

10.1 October 2017 Newsletter 3D BBC CiNA

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1. August Extra Competition

The August Extra Competition featured a brilliant 2D grid and set of clues by Enigmatist, celebrating the wonderful 3D grids designed by sadly missed Ray Parry Morris, pseudonym, '45'. The competition was won by Jos Tait of Preston, Victoria, Australia. Excellent solving!

Feedback included:

What an utterly wonderful puzzle.

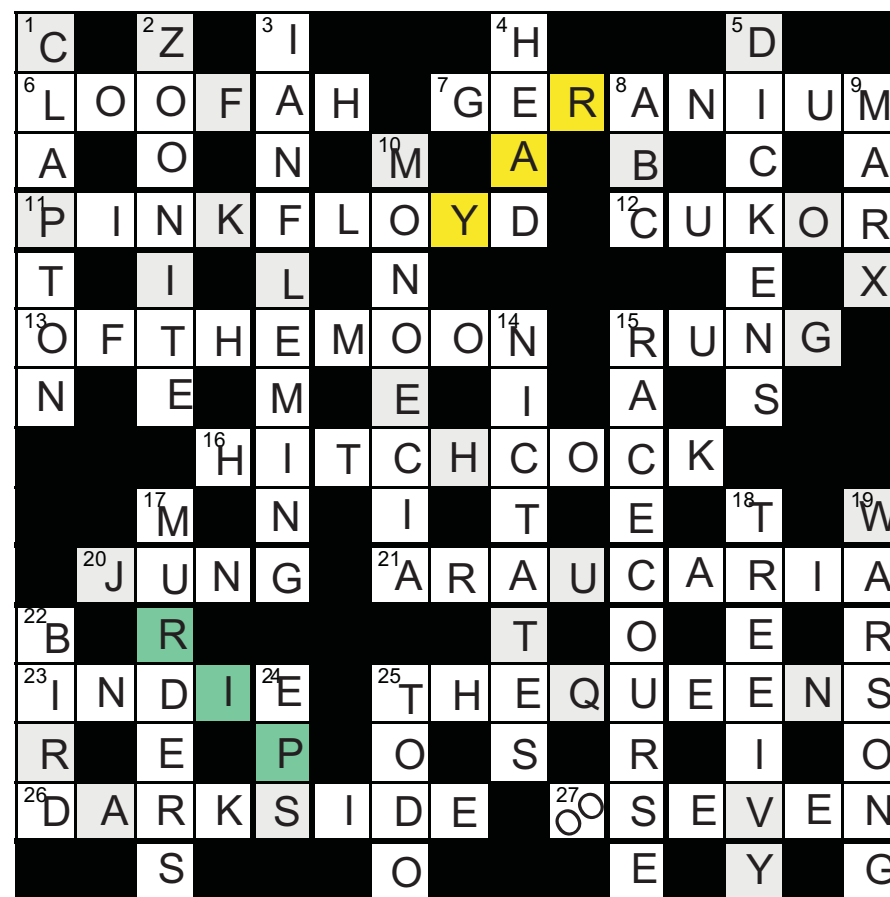
A theme or themes, plus pangram, plus highlighted tribute - a worthy memorial to a friend.

I think I got there in the end but I haven't understood parsing of all the clues, so I'll be studying the solution in detail when it appears. Last one in took several re-visits - it was 27A "OO SEVEN", of course. For a long time I assumed this was a misprint and was failing to solve it as (2,4) or (1,5). When the light dawned on the "head tightly squeezed" instruction I was bowled over.

Several answers are in place because there is nothing else that fits, somewhat aided by the whole alphabet in the light grey squares which was particularly helpful for Zoonite and TreeiVY. I didn't understand if there was any significance to the thicker edges given to rows 4, 10, 15 and columns 5 and 10 in the grid. I assume that was a quirk of the printing (?)

Only when writing this have I realised this is not actually a "3D" grid - but it is such an unusual puzzle it is brilliant to see it in the Calendar Puzzles canon. It will be remembered for a long time as one of the greats.

Stay well. Cheers, AJR



I remember seeing Ray at Penderel's Oak - and being amazed by his speed and ease of puzzle solving (I didn't appreciate at the time that he was in fact "45 RPM").

I enjoyed this puzzle, once I understood it, and it was a very clever and fitting tribute to RPM. DS



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

I loved this one. As always with Enigmatist some fantastic cluing. Of course the list of previous contributions from RPM that you included in the newsletter helped enormously as did Enigmatist's alphabetic silver grid squares. Nonetheless it was still very testing. The clue for 27a was an absolute gem. Until the penny dropped it was completely meaningless. "3's theme" had to be BOND but what had this had to do with giant partridges and squeezed heads. Also surely (2,5) was a typo. The final answer immediately reminded me of the original crossword with 007 in a single square of the grid. Wonderful. AG

As I'm away in Italy and then Australia to meet my new granddaughter over the next two months, I thought I'd get ahead and submit the August Extra Challenge in memory of Ray Parry-Morris now! Frustratingly, I failed to scroll down far enough to see the helpful list of puzzles Ray compiled, so there was a lot of head-scratching and memory-searching to complete the grid!! But complete it I did, and I hope that at least most of my solutions are correct. This was a fitting tribute to Ray, whom you must miss very much.

With thanks and best wishes, Ray RIP, SF

As so often, top marks (this time to Enigmatist) on squeezing in so many thematic elements. I particularly liked the double-O of 27 across being able to represent a '45' RPM single. HE

OS EVEN took ages. Had 007 in my mind Thinking that the grey cell was the extra letter going across. Last in WAR SONG ... A very clever taxing solve. The 26th letter? This I could not see, expected UU for W, but Defeated.

I did find the grey cells hard to determine on the colour copy too!.

After wonderful eclipse came back to this. Delightful. DM

It was a real toughie, perhaps made significantly harder by me not having seen the list of past crossword themes until I had finished. Particularly satisfying as a result, perhaps! JN

I had the Dickens of a time getting MONOECIA. Cheers JD

Surely the most obscure theme ever. Completely impossible without the hint table. MJ

Thanks to your helpful piece in the newsletter, I went back for another look and got it finished. Nearly stalled when I put Kipling as 5D but then realised I had two grey Ks so thought again. PD

When I first looked at this puzzle, I couldn't see how the various thematic clues could be possibly related to one another, but eventually I realised that the listing of 45's puzzles in the newsletter was there to be helpful, and that the theme was RPM's themes. (I hadn't remembered that those puzzles were all his.) I haven't looked at the December puzzle yet, but it seems that this one doesn't need knowledge of the to-be-found theme of that one.

The grey cells referred to in the preamble can't be seen on my download of the puzzle or solution sheet, but it was of some assistance to know that there was a complete alphabet to be found. At first it seemed that they might be all peripheral unchecked cells, but I eventually found that there was no unchecked P or a peripheral Q. Needing the V to complete the alphabet was just what I needed to finish, as 18dn isn't in Chambers, while 27ac needed special treatment!

I was very appreciative of Enigmatist's skill in working in references to all the themes so smoothly. PM

Here's my entry for the August Extra. It took me a while to get going on this but I got an answer for all clues in the end.....not entirely sure ALL are right but here goes.... JB

What a great tribute to RPM. I liked RAY and RIP in yellow and green but it was hard to see the grey cells.

I didn't think I would be able to start this with all the cross-rferencing but once I got going (BIRD) I did it in one sitting. The list of 45 themes on the next page was helpful of course. Did a double take at OO SEVEN which was last one in but also favourite. JT

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

3. September Competition

The September puzzle with an innovative star studded grid with a zodiac theme, clued and structured by Puck, was won by Suzanne Farquhar of Reading. Excellent solving! This Puckish puzzle had a tricky jigsaw element as some circular solutions appeared to have alternative paths, the true one only being decided by fitting in with other solutions as the solve progressed.



St Ives in September

Feedback included:

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

A star turn from Aramis and Puck attached. KW

Puck served up a real cracker which I found very difficult but enjoyed immensely.

Some of the clues were not my usual cup of tea, for instance, Otic was Optic with pout!!

PC

And here's my entry for September. This was a cracker!

I really enjoyed this one. It was a lovely moment when the penny dropped about the theme. Great care required making sure the clockwise/anti-clockwise answers went around the correct triangle. GB

I'll give this one five stars! Very tricky clues even after I got the theme and was able to place all the unclued lights it took a fair while to finish. You can almost get 'starry genius' from the extra letters and I wasted some time trying to swap the 'O' for an 'E' but finally gave up and spotted YOUR STAR SIGN. AW

Thanks for this interesting and challenging grid. Various ambiguities meant we couldn't fill in many answers until others went in. Worth the struggle.

N&SI

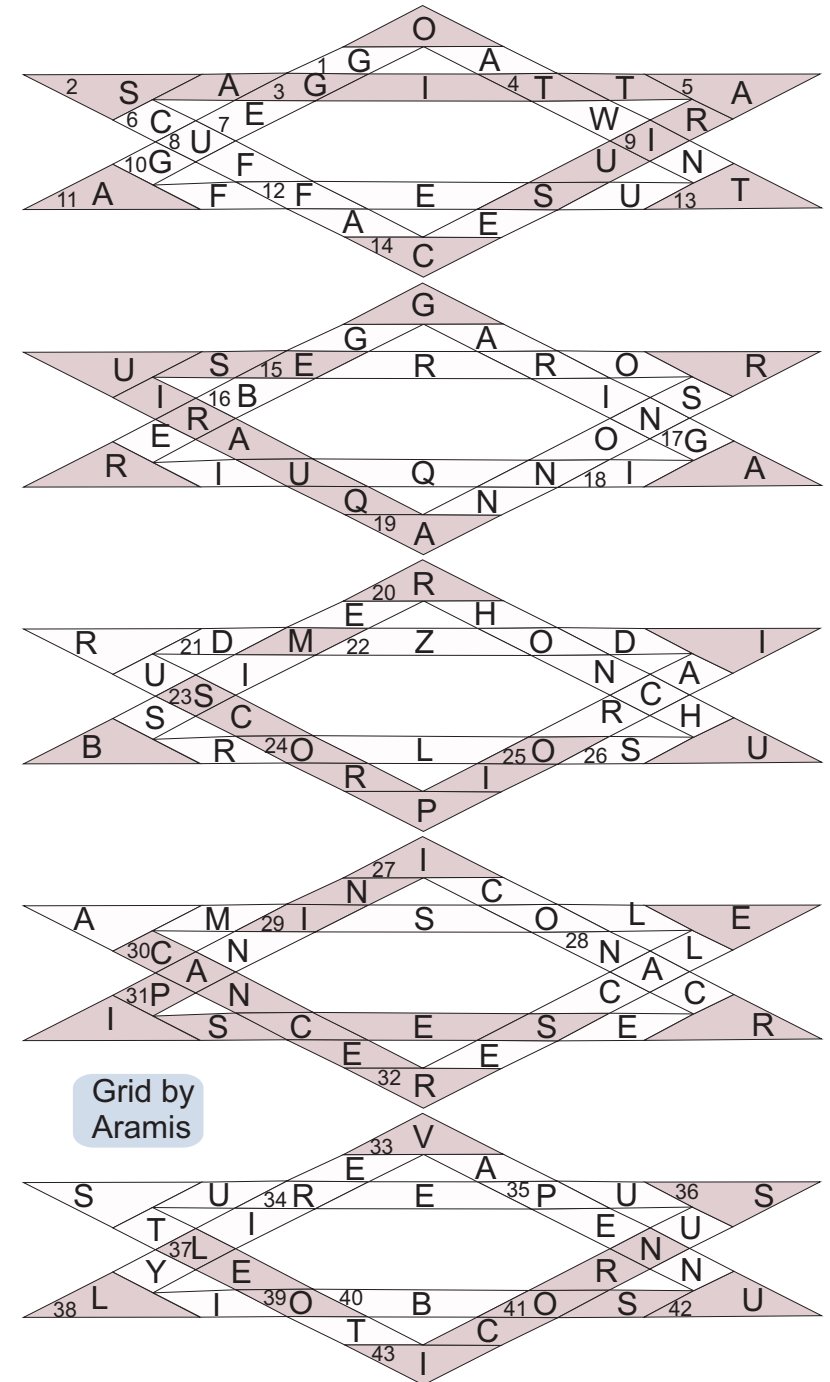
I found this very difficult - not only solving the puzzle, but filling in the grid! I'm embarrassed to say how many times I had to reprint and

start again! (Concentration was never my strong point!)

I just saw the September extra jump into my inbox; I will have a go but having had a quick look, will probably have to wait for the October, more accessible version. DS



Starry Night Van Gogh



My star sign is Puck with Aramis ascendant.

I nearly gave up on this one because of the problems filling in the grid. Clockwise/anticlockwise - my pencil was revolving in the air, making sure I was going in the right direction - and which triangle to follow round? Which letters should I leave out? That last problem was solved when I remembered that a real word would be left after subtraction.

I'm assuming that the (clueless?) entry at 22C (6) is ZODIAC - only the D was missing. Have I missed something?

This was the most challenging puzzle so far this year but I note that we still have to face Enigmatist and Anax - ah well! JB

Interesting - some pretty obscure words made it a bit of a challenge. Working out that C and aC meant clockwise and anti-clockwise was a breakthrough. HB

Well i got there in the end (i think) and it was very definitely worth the not inconsiderable time spent on it - I am feeling quite pleased with myself! CF

Good to have lots of cross-checking between answers, though things became easier once the theme appeared. Puzzled by 1, 14, 16 but I haven't read the hints yet.

September's probably wrong solution attached.

There's a reason why this is being sent a few minutes short of the deadline - I still cannot see what the "12 letters so removed can be arranged to spell out"

I am now giving up and sending it with a couple of guesses in the places where it is not definite without that.

To aid Nora's checking these are near each other on the bottom star of David:

Left of point 36 could be O or U from SOUPER - I have guessed SUPER in the grid because the 12 letters could do with an O (even if I don't know what to do with it)

Diagonally right and down from square (diamond?) 35 could be E or N from PENNY - I have guessed PNNY in the grid to release the E into the 12 latters.

For the 12 letters I had SAIUGRRNST plus O or U and E or N. I can see STARS and SIGNS in there but not a phrase that makes sense. I know I will kick myself when I find out what it is. AJR

ust to say what a stretching and enjoyable September I've had with both this months puzzles. Both puzzles were hard; with the Puck and Aramis puzzle as difficult as any 3D I've so far tackled to fully complete. Of course I'll send them both in before the deadline but i just wanted to express my appreciation having, after much brain cudgelling, just cracked the final "Your Star Sign" anagram in the September normal. AG

Herewith my solution for the September puzzle.

Sorry we failed to send our August solution. We completed it early in the month but simply forgot to send it.

We both have birthdays in August – we must be getting old!

We enjoyed the September puzzle very much – a great theme cleverly maintained in the stellar grid. T&CH

Here, in the nick of time, is my entry for the September 3D puzzle with its very clever zodiac theme and related grid. As my birthday falls on the cusp between Leo and Cancer I could find both of my star signs in the solution!

I have not been able to complete the September Extra before the first deadline but seem to remember that there are more hints about where to put answers coming tomorrow so I will wait, hoping that this will make life easier. JB

This was a bit tricky as answers marked C could sometimes go in two different directions, however I have achieved a completed grid with a few hours to go.

Some nice bits of lateral thinking, like Service meaning service tree. A big thumbs up for the wonderful clue on Day 25 with eerie sounding meaning ear-y and pout reading as p-out.

Much enjoyed! PD

Well, Eric, the appointed hour has come and, for the first time in nearly 8 years, I have not solved your monthly 3D puzzle.

I have gone many rounds with Puck in Guardian Prize and have always managed to overcome him but this time he has floored me so I'm throwing in the towel.

May you be rewarded for all your dedicated work over the years which has benefited worthy causes and brought great enjoyment to your band of followers. MC

Got lost on the grid with AC & C! The zodiac answers came quite early ...DM

Here's my solution - I found it rather tricky, as it wasn't always clear which triangle to follow when entering solutions (by the way I think there's a missing highlight for the E of Cancer at 30aC) though I soon saw that it was never necessary to change direction at an intersection.

I liked the way Aramis had fitted all the signs together - overlooking clue 43 made it a bit harder for me to see what was going on at first, and it was only a while after finishing that I identified all the letters correctly from the starred clues to be able to discover that they could spell "your star sign". (Perhaps there should have been a warning that one of the removals gives a name .)

I enjoyed how Puck was rather naughty with the clues - there's an X-rated film hinted at by the 3rd 7th 11th 12th 35th 42nd 27th & 40th !

Although I've had a look at the extra, I've not been able to solve enough of the clues to be able to fit any together, so I'll have to leave that for now.

PM

Thank you for a challenging and engrossing puzzle. I had a lot of difficulty getting into it but finally (and not without a good push from Mr Saille) the perseverance proved more than worthwhile.GS

This was my first encounter with the Star of David hexagram grid and it took little while to resolve the way to enter the answers. My first purple entry came with GEMINI and the rest of the purple entries were immediately apparent. Crossword solved I thought. Another premature judgement. The asterisked clues proved extremely difficult to unravel. PUCK was clearly at his most devious on some of these. Clue 35 SORBS was a real beast. It also became apparent that the grid couldn't be completed without solving the 12 letter anagram because at least two of the entries had more than a single option 2aC SCURF or SCUFF and 35C PENN or PYNE. It was with some relief that YOUR STAR SIGN eventually emerged. Agd

Thank you for a challenging and engrossing puzzle. I had a lot of difficulty getting into it but finally (and not without a good push from Mr Saille) the perseverance proved more than worthwhile.GS

4. September Clues and Explanations

	Day SOLUTION	Direction – Clue - Enumeration	Explanation	Notes
1	AGAIN	17C* Spinning round, missing artist falls over (5)	Niaga[RA], rev.	gain, with extra A
2	AGUE	11C Fit adult, 3d-4 29C-3, dropping car off outside university (4)	A + (U in Ge[mini]); ref. 3d-4 29C-3=Gemini	
	AQUARIUS	19C (8)		Unclued
	ARIES	5d (5)		Unclued
3	BEGGARING	16C Doing striptease after eating some breakfast is exhausting (9)	egg in baring	
4	BOSONS	40aC-2,41up Tea Party venue's timeless bits of integral spin? (6)	Bos[t]on's	
5	BOSUN	40aC Floating PO that's a bit short of loo paper (5)	bo[g] + Sun	

6	BRIER	16aC* Cheese recipe required – it could be smoked (5)	Brie + r; brier pipe	Brer, with extra l
7	CAMISOLE	30C Caught friend taking off 37aC's underwear (8)	c + ami + anag of Leo's; ref. 37aC=Leo	
	CANCER	30aC (6)		Unclued
8	CANNONS	14d-2, 19aC Laws covering new guns (7)	n in canons	
	CAPRICORN	14d, 43aC (9)		Unclued
9	CURSAL	6aC-2, 8d Scoundrels start attacking landmarks like Stonehenge monument (6)	curs + a[ttacking] l[andmarks]	
10	DMZ (abbr.)	21C Danger Mouse logo unknown in area between Iraq and Kuwait? (3)	DM + z	Abbreviation
11	EGg	7C Roundish object placed in cup (note very big cup size) (3)	E + GG	
12	ERRORS I	15C Bishop intervening in case of awfully sore boobs (6)	RR in anag of sore	
13	FAUCES	12aC* Taps just short of beginning of the back of the throat (6)	faucets minus t[he]	faces, with extra U
14	FUOCO	12d Noted fire raging, of course, if Norse! (5)	Anag of (of cou[rse])	
15	GAFFE	10aC Boob possibly flat at base (5)	gaff + e	
	GEMINI	3d-4, 29C-3 (6)		Unclued
16	GRIME	34up-4* King Puck? Puck, Muck or Yuck! (5)	GR + l + me	rime, with extra G
17	GROAT	1C* Old coin foolish person inscribed with reading? (5)	R in goat	GOAT, with extra R
18	ICON	27C Scam affecting Apple product image (4)	iCon	
19	INCAN	9d Old Peruvian getting home about noon (5)	In + ca + n	
20	INQUIRE	18C Ask singers on the radio to follow One Direction (7)	1 + N + homophone of "choir"	Inquire for inquirer
21	INTUSE	9C How people get repaired, eg in the case of 41 reportedly causing Edmund's bruise (6)	Homophone of "In twos"; ref. 41=Twins	
	LEO	37aC (3)		Unclued
	LIBRA	38up (5)		Unclued
22	NACRE	28C Inner layer of a shell representing 30aC? Not originally (5)	Anag of [C]ancer; ref. 30aC=Cancer	nacre for conacres

23	OILY I	39C Off and on repeatedly socially unctuous (4)	[s]o[c]i[a]l[l]y	
24	ORCA	25aC Old label for a killer (4)	o + RCA	
25	OTICI	39aC Eerie-sounding drink dispenser's pout! (4)	o[p]tic; homophone of "eerie"=ear-y	
26	PANINI	31C Sandwiches from Japan, initially (6)	Hidden answer	
27	PAVER	35aC One that's flagging from a debauched bit of depravity (5)	Anag of [d]eprav[ity]	
28	PENNY	35C* Female writer, extremely naughty (5)	Pen + n[auht]y	Penn, with extra Y
	PISCES	31aC (6)		Unclued
29	REMISS	20aC Fail to score again? That's careless (6)	re-miss	
30	RESCALE I	32aC Change the size ratio of modified cereals (7)	Anag of cereals	
31	RHONCHUS	20C Cracked horn has produced such a wheezing sound (8)	Anag of horn + anag of such	
32	RUSTLE	34aC Film director said to steal cattle (6)	Homophone of [Ken] "Russell"	
	SAGITTARIUS	2C (11)		Unclued
	SCORPIO	23aC (7)		Unclued
33	SCRUFF I	2aC* Some neck shown by second century Pope (6)	S + C + ruff	scuff, with extra R
34	SOLONI	26C* Brief farewell for wise man of Athens (5)	So lon[g]	solo, with extra N
35	SORBS	24C* Services sore boobs without online disapproval? (5)	Sor[e boo]bs; ref. service trees	orbs, with extra S
36	SOUPERI	36aC* Tiny bit of money for each Irish person proselytizing by providing food, for starters (6)	sou + per	super, with extra O
37	STUN	36C* Shock "Setter drinks tea" announcement (4)	Homophone of "tea" in sun	SUN, with extra T
38	SURAS	2d Greek character lacking 13d 42C-2 rising, like in parts of the Koran (5)	[Tau]rus, rev. + as; ref. 13d 42C-2=Taurus	
39	SURD	23C Sailor having gone crazy an irrational amount (4)	[AB]surd	
	TAURUS	13d,42C-2 (6)		Unclued
40	TROOP	4d Model has pants pulled up in company (5)	T + poor(rev.)	
41	TWINS	4C* 3dn-4 29C-3 women getting canned (5)	w in tins; ref 3dn-4 29C-3=Gemini	TWIN, with extra S
42	VERILY	33aC Prove large for female, in truth (6)	verify, with L for f	
	VIRGO	33up (5)		Unclued
43	ZODIAC	22C 12 houses in 12aC 1aC (6)	Doz(rev.) + 1aC	

5. September Extra

The September Extra with innovative grid (mezzanine floor) by Gin and clued by Sirius was presented as a jigsaw for two weeks and then as a fully directed puzzle for a further two weeks. Gin had based the grid on a meeting between Eton pupil, Orwell, and French master, Huxley. The challenging jigsaw competition was won by Ben Lovering of Southsea. This is even more notable in that Ben had a rather rough initial draft to work on as a puzzle tester. A further prize was offered to all entrants of both jigsaw and directed versions and was won by Geoff Bolton of Kettering. Excellent solving!

If the cultural reference in clue 27 was unknown to you I can recommend a listen/watch of the following with particular attention to the last verse:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fFI5Jl_lqsE

Feedback included:

Great fun! A triple treat - clues, jigsaw, emerging theme all combined for a satisfying solve. I can't quite explain my answers to 27, 28 and as usual I have learnt some new words. JT

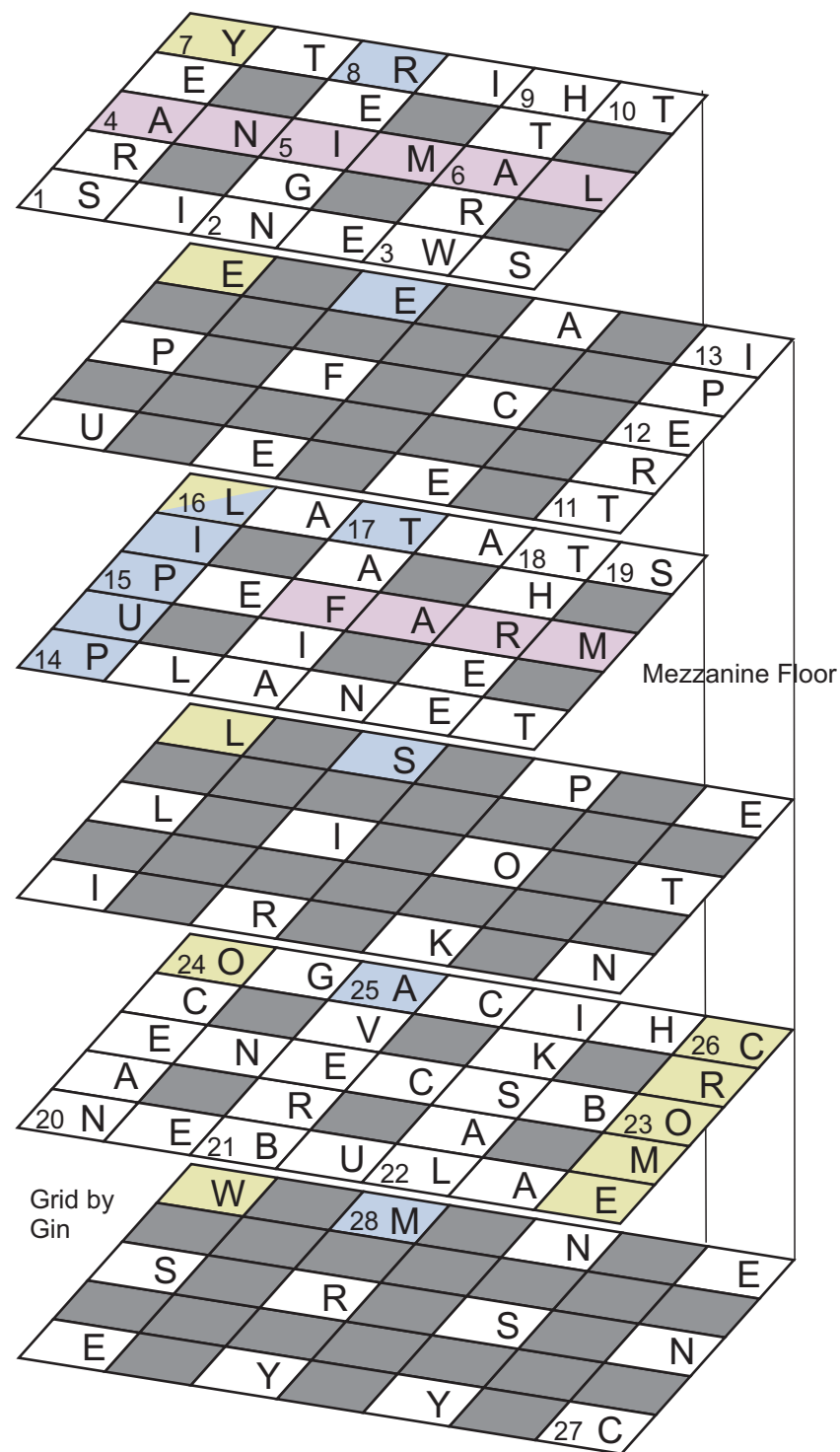
Absolutely loved this one! A cracking grid with only one snake and no bars. Some of the clues are brilliant. I particularly liked clue 26 (*THREE*). Quite possibly the best 3D I've done. GB

You came up with some headscratching clues. Day 26 is a really old joke and I spent a long time trying to find airports a short way from London for Day 3 before hearing the penny roll down the apples and pears. Not completely convinced by sinews - are they the same as tendons? and I still can't see why 27 is weekly. Maybe it isn't!

Really enjoyed the challenge. PD

September extra solution attached. A tricky one! Not helped early on by putting nearby where thirty should be.

I still can't parse some of the solutions, but here's hoping. I particularly liked the clues for Supine and Three! JP



This was an interesting challenge. Good misdirection with VW meant 27 was our last one in. The shading and numbers and unusual grid were very helpful with the jigsaw. Thanks! N&SI

Some of the clues stymied me, and I finished the grid not understanding how any of the following days' clues worked: 21, 25, 27 and 29. [How interesting that they were all in the 20s ... ?]

For day 28, I wasn't happy with "hot water" giving WH.

For day 9, I assume a "spaced out capon" means "cap on" this doesn't sit easily in my Ximenean heart.

Day 26's clue was fabulous - loved it ! One of my favourite (and oldest) riddles !

And I thoroughly approve the markings "AMS Gloassary" and "Wikipedia" to denote those answers not found in Chambers.

Thanks to Gin and to you for a lovely piece of work. HE

Please find attached my answer grid to the September Extra. As noted in my feedback, there is one clue (25) that I know I have right because of forming the titles, but have no idea why! And another (27) that I think is correct for the definition but similarly cannot solve cryptically.

Those wrinkles aside, this was a most enjoyable puzzle and I am glad to have learned the little piece of information about the meeting of Aldous Huxley and George Orwell at Eton. JN

Many thanks indeed for your reply and helping me understand those knotty clues, it is very kind of you to take the time to explain! Certainly the Victoria Wood reference completely passed me by. A slight issue of my age (35) and distance from the UK (I am currently based in the UAE), but pleasing to have got to the right place irrespective of a near-total lack of understanding of the clue, and of course very enjoyable to be reacquainted with that particular song! JN

A very clever puzzle with an interesting grid. I am sorry to say that my answers to 27 and 28 are guesswork – no idea what is going on with these two! JM

Great stuff – many thanks.

Never ceases to amaze me what you can learn by doing crosswords. KW

We thoroughly enjoyed this challenge. We loved the clue for “weekly” even though it took us a long time to solve it! Di&TE

Jigsaw made easier by having numbers in the diagram. I started with the seven letter answers which gave hints for the downs. 21, 27, 29 still puzzling. MJ

Crome Yellow gave me the theme, but had to look up author which with ANIMAL seved 2nd author. CENTRPIECE fixed positions alongside ANIMAL. Penny finally dropped with spaced CAP ON! 'London flight', I assume XXX for THIRTY. Assume WEEKLY but ...

Great solve. DM

I loved the inventiveness of the "mezzanine" grid and the intricacy of the themed links, fabulous! Not so sure we have all the right answers, but I wanted to submit on the "without assistance" deadline anyway because I was so happy I could put the jigsaw together! AR&AS

This looked an intriguing proposition with a jigsaw, various coloured cells and a mezzanine layer in the grid and a mysterious appointment to investigate. Given Sirius's health warning on difficulty I prevailed upon my wife to give up her Saturday afternoon to help. As usual with a jigsaw its a case of cold solving and we had solved about half the clues including CROME and YELLOW which hinted at an Aldous Huxley link when we got the key starter clue No. 5 CENTREPIECE; how very appropriate. With CENTREPIECE entered CROME followed and the entry for the yellow boxes was evident. No 16 OBSCENE, another excellent and amusing clue proved elusive but completed level 5.

There were many other absolute gems of clues; Sirius at his absolute peak. Some examples: No 19 PUPIL a great double definition, No 26 THREE (half an hour after two-thirty!), and No 3 APPLES with its cockney rhyming slang definition, brilliant.

Time to do a bit of research into Aldous Huxley which lead to George Orwell and the Eton encounter. Now ANIMAL and FARM could be entered in the red boxes and so to the completion of level 1. As the grid filled PUPIL slotted in and MASTER became self evident to complete the grey boxes.

The fun ending leading to the two book titles rounded of an absolute tour de force of a puzzle. AGd

Very happy to have completed this unusual puzzle (did need help with a couple but fitted the grid OK once I had all the answers. LIPE FARM cost me hours but THREE (Day 26) was a joy. BB

Fascinating. I love the way these crosswords keep educating me! TH

September Extra: My goodness what a difficult one.

I finally pieced it together this morning, but as usual these days it seems, there is one I haven't fully understood: WEEKLY in at 3D (from Def. Regularly, but how "musical companion used to beat on VW's big end" gives EEKLY I do not know).

And also I didn't notice the instructions on the original mail and only just noticed that it ceased to be a jigsaw after Sept 30th. I just thought the deadline was around mid month. I don't mind. The Jigsawing aspect of the solve is what I particularly like, and now I have looked at the later version of the puzzle I see I have the Days to Lights correct.

Early on I had the "First floor" nearly full, with CHICAGO, OBSCENE and NEBULAE, and OCEAN, LASKI and what had to be BREVA (checked). The theme was spotted from the yellow lights which had to be Crome Yellow

The coloured lights giving ANIMAL FARM and MASTER-PUPIL (plus ETON) also helped of course

I had not known about the relationship between Orwell and Huxley so that was a interest read at <http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/aldous-huxley-is-hired-at-eton>

The biggest penny dropper was when I realised TENDON would not fit anywhere and realised it had to be SINEWS. Then the subsequent few "Days" clues didn't all have to begin with T!

Last one in was LIPE FARM (veruy obscure) AJR

...September Extra with its Orwell and Huxley theme. I definitely needed the help for putting my answers in the grid on this one!

I was thrown off the scent by Day 21 which I thought was to do with "tendons" for a while, until I realised later answers started with S and so it couldn't be. Realising that 1984 was Thirty Three Years ago woke me up in the middle of the night on one occasion!

Anyway, all good fun and I have no idea how any of you dream up these ingenious puzzles but long may you continue. **Which brings me to the question, when will the 2018 3D Calendar be available? JBN**

I now declare

Woman's musical companion used to beat on VW's big end, regularly (6)

to be my favourite clue, ever! AJR

Sirius note: Huge thanks to Ben Lovering and Puck for once again helping to turn a rather rough draft into an almost presentable puzzle.

And in answer to Janet's question, the 2018 3D puzzle calendar is being printed now, **at cost**, by Mohamud Karim and his team at Print Express, Ruislip. That represents a huge donation - if we can sell all the calendars!

Clues and Explanations follow after a note about Hints & Tips.

7. Hints and Tips

We are most fortunate that each month Adam Saille produces a very clear and beautifully illustrated series of Hints and Tips for the month's puzzle. The Hints and Tips might cover about ten clues, including some of the more elusive. They guarantee a good start to the puzzle. They don't give the game away completely but they do show how the wordplay in a clue might work. The Hints and Tips contain general points too, not just limited to the puzzle in question. Readers will benefit from Adam's knowledge and experience and will transfer the skills to other puzzles.

Some solvers find them invaluable in starting to get to grips with cryptic crosswords, increasing pace of solving and enjoyment. Others find them very useful to read through after solving or nearly solving a puzzle. Either way they are always an authoritative and interesting read.

If you would like to join the email list just email:

sirius:calendarpuzzles.co.uk or

adam.saille@tiscali.co.uk

6. September Clues & Explanations

SOLUTION	Clue		Explanation	
ACROSS	Poldark, in arrears with account, left to write report?(6)	1	AC + ROSS L to (R Homophone)	
ANIMAL	4ac Manila terrorised by beast (6)	2	(MANILA)*	+ 15ac part 2, George Orwell novel
APPLES	"Pianissimo" drinking beer? On the contrary in short flight from London (6)	3	P(ALES)P <> A(PP)LES Apples and pears = stairs.	
BREVA	Vicar and sailor-turned-escort wind around Lake Como (5)		AB<> BA B(REV)A	Valley wind across lake Como,Italy.
CENTREPIECE	Recent epic involved early start - impressive mid-table display (11)	5	(RECENT EPIC)* + E	28up,11aw,13d
CHICAGO	26ba This style of Pizza is back in vogue for starters (7)	6	CHIC + AGO	
CROME	26to 30's titular other half found in Norfolk resort getting end away (5)	7	CROME – YELLOW book title CROME(r)	+ 7d – Aldous Huxley novel
ETON	12d Take letter back to school (4)	8	<NOTE	Private school UK
HATPIN	9d It might keep spaced out capon from path in repair (6)	9	(PATH IN)*	
IFFIER	5d It's more dodgy if fire breaks out (6)	10	(IF FIRE)*	

LASKI	22aw Harold's captivated by Stella's kiss (5)	11	Hidden	Harold Laski 1893-1950
LIPE FARM	16to-3,15ac Pile developed by MacDonald's pad in historic NY residence (4,4) snake	12	(PILE)* Old MacD had a FARM	Listed on NRHP.
MASTER	28up Dab hand in meandering stream (6)	13	(STREAM)*	
NEARBY	2d Close to terrible barney (6)	14	(BARNEY)*	
NEBULAE	20ac No Scots welcome lubricant in back passage. One of them could be crabby! (7)	15	N(<LUBE)AE	
OBSCENE	23ba Extremely rude 8 reunion perhaps? (7)	16	Old Boys get-together	
OCEAN	24to Old upset being barred from rumbustious canoodle in sea (5)	17	[(CANOodlE) – o l d]*	
PLANET	Superman's Daily shows diagram to alien (6)	18	Daily PLANET PLAN + ET	
PUPIL	14aw Black hole student? (5)	19	Double def	
REIGN	8to Report of cats and dogs in action on throne (5)	20	"Rain"	

On 21 October 1949, Huxley wrote to George Orwell, author of Nineteen Eighty-Four, congratulating him
Sept 18 1917 French teacher at Eton

The answers to the following clues when **sorted** and **ordered** should provide further clues to of two additional books relevant to the theme.

2ac -3 – 7to – 10ba – 14ac – 18to – 21aw – 25ba

(NEW – YEARS – THIRTY – PLANET – THREE – BREVA) - AGO

BREVA* NEW PLANET and THIRTY THREE YEARS AGO

BRAVE NEW WORLD and 2017 - 33 = 1984

SINEWS	1ac Don, Don, Don, Don, Don, Don, Don, Don, Don, Don. Don is in in stitches? (6)	21	Tendons = def S(IN)EWS	
STATAL	19ba Fair aunt reduced somewhat taking in shoddy clothes of Georgia and Virginia for example (6)	22	Aunt SALLY S(TAT)AL US states	Collins and Word Wizard
SUPINE	1d Code to get into Ms Barker's flat (6)	23	SU(PIN)E	Sue Barker BBC presenter and former UK tennis player
TAFIA	17to Crash a Fiat getting cheap rum (5)	24	(A FIAT)*	
THIRTY	10ba Does this get iffier and iffier and iffier? On the contrary (6)	25	Iffier Day 10. 10 + 10 + 10 = THIRTY	
THREE	18to Maybe Holly cuddles Henry for half an hour after painful dental appointment (5)	26	T(H)REE 3pm being half an hour after tooth hurty	
WEEKLY	3d Woman's musical companion used to beat on VW's big end regularly (6)	27	Victoria Wood and "beat me on the bottom with a Woman's WEEKLY" in last verse 'Let's Do It'	
WRATH	3aw Deserter in hot water looking to get hairdryer treatment? (5)	28	Aw solution so 'to' has reversed HW to WH W(RAT)H reference Alex	
YEARS	7to Noble gases with old solver for ages (5)	29	??? Ar+Ar+Ar+... = Ars ??? YE + ARs	
Yellow	7d Cowardly shouts of pain (6)	30	YELL + 'OW!'	

8. Tie-break 2017

The arrangements for the Tie-break 2017 will be the same as in previous years. The task is to design a 3D grid (for 2019) and to write a clue for one of the solutions. If you should decide to clue the entire grid, please nominate one clue for Tie-break entry. Deadline for entries - midnight January 2018.

Tie-break grids provide a rich spawning pool for future calendar puzzles particularly where the number of solutions does not exceed 42, although we can be flexible with just one or two longer puzzles.

Suitability for development into a monthly puzzle in a calendar is **not** a criterion in the Tie-break.

I will provide some notes for guidance in the November Newsletter.

9. Bulletin Board

When we started the project nearly ten years ago, the plan was to have a Bulletin Board where messages could be posted and where solvers could enter a blog about the puzzles and other crossword events. This would be an interactive area of the website which for the most part is principally a download site.

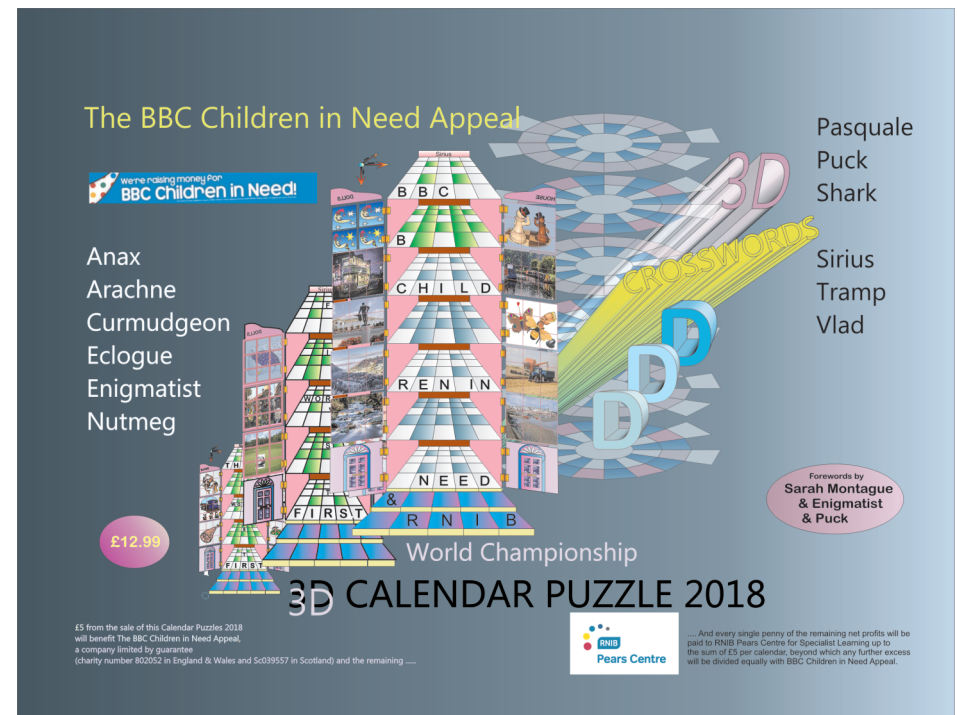
I hit problems which I couldn't solve. I have had the intention of overcoming the difficulties and the calendars always contain a reference. However, the rainbow just moves further away.

We are looking to find someone who would like to take this challenge on and transform this dormant grub into a butterfly.

For more information please email:

sirius@calendarpuzzles.co.uk

10. The 2018 BBC CiNA 3D Crosswords Calendar!!



Eleven Fantastic Puzzles and one from another star system. Where else can you get that??

We will be updating the PayPal buttons in the next two weeks. But the prices remain unchanged and the buttons are still working. Sarah Montague has bought two already!

The calendar 2018 is at the printers now and should be available for distribution end of next week. Thank you Team for all that hard work.

We do hope you will be with us next year.

Best wishes Eric Westbrook

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