

September 2018 Sirius

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1. September Competition

The September competition with *Hair*-themed grid and clues by Sirius was won by Jenny and James Hatchell of Crediton, Devon. Excellent solving! A copy of the latest Chambers is on its way. Feedback included:

A very witty, tricky and stylish puzzle Sirius! DH

... September Sirius tour de force PC

I did not want to write until I had finally cracked your magnificent September puzzle (solution attached, I hope all double-checked letters indeed in the correct places). What a work of genius! I think this deserves a place in the pantheon of all-time great puzzles, right up there with some of Araucaria's Christmas specials, or some the more complex Guardian Genius ones. It did make it easier and more fun once the penny dropped with the 'X' clues, but this was working on so many different levels, besides the actual 3D levels, of course. And the musical itself is definitely due a revival, culturally and politically, in these troubled times. MS

Excellent clues made this possible even without knowledge of the show. We particularly like EARLOCK. J&JH

.....just to say (*for now, see later*) that this was a super puzzle, probably the best of the year so full marks to you. AG

Very enjoyable puzzle but I'm sure my two answers are incorrect. RE
(*Spot on actually, but uncertainty from RE spells trouble*)

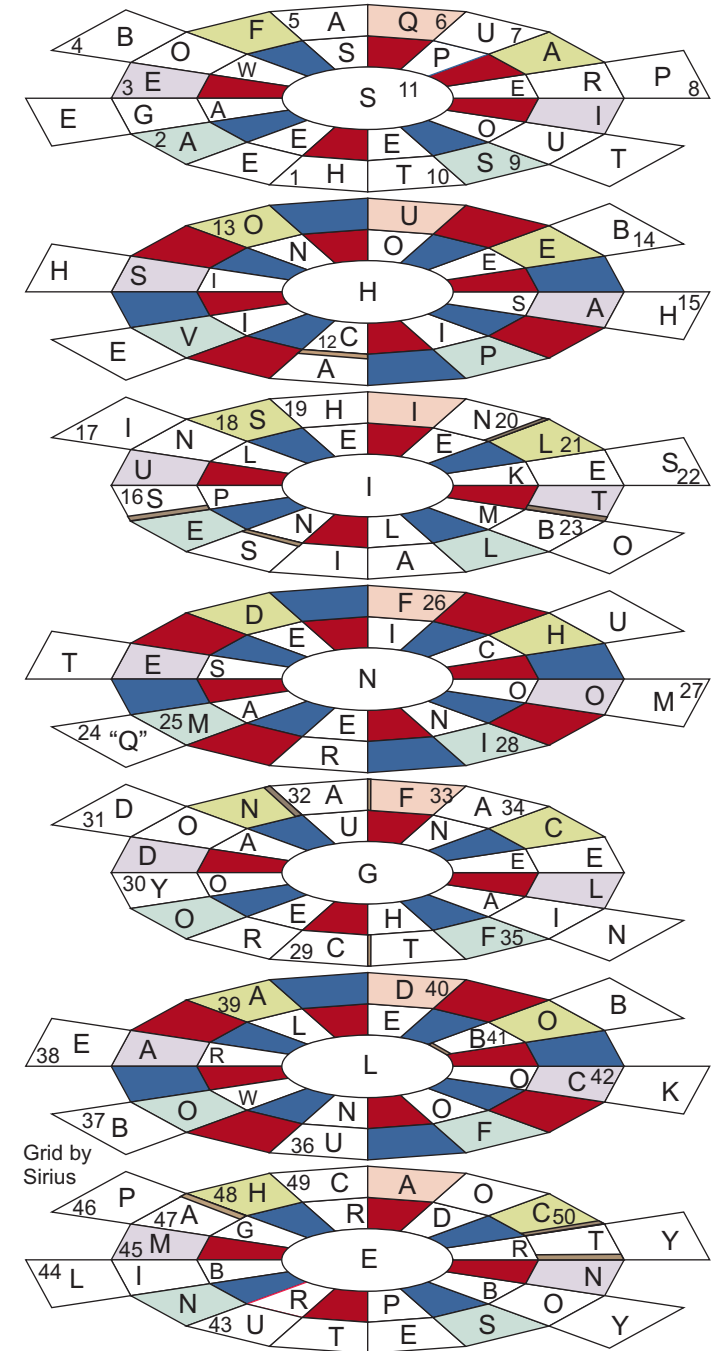


Noting the fiftieth anniversary of a marathon 1,997 performances in the West End run of the musical *Hair* ending as described in the clue of Day 20. The roof of The Shaftesbury Theatre collapsed. Asterisked clues led to solutions which required shocking treatment (stripping off permitted in UK theatres after Day 26's relaxation of theatre censorship) like the nudity throughout the musical, before entry in the grid. Both solution and grid entry are real words.

X in some clues refers to the unclued (HAIRCUT) at 1d or 1d-4,29di-2 (HAIRDO)

The race commentary in the instructions refers to the musical and its themes of counter-culture, sex, drugs, anti-Vietnam War, long hair and comment on US race relations.

There were highly sophisticated and discreet references to things to do with the sexual revolution portrayed. All in the best possible taste.



The grid fill was fun with some nice clues but the final step has defeated me. I've put something in just so I can put it in the post and stop staring at it! AH

The marathon has defeated me but I am sending it in just in case no-one else has got it either! JS

Thank you for your September solution and feedback and I am very pleased you sent it in.

With 1,997 performances in the West End run, this was indeed a marathon. In its day, the 'stripping off/nudity was shocking - echoed in the removal of exterior letters. The nudity and profanity was permitted after the relaxation of censorship in the theatre, the day before the opening.

Hair ran at The Shaftesbury Theatre until the roof caved in which is described in the clue for Day 20.

Hair with its themes of counter-culture, sex, drugs, long hair, anti-Vietnam War and reflections of US race relations explains the race commentary reference.

But all these things are whimsical compared to solving the clues and completing the grid in a tough puzzle.

We say you cracked it! Well done.

The hardest yet! It was interesting to find all the haircuts and brought back memories of seeing the musical in London. A couple of clues nearly defeated me and I still don't like 21. I wasted a lot of time searching for any kind of marathon run and don't understand the reference to Day 26. SB

I will be 'shocked' if my entry to Sirius' 3D is correct. Google failed to help with 1968 marathon. Some of the 'colon' clues I have yet to fully explain. Nevertheless I very much enjoyed and appreciated the ingenuity of such a 'hairy' seven dial 3D! PC

Many thanks.

PS Lovely seaside picture

Lots of HAIR related info here – some new to me. I did see the show back in the '60s and more recently too! Race commentary not clear to me. Last in MOONSET. A fun month thanks. DM

This was a cracking puzzle, in my view the best of the year so far. I only have one nagging doubt about my solution which I'll come back to at the end. Along with some generally excellent cluing with one or two outstanding gems there were two additional features; an unclued X which needed to be resolved before a number of clues could be resolved and five asterisked clues requiring 'shocking' treatment before entry into the grid. Among the gems was my favourite - clue 36 all about superwoman leading to HANDS ON HIPS with hips as the cool chest logo, wonderful.

'X' was either (7) or (4,2). I had the initial letter 'H' from the solution to the excellent anagram Clue 15 (21C, 10C, 16C, 20di) LET THE SUNSHINE IN and was toying with PAGEBOY as the solution to clue 34 46di "Elaine called young chap for X (7)" and the penny dropped - HAIRCUT and HAIRDO. This freed up progress generally. So what was this 'shocking' treatment. I had RAVEN for clue 1 2d* but no idea what to do with it. With A_S_T in for clue 3 5di* it had to be ASSET so laboriously reverse engineering I reached BASSET who was, the light dawned, a sweet man. So the 'shocking' treatment was to top and tail the initial answers. It took longer than I'd like for me to restate this as 'cut off the ends' which linked satisfactorily (shock of hair) to the haircut theme.

I reached the end with one clue outstanding; clue 17 25di, 24 "X in two lines, one of Chinese (6,5) becoming (6,'1') M_N_H_. It was a fitting final clue with MANCHU QUEUE becoming MANCHU 'Q'.

Back to my nagging doubt, the grid filled but so far nothing about a marathon run. The internet gave the October 1968 olympic marathon finishing on October 20th which reconciles to day 20 but the wrong month, perhaps not important. John Stephen Akhwari made it a memorable run with his "They sent me to finish not start" quote. But I fear I'm missing something important in the grid. We'll see. AG

It is absolutely fascinating to me to gain insights into the solving processes and particularly so having set the puzzle, with a lot of help from Puck, and Logogriph during the testing. And how interesting how the super-solver finds a different interpretation, quite justified. the different clues which different solvers like or dislike.

Very clever intermingling of songs from the musical Hair and many haoirdos, some of which I had never heard of. JB

A very tough puzzle indeed which I think I have managed to complete successfully. EL

Last minute entry awaiting inspiration on marathon and reason for treatment. Should it be 'second badger's home'? Removing clothing? MJ

The safe answer on use of 'badger's second home' to indicate S-SET would be to insist on word for word correspondence in the parsing of the wordplay. By that thinking you are right. Another way of looking at it is to say that a badger's second home would be a second set which is what the solution letters are saying. That has a taste of a double clue though. Then I look at it again and see that 'second appears inside the badger's home and now I am thinking this could say that 'S' should be inserted inside SET for either SSET or SEST. But then ambiguity is not a good thing. 'Second home of badger' would have been safe I think.

I attach my entry for this month's 3D competition. Neither 'Er Indoors nor I can work out what the two extra answers at the bottom should be (Marathon and Shocking Treatment). So I've just improvised.

I found this harder to get started with than normal, probably because the answers weren't in alphabetical order.

Other comments:

- 39 (50AC) COACH : I liked the use of spectacles to indicate OO
- 21 (30di) YOGEE
- 3 (5di) ASSET (derived from BASSETT) - if "racket" gives BAT, then "badger's second home" must give SSET. But that doesn't parse properly. "Second badger's home" would give S SET ... maybe that was the intention.
- 17 (25di,24) MANCHU Q - a clever way to enter this answer, probably because it dug you out of a hole somewhere !
- 30 (42up) A1 - Both "top-class" and "road" mean A1 ... and I don't think you can put A1 into a crossword... and also the 1 in question is really an I because it crosses AQUARIUS. So the answer has to be AI, which means that the clue must have a definition for AI, not A1. eg "top-class sloth". HE

At first this one seemed really hard. A suspicion that this had something to do with hair, plus some research into happenings in September 1968 yielded the theme. Very satisfying! The Wikipedia page 'List of hairstyles' helped me finish it off. I see 37di,41di yields a new hairstyle name which could be adopted in your honour. GB

Another enjoyable theme! I never actually saw Hair (I don't think I had the nerve at the time!) but remember it being on in the West End. I think that over the years, I had most of the haircuts mentioned in the rest of the puzzle too (embarrassingly!). DS

The next contains many sentiments of other emails and is printed in full.

...I hope I have written acceptable fillings for the two spaces below the diagram: I had no idea about the roof falling in to end their run until I read it in Wikipedia this evening, though I knew about the end of the Lord Chamberlain's jurisdiction. I now know far more about Hair than I ever needed or wanted to know. My remaining question is probably 'What were Elaine Paige and Floella Benjamin (an absolute heroine – birthday today) doing in such a farrago of nonsense?' However, I suppose at least some of the messages conveyed in the show were absolutely necessary, and are still very much current today. We seem indeed to be returning to 1968, if the level of wisdom in governments and the amount of intolerance and exploitation around are anything to go by...

I received your email with its very heavy burden of news last weekend, but could not reply until I had at any rate completed the puzzle, which was the most difficult so far – and a very enjoyable challenge. I suspect that if I had found the key to it – the musical – earlier, many clues would have become instantly more accessible, whereas some seemed as bizarre as the spectacle itself. Anyway, the theme eventually revealed itself, the puzzle is done, and it is a tribute to the selfless way you have served your solvers that I am going on about it even to this length. I hope that, although you must have other things on your mind, enjoyment of puzzling and legitimate pride in your achievement are bringing at least some joy.

I don't know what your immediate future is – though I hope you will have many more years of happy life – but thank you for most conscientiously producing a document which makes clear the running of the CinA Calendar. My own response is to say that I would be happy to take some small part in the operation of a continuing Calendar. My skills might be in proof-reading, testing, marking – not in sales, where I am very poor, though my wife (who sees no point in puzzles of any kind) would be brilliant. Any project of this type – in fact any project, be it a school (my own past sphere of work, as you can tell from the fact that I talk too much), a manufacturing company, a choir, an orchestra, a sports team, or whatever – will only be effective when the right person is directing. That person needs to be competent and confident and to enjoy the responsibility. That would definitely rule me out: I have always been an able second in command, or a performer, but have found being overall director too stressful. However, if another director even temporarily took up the baton and consulted a list of people who had said that they could do something, then I would be happy for my name to be on it.

I hope that in the absence of surgery, all the treatments which are available to you – as well as medical therapies, healthy foods for the body and mind, good company, a love of others which expands and strengthens the spirit rather than cramping it – will have beneficial effects. WBW&T AC

Greetings, noble Sirius

I am so sorry to hear of your troubles and wish you all the very best in your struggle with them. I have troubles too so am regrettably unable to shoulder any of your burden. I sincerely hope you will be able to find others to carry forward the magnificent work you have done so valiantly for so many years.

Attached is my solution to your fantastic puzzle noting the 50th anniversary of the coming into effect of the Theatres Act 1968 thereby ending the long Marathon battle for the removal of censorship of plays and with it the removal of tops and bottoms. The original London production of Hair at the Shaftesbury Theatre is the only show I have ever seen twice. London in the 1960's was a great place to be.

My only disappointment with the 3D crossword movement which you have so ably led is that, with the notable exception of your own concentric circles, it does not appear to have managed to break free from the rectangular format as I tried to do with triangles.

Fare thee well, old friend, All best, MC (aka Toby Le Rone)

I think we should develop the toblerone triangular prism grid in an Extra early next year. And noting another imaginative interpretation.

A few themed clues raised a chickle – CROYDON FACELIFT and BOWL CUT in particular! I also enjoyed MOONSET, both the definition and the cryptic way of getting to MOO. This was my last solve and it took me a while to get there. JN

A masterly piece of construction. The shocking treatment presumably was the taking of clothes off/ ends of asterisked words. Not too many problems with the grid fill. PD

Here's my solution for this month's puzzle - I have never been to see 'Hair', so needed Google to discover the girl mentioned on the 14th, although remembering that it was notorious for the nude action enabled me to deduce what needed to be done for the starred clues. I'd not heard of some of the hair-dos for the secondary theme, but eventually worked out what was required from the wordplay, but again needed to google to confirm, as several aren't in the lists in the Chambers Thesaurus or Bradford. (By the way, although not having solutions in alphabetical order was something of a hindrance in getting started, it did make it easier to find the clues for words once I had a couple of checkers.) PM

Hope you are feeling well. Just a quick note now the deadline's passed to say how much I enjoyed the challenge, despite the fact that I didn't quite get there.

This isn't the first time I've failed, but because it was one of yours, and I found it particularly tough, I wanted to let you know that I did at least try to crack it!

Took me a long time to get some of the hairstyles - hadn't heard of Liberty Spikes, and Manchu Queue/Q - and there was lots of head-scratching ingenuity in the clues. My favourite was HASHISH - brilliant.

I can see the Hair connection - e.g. 'Hashish', Berger & Sheila, and the two more famous songs - so I thought that might be the marathon run; and I can see that Bangers, Naughty, Raver, Squiffy and Bassett all get topped and tailed, so that might be a reference to (hair/shock) cuts (or maybe stripping naked?), but I'm not at all confident enough to commit to those. And then I don't understand the 'race commentary' (the racial themes?) and the Day 20 and 26 connection at all, so I don't think I got close enough to being able to submit an entry.

I've enclosed a photo just to prove to you that I did at least fill the seven dials. My printer has given up the ghost so, as you can see, I was reduced to defacing the calendar.

But it was a lot of fun, so thanks again - I'm looking forward to the report just to see how hard I can kick myself! MLJ

Thank you for your wonderful email which causes my spirits simultaneously to soar and crash. It also shows how important it can be to get feedback when a puzzle doesn't quite make it. I think the whimsical extra requirements eg marathon run (Hair's long run - you are right) and race commentary (comment on US race relations) and then the Day 20 (a clue referring to the collapse of the theatre roof which ended the run) and Day 26 which refers to censorship in the theatre being relaxed, so when Hair opened on 27th, the shocking (at the time) nudity was allowed.

The topping and tailing was meant to echo the stripping off - as you wondered. I wish I had thought of hair = shock. That's brilliant!

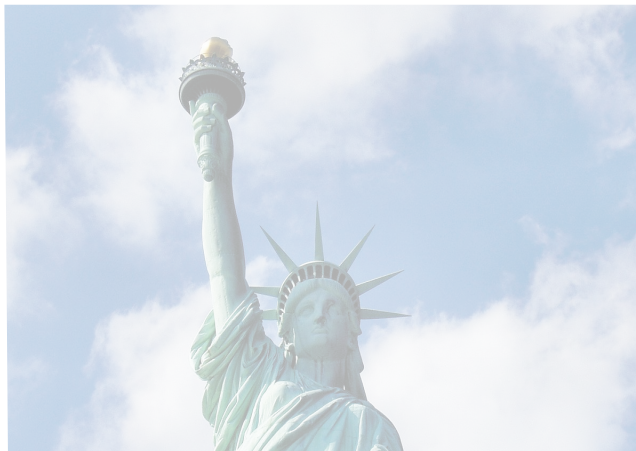
I think you were pretty much there with the whimsy Michael. Well done indeed!! I have entered your photo in the competition! Nora has said that photos are very acceptable.

And thank you so much for persisting with a very tricky puzzle. And then to take the trouble to give such useful feedback. I appreciate that very much indeed.

Dear Eric and Nora,
Please find herewith my entry for the 3D September Puzzle. Thank you so much, Eric aka Sirius, for so much fun. I loved the 'Hair' theme with all its references. This was a puzzle which played to my passionate interest in The Age of Aquarius in the 60s and 70s. I learned a lot about hairdos too. I particularly enjoyed the pictorial clue.

Nora, I do hope my transcription is correct. It was very tricky with all the colours and the small spaces.

Eric, I am not sure if you will be able to see the detail in the photo I am attaching, but it is a photograph of my son Nick and his wife Sarah who are currently living in Brooklyn. This photo taken in Red Hook with the Statue of Liberty in the background indicates why I loved the LIBERTY SPIKES clue so much. JA in Australia



Never knew you could have such fun with hair! Struggled with the "theme" part though: we get that Hair hit the West End because of the end of censorship on the 26th (so maybe we were "declothing" the starred answers?) but the marathon escaped us, as all we could come up with was Mickey Mantle hitting home runs which seems to have nothing at all to do with the price of fish, never mind the crossword! AR&AS

I had immense fun solving all the HAIRCUT/HAIRDO references and finished the entire grid without having the foggiest of which marathon run was supposedly the theme. Not even THE AGE OF AQUARIUS tipped me off. Not until several weeks later when reading Adam's Hints & Tips did the penny drop. Sometimes I just can't see the wood for the trees! JT

No, you didn't overlook it. I finished the puzzle in the sense that I filled the grid but couldn't understand what you were getting at with respect to 'Marathon'. I thought the shocking treatment might be haircuts but that's as far as I got. I shall look forward to the explanation.

Congratulations on setting the first 3D puzzle to defeat me! JM

Thank you for that John.

The last steps after grid completion are all a bit whimsical. The main thing is to complete the grid. Do please send it in and any feedback is always appreciated.

Congratulations are not due the setter when the super-solver is left unfulfilled, particularly when they have come up with ideas as good as or better than those intended! It sounds like you cracked it.

Day 27 is the anniversary noted, made possible by an event on the 26th. The marathon run started on the 27th and continued to a total of 1997 when the events described in clue 20 happened.

We are marking on the grid alone. treating other bits and bobs as bits and bobs.

It seems very generous of you, having gone to the trouble of setting the traps, to let us off with just a completed grid! Especially as I still don't get it...

Anyway, here comes a copy of our grid. I hope Nora can read it, some of the letters are very small.

I was very glad to hear that you think you can continue with the puzzles in 2019 (and, let's hope, beyond).JM

Thank you Eric, now I see it. I did wonder about the musical Hair but never quite made it to the end. It will be interesting to hear how many solvers got to a successful end with this one.

Cheers again, JM

PS, loved the Croydon Facelift!

Feedback is invaluable. It is particularly useful when part of a puzzle doesn't quite make it. Nora and I agreed to mark on the grid fill alone. JM remains undefeated I say.

I had a great deal of fun and no small amount of head-scratching solving the puzzle. Top marks for the concept, grid, and clues. From the preamble onwards there was a lot to think about and obviously a lot went into creating the puzzle, bravo!

I must say I was misled more than once by whether or not answers were in Chambers but in the end I guess it added to the fun! Some great clues, especially the asterisked ones, and an impressive amount of thematic material in the clues. Favourite unasterisked clues were those for UPSEE,

PRESAGE, THE AGE OF AQUARIUS (my theme entry), CROYDON FACELIFT, BOWL CUT, LIBERTY SPIKES, and MADE USE OF.

I may well have missed some thematic references so I look forward to seeing the notes. I did find this pretty tough, and it was very satisfying to finish. Last in was MANCHU QUEUE, for which I'm not sure about "two lines" in the clue. Also I have YOGEE for 21 which I sure is the answer but cannot find in any dictionary with that spelling.

Many thanks Sirius BL

2. September 2018 Clues & Exp[lanations

<p>Noting the fiftieth anniversary of a marathon ending in Day 20. Asterisked clues lead to solutions which require shocking treatment (permitted in the UK after Day 26) as happened throughout the race commentary, before entry in the grid.</p> <p>X in some clues refers to the unclued (HAIRCUT) at 1d or 1d-4,29di-2 (HAIRDO).</p> <p>The asterisked clues have solutions which undergo ‘shocking treatment. This’ refers to the controversial stripping off and nudity in the musical and involves the removal of first and last letters. Both solution and grid entry are real words. Justifiably, some solvers took this to be a haircut where ‘shock’</p> <p>The race commentary in the instructions refers to the musical and its themes of counter-culture, sex, drugs, anti-Vietnam War and, long hair and comment on US race relations.</p>			<p><i>Hair</i> opened at the Shaftesbury Theatre in London on September 27, 1968, after censorship in the theatre was relaxed 26th September.</p> <p>1,997 performances in a marathon run in the West End which only ended when the roof of the Shaftesbury Theatre caved-in as described in the clue itself for Day 20.</p> <p>There are highly sophisticated and discreet references to things to do with the sexual revolution portrayed. All in the best possible taste.</p>
	HAIRCUT	1d (7)	
1	(RAVER) AVE :MOON	2d* Reveller, very into rampant action, is taken aback: no mantra about bare bottom (5? 3:4)	RE(V)AR> OM> + ON
2	BOWS OUT	4di Swob exits with a flourish (4,3)	SWOB = (BOWS)* = BOWS OUT <i>anagram signal in solution</i>

3	(BASSETT) ASSET	5di* Sweet man makes racket around badger's second home (7)	BA(S+SET)T
4	QUIFF (SQUIFFY): DA (SQUIFFY)	6d*6d* Half-naked tribe member bouncing a dodgy little drunk (7? 5:2) : X hides behind lawyer (7? 5:2)	(SQUaw –w –a) + IFFY Naked here means to lose first and last letter. So half-naked removed just one letter. X=haircut= DA Hides = Duck + s Behind = A***
5	UPSEE	7di At uni to observe drunken festivity (5)	UP + SEE
6	PRESAGE	8di Bad omen before meeting wise man (7)	PRE + SAGE
7	SPLIFFS	9d More than one joint for the pot? (7)	Cryptic def
8	THE AGE OF AQUARIUS	10C Lyrics perhaps equate anguish with afro 'Aint Got No' number? (3,3,2,8)	(EQUATE ANGUISH AFRO) – Nj*
9	SHINGLE BOB	11d,39di X erratic English with corporal bouquet and soft pencil lead (7,3)	(ENGLISH)* + BO + B
10	CHOU	12di French teacher's pet gets rosette (4)	Double def

10	CHOU	12di French teacher's pet gets rosette (4)	Double def
11	BEEHIVE	14di X piled up in this very busy place (7)	Double def
12	HASHISH	15di Hot-pot is stew? On the contrary (7)	Contrary = Stew is hot pot HASH + IS + H = pot
13	IN LIMBO	17di Where one might bend over backwards waiting (2,5)	Two meanings one cryptic
14	SHEILA	18C-2, 19di Berger girl widespread down under (6)	George Berger & Sheila Franklin characters in Hair.
15	LET THE SUN SHINE IN	21C-3, 10C-3, 16C, 20di What to do with drunk husband on door-step? Give thine lush intense blasting! (3,3,3,5,2)	(THINE LUSH INTENSE)*
16	BLAISE	22C Modesty lacking here. Old stripper's 'seen it all before' enthralling setter (6)	Modesty Blaise comic strip BLA(I)SÉ
17	Queue Manchu written as Q MANCHU	23di X Files including line of Chinese (5,6) ? ("1",6)	Line 1 = queue line 2 = Manchu dynasty Queue = 'Q'
18	FINER	24di Magistrate perhaps is better thinner (5)	Cryptic def + 2 defs

19	MOONSET	25di Low number fix hair after shampoo, and in two buns? (7)	MOO + N + (shampoo &) SET Two buns basic requirement for mooning!
20	CROYDON FACELIFT	27C,31C Hair-raising headline – X Injured fly in roof accident chaos (7,8)	Ref to musical closing when theatre roof fell in. [ROOF ACCIDENT (FLY)]*
21	YOGEE	28di Bart's greeting meets exclamation of surprise from old Hindhu flyer perhaps (5)	YO + GEE Archaic yogi
22	DO AGAIN	29di A1 gonad developed to reproduce (2,5)	(AI GONAD)* I = 1 ?
23	AUGHT (NAUGHTY)	30di* Risqué ... but nice (7? 5)	Def and incomplete phrase
24	ANGER (BANGERS)	32di* Queen gatecrashing noisy Fringe fireworks (7? 5)	BANG(ER)S BANGS as in hair
25	FINNED	33up-2,26di Mickey slipped and, unable to stand, mounted with flattened appendage (6)	FINN + ED erectile disfunction
26	UNLED	34di Left nude poorly represented without a ruler (5)	(L + NUDE)*
27	BOWL CUT	35di-4,27d Boy (touching hooter) censored in X (4,3)	B + OWL + CUT

28	EARLOCK	36di X prevents loss of hearing amongst orthodox Jews? (7)	Cryptic def
29	ALL OF	37di Meaningfully large loaf (bloomer) (3,2)	(L LOAF)*
30	CLOT:AI	40up Start to laugh in bed with fool: top-class road (4:2)	C(L)OT : two meanings
31	URED0	41di Burning itch to make your noisy party (5)	“your” = URE + DO
32	LIBERTY SPIKES	42di, 16di Bad trip – kiss by Lee X (7,6)	(TRIP KISS BY LEE)*
33	MADE USE OF	43up, 3C-3 Did exploit make mouse deaf? (4,3,2)	(MOUSE DE F)* 'Did exploit' = exploited = made use of
34	PAGEBOY	44di Elaine called young chap for X (7)	“Paige” = PAGE + BOY
35	A MINUTE SON	45AC No big heir? <i>Loius the king said “Let me think for _____”</i> (1,6,3)	A small (minute) son obfuscation of ‘big hair’. Lyrics of Bob Dylan Highway 61 Revisited
36	HANDS ON HIP	46up-6, 13di Showing readiness like Superwoman for physical experience. Cool! (5,2,3)	HANDS-ON + HIP
37	CREPE	47di Ted’s shoes sound rubbish (5)	Old joke. Teddy Boy’s shoes are crepe
38	COCHLEA	48up Perhaps the French 39 holds organ of Corti (7)	(LE + COACH)*
39	COACH	48AC Losing spectacles from sneeze after carbon monoxide in trainer (5)	CO + ACH(oo)

3. Appointments and 2019 series Arrangements. Hooray!!!.

Thank you so much to so many people who responded on the issue of carrying the project forward into 2019 and beyond. I am most grateful to be able to announce that the 2019 series will be able to go ahead next year on the internet, as a result of some expanded roles and new appointments.

Chief Examiner Bozzy, Nora Boswell Expanded role

Receives, marks, acknowledges entries seeking clarifications where needed, following up issues raised by solvers. Maintains a record of entries and marking on Google Sheets. Receives result of draw and contacts winner and arranges prize selection and delivery. Monitors and maintains the website email. Communicates with Newsletter Editor on competition results and passes on solver feedback from postal entries. Nora's first point of call on solution queries will be Adam Saille, he of the Hints & Tips series. The expanded role starts with the September Extra.

Bozzy can be contacted on: sirius@calendarpuzzles.co.uk

Contact email Adam Saille to be added to circulation lists:
adam.saille@tiscali.co.uk

Newsletter Editor Alan Goddard permanent appointment

I am delighted that, starting with the November 2018 Newsletter, Alan brings his experience of designing and editing the RSPB Newsletter in Chesterfield, a most impressive publication. Alan suggests that he follows the current format whilst gradually introducing some new ideas. Alan will gather feedback from solvers at calendarpuzzles.co.uk website and feedback from postal entries from The Chief Examiner, making selections to go into the monthly Newsletter. Alan will receive, select, edit, write further articles for the newsletter.

Alan Goddard contact email for newsletter:
alan.goddard@icloud.com

We think this will see us through the 2019 year of competitions and allows us to advertise and sell a virtual puzzle calendar using the website. We are well on the way to securing the future of the project into 2020.

4. Carrying the project forward into 2020

I am delighted that Ben Lovering has accepted the post of Crossword Editor, initially for 2019. Ben will be great in this role and has committed his energies and brain to pick up the Tie-Break 2018 grid designs, develop and supplement them with The Grid Design Team and then select and invite setters to clue the best twelve grids. Ben will liaise with the Puzzle Testers and then edit the twelve puzzles in negotiations with setters and proofreader.

In order to do this we need one or more people to draw and set out calendar pages on a computer. Most of the spadework has been done in drawing a wide range of grids used as templates. Occasionally a new style of grid appears and then this needs to be drawn. Someone needs to have oversight of the puzzle calendar pages, the whole thing. There is quite a lot of work here in the setting up and then the updating during testing and proofreading. Sometimes it's just steady methodical working and sometimes it is fun too, learning how to do new things with computer drawing software. It would probably be best for the Calendar Editor to have at least one Page Editor. Sirius has used the Canadian CorelDraw for all the calendars converting Corel page files to pdf files for the printers. It is quite straightforward to learn the basics. Sirius could help with simple training. People who already have the DTP skills might use other software eg Adobe. We can work around this.

If Sirius keels over we need someone to be able to take an overview of the whole project keeping everyone in touch, keeping the project moving forward. This is an ideal opportunity for anyone who likes some fun and maybe some whipper-snapper looking to get some useful experience.

To carry the project into 2020 and produce the most fantastic series of twelve sensational 3D crosswords !!! We need:

a. Calendar Editor to be responsible for producing a 32 page puzzle calendar of twelve 3D crosswords for 2020. Software provided.

b. Page Editor is responsible to the Calendar Editor to assist in the setting out of calendar pages on computer. Software and training provided.

c. (Deputy) Project Director has oversight of all aspects of the project. She/he can 'sit next to Nellie' (Sirius) or just take over. email Sirius to arrange to discuss any of the above.

5. Postal Entries: changing address

The PO Box in Coventry has served us well over the years and has provided much amusement. More people than ever email solutions to the website address:

sirius@calendarpuzzles.co.uk

At about £250 per year, and rising, it is not cost effective and we will be changing over to the following address.

Calendar Puzzles, 68 West Lane, Thornton, Bradford BD13 3JB.

We will be replacing the PO Box address on the Answer Grids downloaded on the Download Page for each puzzle. We will not renew the PO Box in the New Year.

We will increase the capacity of the website email.

6. September Extra - 'Sirius' by Encota

The letter count on Day 4 is (6) and not (7) with thanks to Peter Mabey.

4_{8ac}

Midlothian's mine entrance has then trapped an oil-forming gas (6)

Finally, thank you so much for so many letters and emails and cards of encouragement, compassion and fantastic support which I will treasure. And of course thank you for supporting our project to help youngsters in need.

Best wishes Eric Westbrook

Registered Blind RNIB Member & Public Speaker

3D Crossword Designer *Sirius*

Software development for independent blind crossword solving