

Summary

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1. 2018 BBC CiNA Puzzle Calendar

The incredibly posh, printed Puzzle Calendar is on sale from our website:

www.calendarpuzzles.co.uk

Eleven elite crossword setters have lent their genius, plus another from a different star system to produce this work of crossword art.

The focus of RNIB Pears Centre Fundraising Group is for a Sensory Play Area which will cost about £13,000 according to John Darch, Chair of the Group and keen 3D Crossword solver. That might be a target for a whole year for a FRG. But if we sold all our calendars, we could raise that money in one go. But how?

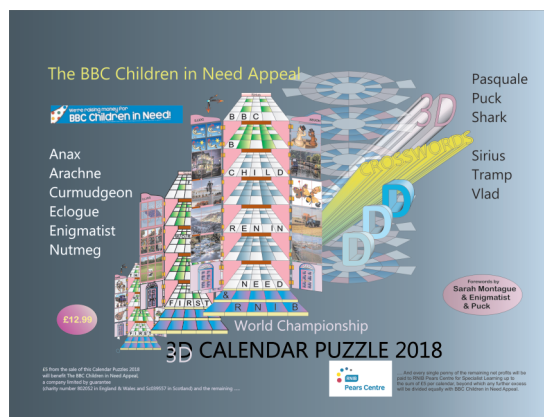
2. £1000 raised so far and Thank You

Thanks to super saleswoman Nora Boswell and Enigmatist at the York Sloggers & Betters crossword get-together, Puck posts on Fifteen Squared and Guardian blogs, super sales people Sue and Andy Wallace plus Enigmatist and Puck at The Times Crossword Competition, and some early ordering from 3D regulars we have already raised £1,000! Fantastic! I do hope you will want to stay with us for the 3D feast in 2018. It probably feels a bit early but orders now will ease the frantic pressure before the Christmas 3D fever strikes!

How might we sell even more calendars and expand our community?

3. Sales ideas - can you help? Could you display a poster? (See next page)

Parish magazines - early social media outlet - have advertising space and are often read by kindly people who might be moved by a recommendation from a fellow parishioner?



Doctors and dentists waiting rooms have magazines where staff might extend the use of their wood and vinyl flooring catalogues. A practice would surely allow a puzzle calendar. They might even make a donation. If you show them yours, and they are agreeable, I can post them one or two?

Newsagents might have space on a prominent shelf for a puzzle calendar for a short period, particularly if approached by a regular customer. I can post 5, 10, a dozen if you can collect cash afterwards?

Any further thoughts gratefully received if printable. Here's a positive piece we have used on blogs which you are free to use.

The BBC Children in Need Appeal World Championship 3D Crosswords Puzzle Calendar 2018 is not just a snappy title! It's an extremely posh calendar with beautiful photographs and art work.

It also has twelve delightful and satisfying puzzles in a unique series of monthly three-dimensional prize crosswords set in the frame of a calendar. Eleven elite crossword setters, including seven Guardian regulars, plus a twelfth from another star system, have lent their genius to BBC CiNA and RNIB Pears Centre for Specialist Learning, for nothing other than the crack of producing a world-class work of crossword art and to help youngsters in need.

Every single penny of the £12.99 investment in young people will be split equally between the two charities.

The 3D project is supported by (at least) monthly newsletters with competition results, solver feedback along with clues and explanations of puzzles. Newcomers are most welcome and will find the Hints & Tips for each puzzle reassuring whilst getting used to the new medium. More experienced solvers find them invaluable!

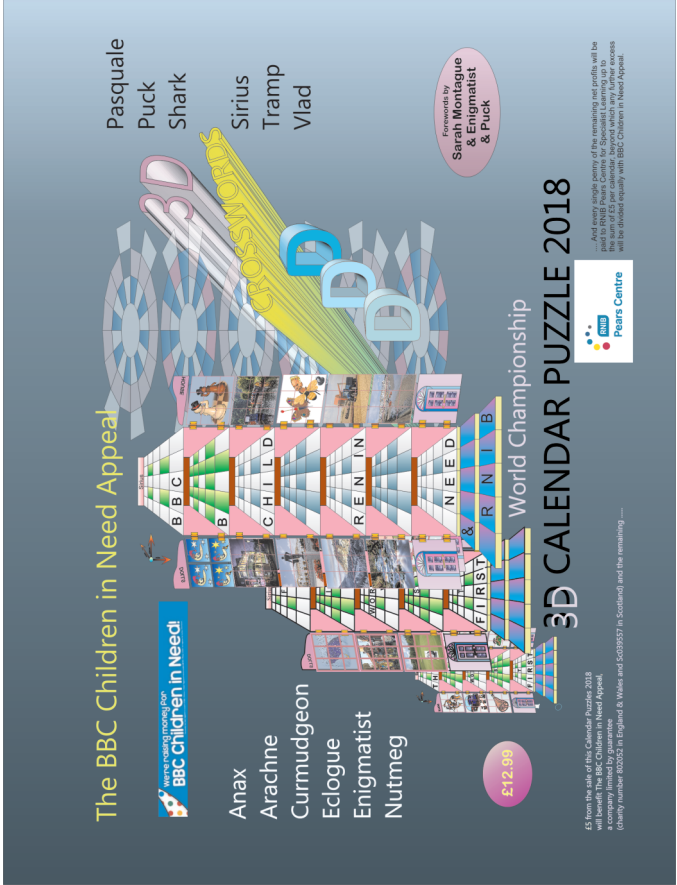
Come join us and help youngsters in need ... at the expense of some fun for the grown-ups.

<http://www.calendarpuzzles.co.uk/>

You could be the next 3D Crosswords World Champion!

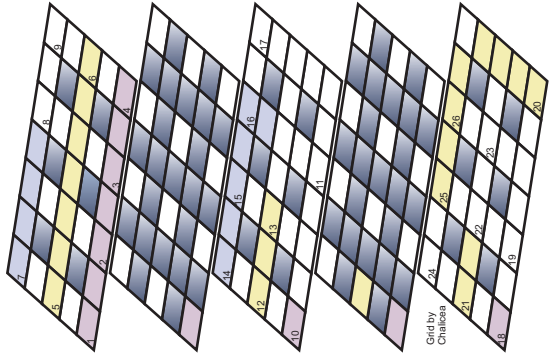
5. The Ray Parry Morris Trophy - Grid Design Competition for all

All solvers are invited to enter this competition to design a 3D grid to win the RPM trophy. This includes Tie=break Entrants. Same rules as Tie-break.

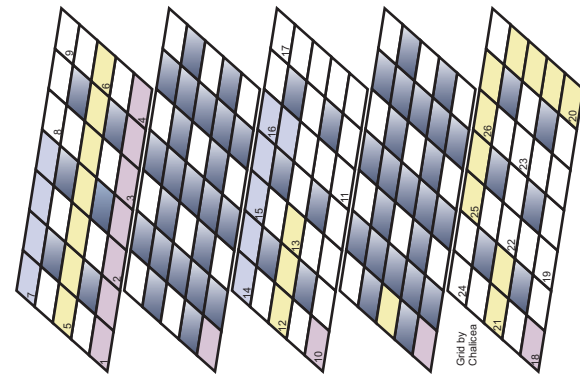


A Posh Puzzle Calendar

Cryptic Crosswords in



Three Dimensions



Google:

BBC 3D Crosswords

4. Tie-break 2017

Solvers successful in twelve puzzles out of the twelve mainstream and four 'Extras', qualify to enter the Tie-break Competition to determine who will be the next BBC Children in Need Appeal 3D Crosswords World Champion. A grid designer for a puzzle is given exemption. Success in an Extra makes up for a miss in a monthly mainstream puzzle.

The Tie-break Task is to design a 3D grid suitable for a puzzle in 2019 of roughly Saturday Guardian level and to write a clue for one of the solutions. The deadline for entries is midnight January 15th 2018.

Solvers enjoy themed puzzles and anniversaries might be useful. But your grid does not actually have to have a theme. The judges will consider the question, 'Does this grid have the potential to make a good/great puzzle?'

Judges

Sirius will enjoy wandering around your grids and will provide the grid judgement. Curmudgeon and husband Charles have agreed once more to judge the clue writing.

Criteria for judging

How does one judge such a challenging task fairly? Is it done purely by outcome or should weight be given to the skill with which the developing grid has been manipulated? If the last is conceded, how can the judge see all that should be taken into account?

The grids will be marked by the following criteria:

1. The grid must 'work' eg clue directions, real words
2. Fit the brief eg year 2019 and appropriate to Saturday Guardian level
3. Show clarity of presentation eg anniversary/theme clearly stated, themed words are clearly identified (highlighted or asterisked), sources of non-Chambers words given. As eyes dim, I prefer an asterisk.
- 4 Size of grid. Larger ones are more difficult.
5. Choice of grid appropriate given the possible themed words.
6. Variety of word length reducing five letter fatigue and a phrase or two.
7. Ratio of the more commonplace to obscure words
8. Number of 'accommodations' eg bars, extra black cells, symmetry loss -.. yet acknowledging the skill with which these have been employed Note: bars in large grids are not a problem if the 'bits' are locked in three dimensions eg the 4:3 barred arrangement in a Seven Dials grid.
9. Percentage of grid given to themed words
10. Overall impression. 'Will this grid make for a good/great puzzle?'

Credit should be given for other noteworthy aspects eg new designs, new ideas and the unexpected, and wit/humour eg RPM's 007 where we allowed 2 letters from OOGONIA or Mang's double Us.

Ways in which the grid itself fits the theme. Eg Pickles in June 2018, 45 in December 2017.

Ways in which the planning of the grid and solutions lead to planned manipulations eg ABC Murders where 45 gave a word list of clue solutions and then another list for grid entries after decapitation.

'wholeness' or completing the set, can be very attractive eg Logogriph and Austen together with use of intervening layers, Aramis' Star of David Hexagram (named by Agd), all twelve signs of the Zodiac, as well as innovative design.

Bear in mind that we ask setters to take on a word set which they have not chosen themselves. Some words just lend themselves to a witty clue. Others make the heart sink. Of course nothing defeats our intrepid team!

Notes on grid design and an exemplar

These are much as they have been but there are a couple of adjustments in the light of experience and feedback.

i. Bars: In a small grid eg 5x5x5, bars affect the 3D quality by reducing the number of checks on solutions. Such grids can usually be completed without bars with thought. However, in larger grids eg 7x5x5 and the Seven Dials cylindrical grids, bars have less effect and even none at all. If a line of seven is split 4:3 and the splits have two checking letters, that seems to be fine with me and should not incur penalties. In these grids, particularly Seven Dials, bars give rise to more variety in word and phrase lengths and that's good. We have not shown bars in the down direction up till now, but they are still there! We are experimenting with ways of showing such bars. It is worth bearing in mind that setters generally are not fond of too many short words to clue.

ii. Chambers Word Wizard, CWW, is generally great for entering partial words to find words in Chambers that fit spaces in a grid. I wrongly assumed that a word in CWW would be in Chambers print. Not so all the time. Do check.

iii. The Tie-break grid designs form a pool from which to select for the next calendar series, but this is not a criterion in the judging. Feel free to be innovative and show off your designing skills. However, if you would like your grid to appear and be clued by a top setter, bear in mind that our print format accommodates up to 42 words for clueing. Having said that, Oberto came up with a brilliant idea in the 'Carry On' puzzle where a number of themed solutions were not clued at all. This added interest. Grid designers are honoured by having the designer's name by the grid and underneath the setter's name in the title.

iv Snakes are solutions that go round corners. In the early days we saw them as a device to get round a problem of completing a grid. Now we are more used to them, a snake might be deliberately chosen at the beginning to accommodate words of lengths beyond the dimensions of the grid. They can be a way of making better use of the space in a 3D grid. Bozzy, in her Arizona snakes grid a few years back made excellent use of .. well, snakes! Feel free to use them up to a point. Likewise reversals.

Directions for snakes become clunky when there is more than one turn. But if the cells involved can be highlighted in the grid, they are very easy to follow and fill in. Too many highlights and the diagram becomes confusing.

There is a balance to be struck between getting another thematic word into the grid, and the cost incurred in use of an obscure word elsewhere or too many snakes perhaps. Some solvers love them and some do not care for them at all.

3D grids offer certain advantages to solver and clue writer. The solver has more cross-overs. One solution helps to solve more of the remaining clues than in a 2D grid. There is less chance of being stuck in a corner. For the same reason the clue writer can afford to be more imaginative on occasions, as Araucaria observes in the Foreword for our website. However, the setter has first to construct a word grid in 3D. One day there will be generally applicable computer programs to assist this task. But for now it is a matter of listing words you would like to employ, choosing likely grid sizes and styles, making broad plans and then using trial and error, hacking away through dictionaries to find unlikely words that fit. One can get lucky quickly or one can invest huge amounts of time only to be thwarted in the last word to complete an otherwise excellent grid. You can reduce the element of luck.

Curmudgeon has some tips. Analysis of crossword grids shows that when crossword solutions cross over each other (checking letters) there are particular sets of letters that occur more often than others. ETAOIN SHRDLU occur regularly. If you play Scrabble you will know the high scoring letters eg Z, X are best avoided as checking letters. If you put inflexible combinations in at the start you often have to stick with them throughout. You will be keen to include themed words and they might contain awkward letters. This can lead to more and more clunky grids with large numbers of bars which reduce the 3D quality to somewhere between 2 and 3. It is sometimes better to sacrifice a themed solution to help complete the grid at the end without recourse to obscure words. It's a question of balance. Think carefully about the kind of grid that will best suit the words you would like to use. If you can't persuade them to stay in the grid, perhaps the setter can use them in the clues? Your choice of theme has a great bearing on flexibility in construction.

Consider RPM's brilliant grid in 2014. In choosing Flemming and Bond, there is a wealth of literature and films to provide a very large list of possible words. RPM then used Moneypenny to shoot off on another front of currencies and coins. This adds interest, giving the solver more to ponder and solutions less predictable and more penny-dropping. It is worth giving theme choice a good long think.

There are decisions to be made, balances to be struck. There are 'accommodations' to be found or rather 'more creative ways of distributing letters to form words in odd shapes'! After all what is so special about linearity in a solution? Why shouldn't it bend round a corner? Algebraic functions do this all the time. Some will suddenly break off and then continue elsewhere with no apparent link. That reminds me of Gin's Orwell/Huxley puzzle with the mezzanine floor. Should Cluedo have a monopoly on secret passages. It's time a Sirius puzzle had a worm hole or two.

Symmetry pleases the eye but would a blind solver see it as necessary? Ximones did not bind himself to such rules although we often bind ourselves to Ximones. Many finalists in previous years will have agonised for hours, days and weeks re-arranging the sock drawer in between-times, to produce better and better grids. They will have balanced the number of themed words they can fit in, with the number of obscure words they are forced to employ in order to complete the grid. Names of girls and boys are seized with gratitude. The Bible and old maps of The British Isles come up trumps perhaps.

Words take an interesting course. They join together or split into two. They might change direction and go the wrong way! They might form a multi-strand alpha helix!! They might do something we haven't thought of before but would be fun to try. These 3D puzzles are serious fun and no longer a novelty, but there are always experimental areas to explore. We have only scratched the surface. The occasional obscure word is not such a problem in 3D because it is very likely that all the checked letters are known. So beware obscure words that cross? What is important to know is that the word can be found. Our first source of reference is Chambers Standard Reference Dictionary. Solvers might access the printed form or use Chambers Word Wizard :

<http://chambers.co.uk/puzzles/word-wizard/>

(It can happen that a word pops up on the Wizard but is very difficult to find in the book. This might be due to different editions or to tenses which are not given or maybe just the paranormal again!) Watch out for common endings of words which in themselves are not words.

A much larger second source is One Look Dictionary which is a collection of a large number of dictionaries:

<http://www.onelook.com/>

(although not Chambers) One Look has a great deal more proper nouns as well as slang words and expressions. Beware The Urban Dictionary! I would avoid it unless absolutely desperate! Both these internet sources have partial word finds. Scrabble solvers can be useful too. You can use the blank letter tile or both of them in cases where you want two words related by subtraction or addition.

If a word of your choice is in these dictionaries, then another solver can find them. That is a crucial test on whether you should use that word. Non-Chambers words, other than proper nouns, should be indicated and a source given.

Another useful engine is Google particularly if you have first and consecutive letters. If your word is not in Chambers, not in One Look, and does not come up in Google it may be considered obscure even though it appears in respectable paper source such as Rarnaby Budge with two B's. The problem is that even the most erudite solver does not know everything and does not necessarily have a complete crossword library.

If your word is in The Compact Oxford Dictionary you can be assured that it is not considered obscure.

But obscure words are often really interesting! So we should use them shouldn't we? Now and again? If we have to? One maybe two perhaps. Three starts to feel heavy, particularly if they cross in the grid.

. Of course nothing defeats our intrepid team! Sometimes the choice of theme does not lend itself to large numbers of themed words. For example, a composer will have a limited number of well known works and these might have long titles that reduce flexibility. One seems doomed to a low percentage of themed cells in the grid. But let the imagination slide sideways a little. Is there some way of bringing in a wider range of words? Take VERDI for example. Once you slip sideways to GREEN the world is your lobster. Or go to DRIVE as an anagram or something else a little bit whacky. You might see your topic as the trunk of a tree with hoped-for branches coming from it. But perhaps there is another trunk for which your chosen theme is just one branch. There are ways to boost themed cell percentages by using words hidden in the grid that might or might not be clued in themselves. I recall Linxit's achievement of ARAUCARIA set out in an intervening layer.

Winning grids almost always have a little bit of je ne sais quoi. A tinge of humour perhaps. Take a look at Enigmatist 2014 with grid by 45, a winner in its year. Nora Boswell produced an eye-catching, award-winning 3D grid based on a giant 3D, 3D. Or perhaps that of Toby Le Rone a few years ago which used a giant Toblerone triangular prism.

Then again, theme percentage is not everything. It does suggest a measure of some of the skills in the design process, but consider Ogre's wonderful penny-dropping grid about extinction. It made a very nice puzzle indeed. With the use of the criteria, the overall judgement is about assessing the designer's skill in providing potential in the grid to produce a satisfying, interesting and enjoyable puzzle.

Try to avoid chocolate and red wine stains! Clarity is important. I will be thrilled to receive your grid in any form and will wander around it with great pleasure. Here are features of presentations in previous years which helped greatly with clarity. They also help the solver to evaluate the grid before submission. You do not need to do this, but it does show how your grid will be looked at to better appreciate the work put in if in your presentation, you supply:

1. Grid with quite large clear letters and numbers (if possible) in black ink/biro/felt tip
 2. The theme or anniversary with a date
 3. A word list of the solutions and their directions eg 1ac and letter counts (see Word table below)
 4. An indication of which words are theme words or phrases (asterisks preferred)
 5. An indication of non-Chambers words other than Proper nouns and a reference source.
 6. Number of cells used by letters from themed words
 7. Total number of cells in the grid
- 6 and 7 used to calculate percentage of thematic cells in th grid.
8. Number of words you judge to be obscure
 9. Number of bars (remember to include those in the vertical direction)
 10. Use of the same conventions (ac/ba, aw/to, d/up) as those developed in the calendar series.

If you follow the above points, your entry will be judged as having clear presentation.

There is an exemplar at the end of the Newslettterr. It would score just the same if the grid was photocopied and solutions written by hand, with ink blots, smudges and the carcass of a dead spider drunk on Quink Ink with Factor X. If this all sounds too heavy just send the grid and I will work it out! It's the grid that counts along with the clue. If we can maintain the brilliant standard of last year, I will be very happy. If that is exceeded, I will be absolutely delirious. **Do please have a go** at the tie-break task. The results of your efforts will be very useful.

Good luck! And remember to have fun doing it! A list of your words in electronic form is most helpful. The Word table below is what we send to setters, seen in the 'Clues & Explanations' section in the Newsletters.

B.Sirius Tie-break Entry 2017 for February 2018

MS Word table in separate file. This goes to the setter.
(note two spaces between direction and letter count)

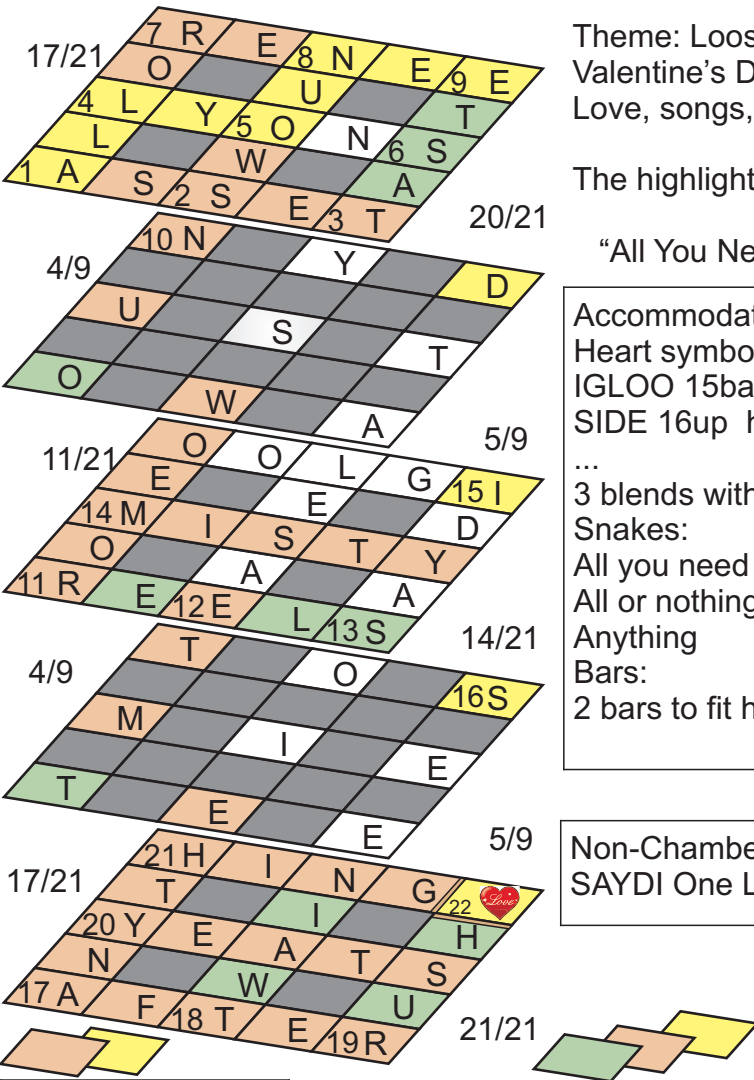
Theme: Loosely based on St
Valentine's Day 14th Feb:
Love, songs, poetry

The highlights reveal the phrase:

"All You Need is Love"

Accommodation/Features:
Heart symbol for 'Love'
IGLOO 15ba
SIDE 16up hides ..NEED IS
...
3 blends with THING
Snakes:
All you need is love
All or nothing
Anything
Bars:
2 bars to fit heart symbol

Non-Chambers
SAYDI One Look Urban Dict.



Directly thematic
cells 53/81 = **65%**

Including associations
65/81 = **80%**

Cryptic Clue: ROMEO
'Lover of Italian cars' (5)
Explanation: two meanings Shakespearean &
Alpha Romeo

| SOLUTION | | Direction, clue, letters | Explanation & Notes |
|--------------------|----|---|---|
| AFTER* | 1 | 17ac Please write your clue here (5) | As in setting one's cap |
| ALL OR NOTHING* | 2 | 1aw,10d,21ac-4 (3,2,7) | ref Small Faces song |
| ANYTHING* | 3 | 17aw,21ac-4 (8) | ref, 'Oliver' 'I'd Do Anything' |
| AORTA | 4 | 1d (5) | Potential connection with heart |
| ASSET* | 5 | 1ac (5) | As in attractive quality |
| EASEL | 6 | 12aw (5) | |
| IGLOO | 7 | 15ba (5) | |
| LOVE* | 8 | 22 (4) | |
| LUMMY* | 9 | 4d (5) | Lord love me |
| LYONS | 10 | 4ac (5) | |
| MISTY* | 11 | 14ac (5) | Johnny Mathis signature song |
| NYLON | 12 | 8d (5) | |
| OSSIA | 13 | 5d (5) | |
| REELS | 14 | 11ac (5) | Possible romantic reaction |
| RENEE* | 15 | 7ac (5) | Ref: Four Tops: Don't Walk Away Renee |
| ROMEO* | 16 | 11aw (5) | |
| RUSH | 17 | 19aw (4) | Possible romantic reaction |
| SAYDI* | 18 | 13aw (5) | Obscure: One Look Dictionary Urban |
| SIDE | 19 | 16up (4) | |
| STYES | 20 | 6d (5) | |
| SWEET NOTHING* | 21 | 2d,10d,21ac-4 (5,7) | Brenda Lee Sweet Nothings. Noting singular use in the singing on actual recording |
| SWOUN* | 22 | 2aw (5) | Old form of 'swoon' – romantic assoc |
| TASER | 23 | 3d (5) | |
| TASTE | 24 | 3aw (5) | Potential link to 'Taste of Honey' |
| TWAIN | 25 | 18aw (5) | Old form of two could link to couple |
| YEATS* | 26 | 20ac (5) | Love poetry |

6. October Competition

This puzzle noted the 500th anniversary of what is considered to be the start of the Protestant Reformation by Martin Luther's sending of his Ninety-five Theses to the Archbishop of Mainz, 31st October 1517. The October competition was won by Trevor and Diana East of Bracknell.

Excellent solving!

Feedback included:

The year rolls on! I can hardly believe that it won't be long before we have a brand-new set of puzzles to get stuck into.

Meanwhile, here comes my solution to the October teaser. A very nice puzzle with very correct clues, and not too difficult after the mid-bending Special. JM

I always enjoy Don's clues, they have a good, old-fashioned honesty. JBs Well we always learn something with each month's 3D puzzle. 500 years since the reformation. Some names vaguely recollected from RI lessons many years ago. Also new to me was HA meaning 'in this year' which I'll file away for future use. After the serious tests of of September and the two extras this was a relatively relaxing puzzle. Also always very fair cluing from Pasquale. I particularly enjoyed clue 10 FORWARN with its double 'sounds like'. Another enjoyable clue was 24 OPUS DEI with a very neat anagram of Oedipus. AGd

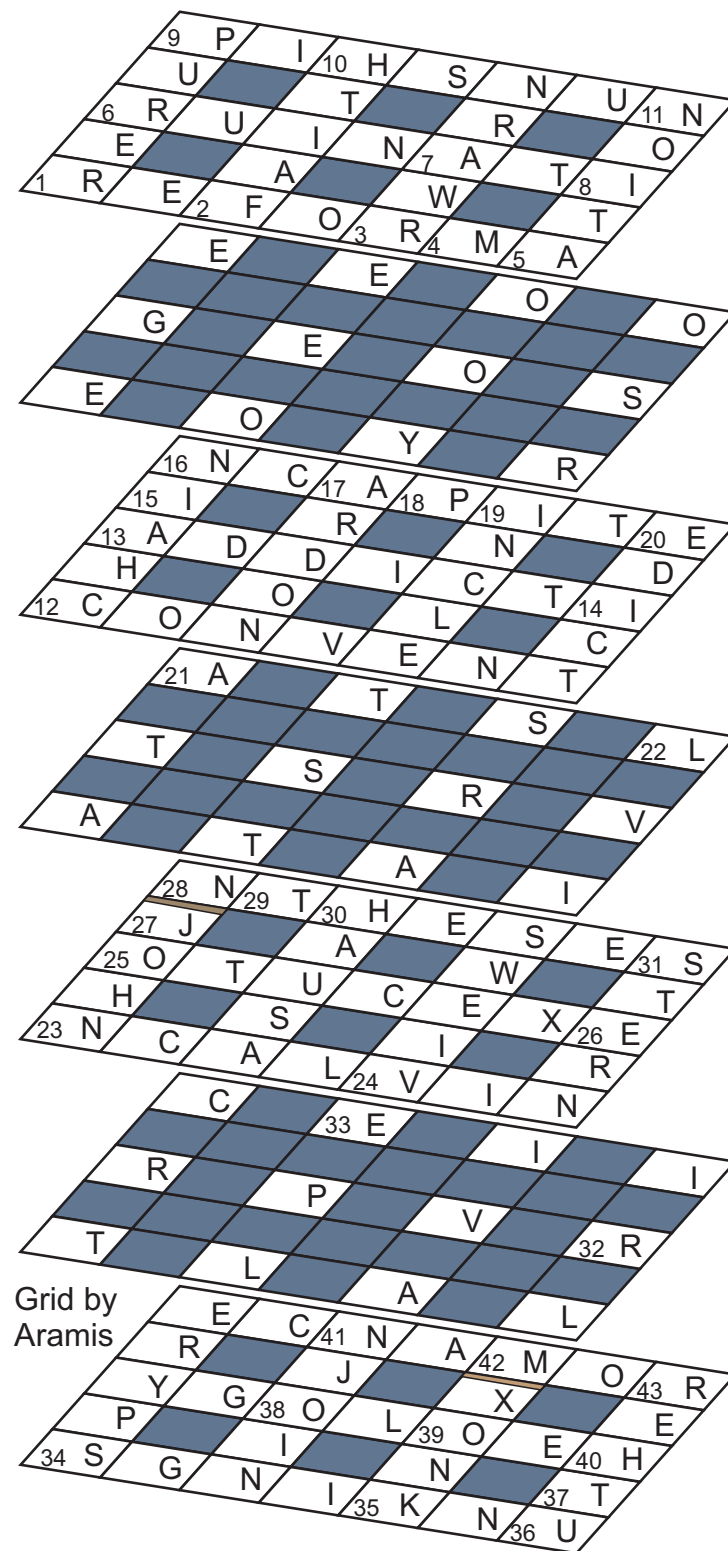


River Calder Hebden Bridge - Sirius



Background graphic
to clues page:
Diet of Worms (appreciated by Norah)

October
2017
Pasquale
Aramis



I guess I don't need to say, but I will: rather too many snakes and shortened answers for me. As I think I've said before, if I can't look at the grid and work out what most of the answers are, I feel uneasy. I also wondered why some answers had to be clued twice. Eg given that 34 (43ba) was ROMANCE, why did we need 33 (43ba-5) to give us ROMAN ? Same for ANTHESES and THESES. Same for MARTIN LUTHER and MARTIN LUTHER KING (although I grant some licence here 'cos it is thematic.) After all, if Aramis had followed this logic throughout, they'd have ended up with umpteen more clues, including THESE, MAN, ANT, HE'S and probably more just for my first two examples !! HE

Here are my answers. I was at a quiz night the other day with me and one other atheist on the table plus three regular church goers (of whom I was married to one). It was the heathens who supplied the most correct answers on a Bible round. Maybe it was because we were the only ones actually listening in the RE lessons and quickly worked out that the supernatural is not actually, er, real.

That's not to say I was 10/10 here. FONTAL / FRONTAL were both new, as were Incle, ANTHESES and the archaic SPYRE, and I took some convincing that Joshua's dad was NUN. All meat and drink to Pasquale, whose stock-in-trade is fairly clueing the deeply obscure. PA

Attached is my October solution ... I only started this a few days ago, since when I have heard Luther's name mentioned many times on the radio. Highly topical! JR

Here's my entry for the October 3D puzzle, coming to you from Geneva, city of the Reformation Wall. This was a very satisfying solve. I'm just about to order my 2018 calendar – let the fun continue! JBn

Herewith at the last gasp my entry for the October challenge. Very timely to be submitting on this particular day, as it is exactly 500 years since Martin Luther shook the establishment with the posting of his 95 theses. I enjoyed this month's offering, as it didn't make my brain ache like some of the others this year and yet managed to remain thematic and interesting.SF

A few minutes before the deadline.I was actually in bed just about to put the lights out after failing to finish today's Pasquale in the G when I realised I never got around to sending you this. I have been meaning to send this off for about 2 weeks. Sorry, I cannot think to provide any feedback now because I have an urgent appointment with a pillow. Stay well. AJR

Too many snakes and reversals for my liking, but an impressive amount of thematic content. I also didn't see the point of 43ba-5 Or 35ba-4 when there were already too many clues for the calendar grid. Enjoyable puzzle though anyway! Smile. AW

... I only started this a few days ago, since when I have heard Luther's name mentioned many times on the radio. Highly topical! JR

When I came to day 23, there popped into my head an old rhyme

"Joshua the son of Nun, and Caleb the son of Jephunneh
were the only two, who made it through
to the land of milk and honey"
Funny the things that stick in your brain! PD

An impressive array of religious knowledge! EL

The usual high standard from The Don. ET

Pasquale is Don Manley and hence Duck, Pasquale, Quixote, Bradman, Giovanni, Izetti.

A straight forward solve with the theme coming on the first read through with ML and MLK. Perhaps since we'd been recently to the (new) Museum of Civil Rights in Memphis (TN) where MLK was shot – moving. DM

A good number of thematic entries. I guess it's inevitable this makes the entries somewhat bitty with lots of corner turning. MJ

It was most enjoyable (though quite difficult). So here's hoping.T&CH

A heavyweight historical, cultural theme. The occasional unusual words were generously clued. Thanks! N&SI

First I have finished lately and I enjoyed it. I was just about to give up on this when I found that elusive clue to 24 hiding in the picture! NC

Comparatively easy once I had identified the theme. I am grateful - I failed to finish the last two specials HB

7. October 2017 Pasquale Clues & Explanations

| Solution | | Direction Clue Enumeration | Explanation |
|--------------------|----|---|-------------------------------|
| addictive | 1 | 13ac,14d-3 Notice I <i>have</i> to grab dictionary – crosswords being such? (9) | Dict. In ad I've |
| antheses | 2 | 21d-2,28ac See in Pakistan these splendid openings in garden? (8) | hidden |
| chain | 3 | 12aw Range of 22 yards (5) | 2 defs |
| CONVENT | 4 | 12ac Not in favour of opening a religious community (7) | Con vent |
| EDICT | 5 | 20to Order from the dictator (5) | |
| Enjoin | 6 | 33d,41to Order given by little woman in square the wrong way (6) | Jo in nine rev. |
| executor | 7 | 26ba,25d-2 One with the will to get things done properly (8) | Cryptic defn |
| FAITH | 8 | 2aw Trust Adam maybe? (5) | 2 defs, ref A. Faith, singer |
| FONTAL | 9 | 2d-6 Altar covering not right with regard to church feature at other end? (6) | F(r)ontal |
| forwarn | 10 | 2ac-3,3aw 'Don't allow boundary, spin bowler!' is heard (7) | 'four, Warne' |
| Hausa | 11 | 30to African people in this year coming to America (5) | Ha USA |
| HEATHEN | 12 | 10d Pagan female going after passion (7) | Heat hen |
| in capite | 13 | 15aw,16ac A nice tip unexpectedly coming from the highest authority (2,6) | anag |
| inle | 14 | 19to Old tape used by certain cleaners (5) | hidden |
| JOHN CALVIN | 15 | 27to,23ac Theologian and lexicographer taking murderer about 55 as disciple (4,6) | LV in Cain fro son in Johnson |
| | | it works as JOHNSON (lexicographer) with LV in CAIN replacing SON (disciple). Tricky but OK | |
| JOHN KNOX | 16 | 27to,35aw-4 Preacher of gospel strikes audibly (4,4) | John + 'knocks' |
| kava | 17 | 35up-4 In park, a variegated plant (4) | hidden |
| LEO | 18 | 22up-3 Sign given by one of several popes (3) | 2 defs |
| MARTIN LUTHER | 19 | 4ac,5d,36aw Challenger of the status quo finds realm, in truth, needing to be changed (6,6) | anag |
| MARTIN LUTHER KING | 20 | 4ac,5d,36aw,35ba-4 Reformer meeting ruler, one championing the down-trodden (6,6,4) | M L + King |
| MISSION | 21 | 42up Young lady and I on a crusade (7) | Miss I on |
| Noel | 22 | 11d-4 Christmas work of fiction, not very short (4) | No(v)el |
| NUNSHIP | 23 | 11ba Joshua's father's trendy status in religious community (7) | Nun's hip |
| OPUS DEI | 24 | 38up Oedipus complex evident in religious organisation (4,3) | anag |

| | | | |
|--------------------|----|---|-----------------|
| Overcoat | 25 | 39up,7ac-2 Maybe Ulster maiden, possibly having pet with nothing to eat (8) | Over + o in cat |
| PARDON | 26 | 18ba-2,17to Forgiveness – what you expect to be given by fellow (6) | Par don |
| PENANCE | 27 | 9d Act of contrition makes last character leave place associated with pirates (7) | Pen(z)ance |
| Purer | 28 | 9to Old city for each to round to become less sinful (5) | Ur in per |
| PURGATORY | 29 | 9to-3,6d Parrot guy trained, creating intense discomfort (9) | anag |
| RECANTS | 30 | 1d Takes back bombastic ravings about Established Church (7) | EC in rants |
| REFORMATION | 31 | 1ac, 5aw Religious movement redeveloping fine art room (11) | anag |
| revision | 32 | 32up,8aw Change in ideas about how Religious Education should be taught? (8) | RE vision |
| ROMAN | 33 | 43ba-5 An upright type who helped found an empire? (5) | 2 defs |
| romance | 34 | 43ba Wonderful tale Cameron spun (7) | anag |
| ruination | 35 | 6ac,8aw Game leading to one country's downfall (9) | RU I nation |
| rye | 36 | 3d-3 Grass that's found in East Sussex (3) | 2 defs |
| sir | 37 | 31d He abandons county gentleman (3) | S(h)ir(e) |
| SPYRE | 38 | 34aw Agent about to be seen in old part of dreamy Oxford? (5) | Spy re |
| stern | 39 | 31to Back being severe (5) | 2 defs |
| THEOLOGY | 40 | 37aw-2,40ba Old record kept by those people in study at university (8) | O log in they |
| THESES | 41 | 29ac Academic writings the fellow's placed in educational paper (6) | He's in TES |
| unkings | 42 | 36ba Takes away the dominant status of a French college (7) | U Kings |
| views | 43 | 24aw Rival bridge players offering opinions (5) | Vie WS |

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!

Huge thanks to Jos Tait in Australia for answering pleas for help with the Bulletin Board. Watch this space! I think she means business.

The beautiful 2018 3D puzzle calendar is now on sale from the website. Thank you Team for the huge cooperative effort.

We do hope you will be with us for another mildly eccentric year!

Best wishes Eric Westbrook

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