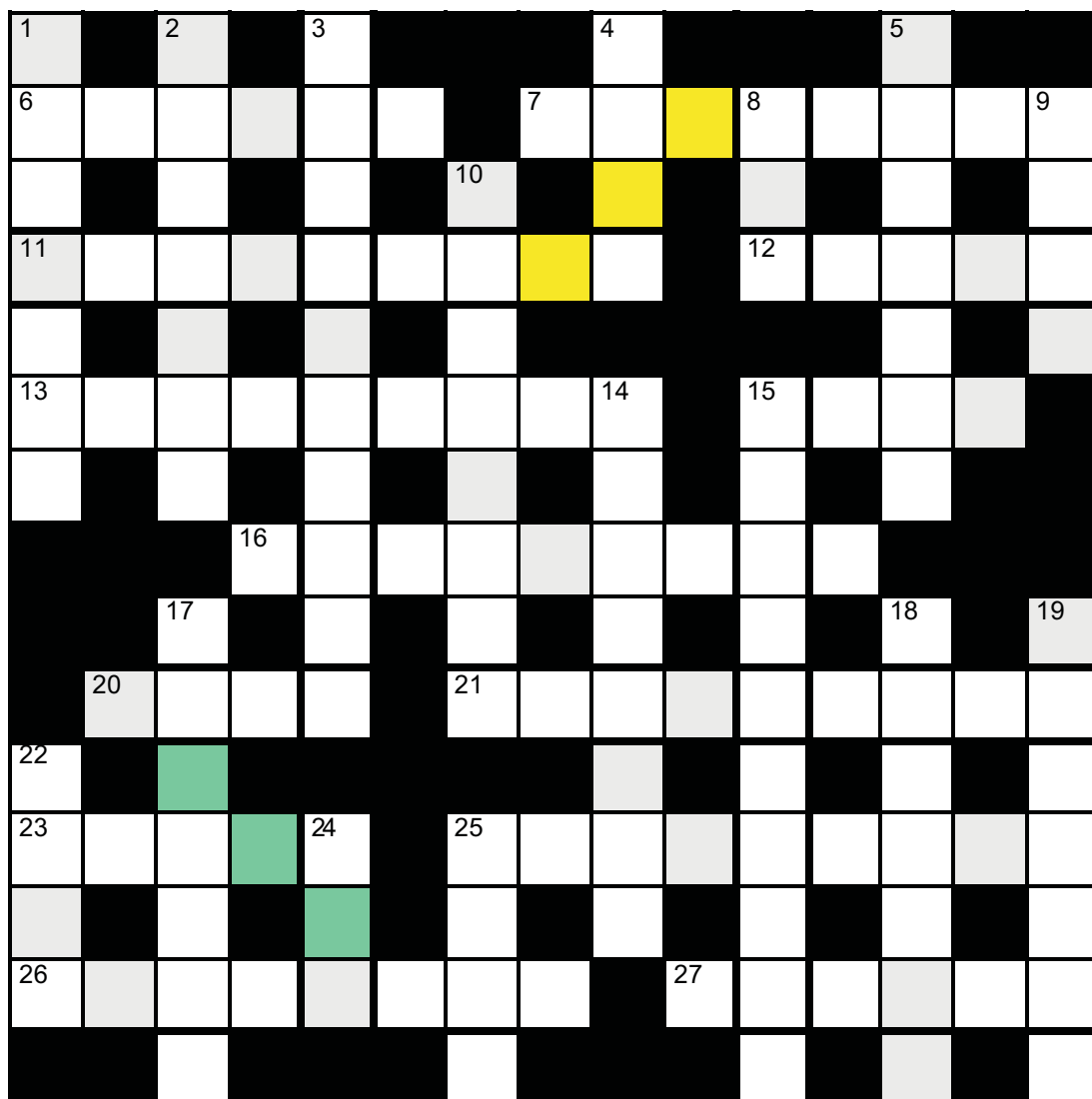
Or scan and email to:
sirius@calendarpuzzles.co.uk

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Entrants to the world championship are 3D
Calendar Puzzle owners (printed or internet
versions) having thus donated at least £5 to
BBC CiNA

A monthly prize of a reference book is
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the hat. In the first instance this is the
Chambers Standard Reference Dictionary.
These monthly competitions are open to all.

Feedback



"3-3" by Enigmatist

A summary of the terrific contributions made by 45 and Enigmatist

	Theme	Grid by	Grid Design Notes
2010 Apr Enig	Mark Twain	Sirius	
2011 Jan Enig	Kipling	Sirius	
2012 Oct Enig	Araucaria	45	Featuring an anagram of unchecked letters
2012 Feb Ever	Dickens	45	
2013 Mar Enig	Floyd Dark Side	45	
2014 Aug Enig	Fleming Bond	45	
2015 Mar Enig	Clapton	45	
2015 Apr Tramp	Hitchcock and Birds	45	Two thematic sets and HITCHCOCK anagram of highlighted letters
2016 Jan Samuel	ABC Murders	45	All solutions real words beginning A,B or C which are decapitated forming real words also for grid entry. Wow!
2016 Aug Enig	Queen Marx Brothers Races	45	
2017 Dec Enig	??????	45	Another amazing manipulation
45 showed a strong preference for Enigmatist to clue his amazing grids.			

Thank you Ray for all your creativity, enthusiasm and determination at the frontiers of three dimensional crosswords.

Finally, thank you everyone for supporting our project to help youngsters in need.

Best wishes Eric Westbrook

Registered Blind RNIB Member & Public Speaker
3D Crossword Designer Sirius