

3D Crossword September 2019 Newsletter 9

This edition covers the following items:

1. Review of the September 3D Crossword
2. Update on the future of Calendar Crosswords

1. Review of the August 3D Crossword

August crossword designed and clued by Sirius. The winner of this month's puzzle was Julie Allen from Australia.

The rubric simply read noting a 50th anniversary.

With that rubric it's straight into solving. However beware, as anyone familiar with Sirius's cluing will be aware, he favours the quirky and wouldn't be regarded as the most Ximenean of setters where the fun of a clue justifies straying from the purist. I very much admire and enjoy this approach.

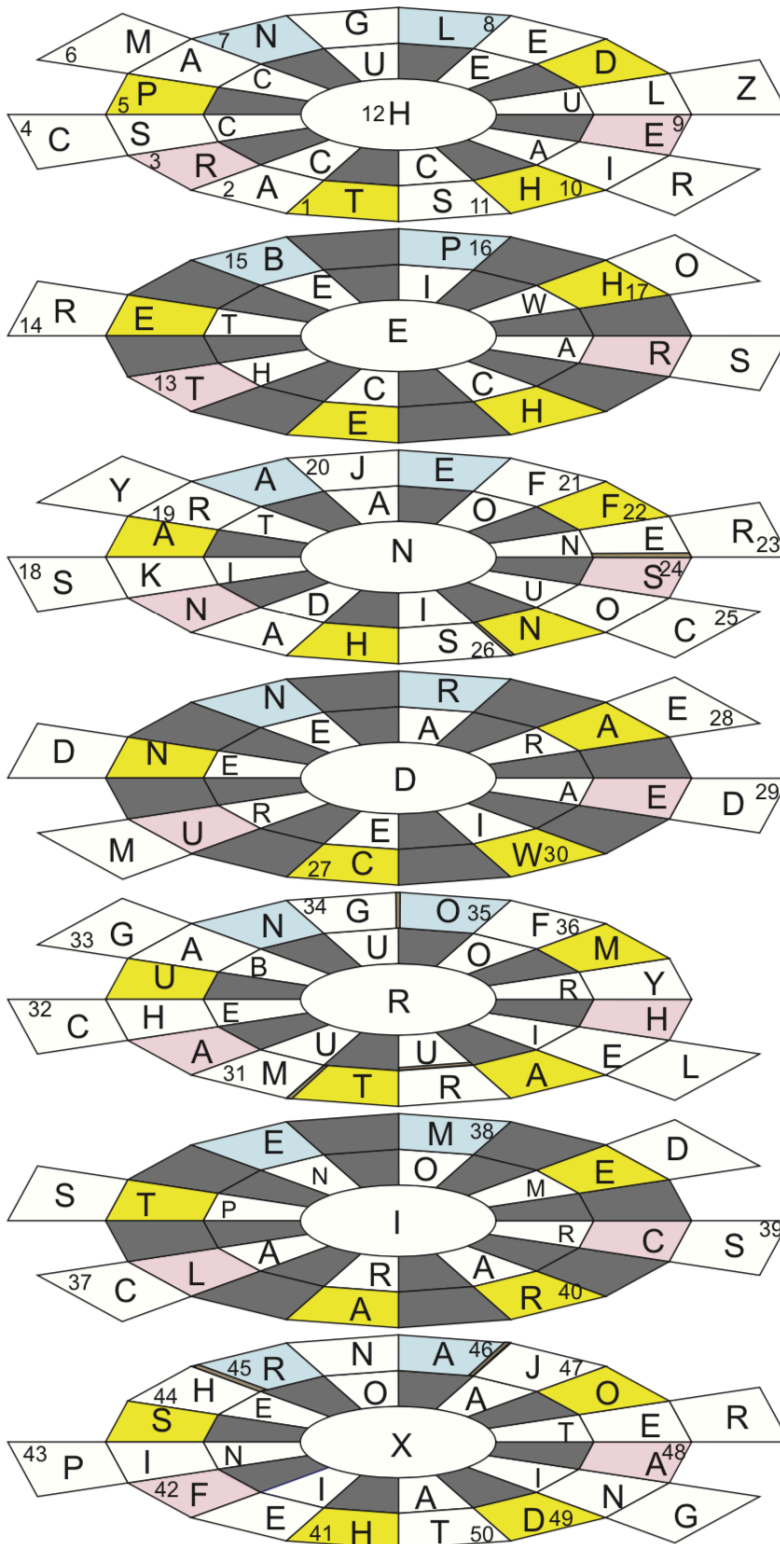
What becomes clear almost immediately is that we are noting a musical anniversary and furthermore it has to be Woodstock. This isn't my strong suit, however salvation is at hand, my wife Lynn and I normally solve 3D crosswords in tandem, and this is certainly her strong suit.

HENDRIX soon seems obvious for the central column but I can't, for the life of me, prove it. I still can't, even with the solution explanations below. So let's solve some of the clues in the bottom disc to establish the 'X'. This proves harder than it should. Eventually I get PINXTER, a new word for me, and the 'X' is confirmed. JAXIE also seems obvious but how to parse the answer. Lynn provides Keith Moon as the Who's drummer and the penny drops; mooning and backside! Even HEXING is a struggle to parse. I'm clearly not on top form.

Solving PEANUTS and CSCHULZ was also a challenge. I hadn't a clue about transgender woodpeckers so PEANUTS emerged as nothing else would fit. CHARLES SCHULZ was then evident as the father of PEANUTS but what of the trees and farm animals. Again I struggled.

One minor triumph to celebrate was solving *C*E*N*S*O*R*. A clue for the connoisseur by a master setter. What a gem.

August 3D Crossword Solution



**August 3D
crossword
grid by Sirius
set by Sirius**

PIECE OF MY HEART. It's a PIE CHART containing an extra E (for euro),

in the centre of which is an ENEMY, whose sign indicates that NE must be swapped for OF.



Solutions and Clue Explanations for the August 3D Puzzle

Noting the 50th anniversary of the Woodstock Festival held August 15th – 18th at Max Yasgur's dairy farm, 43 miles south of Woodstock. Billed as Aquarian Exposition: Three Days of Peace and Music (extended because of the rain), it entertained over 400,000 people with 32 acts, opened by Swami Satchidananda. Of the 32 acts, clued here were Ravi Shankar, Janis Joplin (Piece of My Heart), The Who, Country Joe and The Fish (What's that spell?), Jefferson Airplane (Somebody to Love) and Jimi Hendrix whose legendary rendition of *The Star-Spangled Banner* featured strongly in the film. Four solutions are WOODS - Achee, Beech, Cedar, Cherry – referred to in clues to indicate the WOOD of Woodstock. Woodstock, the Peanuts member, is here too. She started as a female and turned into a male, hence the 'transgender' reference. The Woodstock cartoon strip creator, C.Schulz, also features. There are further references to Santana, Blood Sweat & Tears, Joan Baez, Joni Mitchell, Joe Cocker, Grateful Dead, Canned Heat, Sly & The Family Stone and of course the rain!

In cases of four solutions of two letters, both letters in each case are checked with other solutions.			
	SOLUTION	Direction – Clue -0 Letter Count	Explanation
1	TART	1C-3, 3d-2 Vicar's accompaniment sweet and sour? (4)	Vicars & Tarts party ref + two defs
2	ACHEE	2dI Tropical evergreen tree-fruit provides starters in Afro-Caribbean hot exotic eating (5)	First letters (Wiktionary)
3	C.SCHULZ	4di Father of 4 exhibiting eg 2,16, 27 or 32 farm animals (1.6)	Creator of Peanuts including (ACHEE, BEECH, CEDAR, CHERRY) (WOOD) + (STOCK)
4	PEANUTS	5d Small newspaper group (48 by 3) featuring transgender festive flyer (7)	Def and cryptic def (drawn by Schulz) featuring WOODSTOCK, the cartoon woodpecker, who started female and later became male.
5	MACHAIR	6di Scot locks seaside flat (7)	MAC + HAIR cryptic def
6	NB	7d-2 Mark is not a Ben Elton cut-out (2)	Hidden

7	LP	8d Short extended recording - "With a Little Help" (2)	Hidden and ref to Joe Cocker
8	'ERS	9d It's not 'is. It's the Queen's (3)	ER + S
9	HH	10d Initially Corbett's first pair of drawers not the softest (2)	Harry H Corbett and hard pencil
10	SCHUG	11di Small puff hot stuff in Israel (5)	S + CHUG
11	SHIELD	11AC-6 Before start of deluge, French chap catches end of female with erect <i>parapluie</i> perhaps (6)	SH(I)E(L)+ D
12	HENDRIX	12d Wild axeman finally called out to Joseph and whispered Mary (7)	Axeman = guitarist Hendrix was last act with 'Hey Joe'
13	THE WHO	13di Questionable group, smashing equipment (3,3)	Cryptic def
14	THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER	13di-3,11C-12,15d *C*E*N*S*O*R* (3,4-8,6)	CENSOR is decorated with stars and Censor = BANNER
15	RETEARS	14di Lets rip again with concerning Blood, Sweat and (7)	RE + (Blood, Sweat and) TEARS
16	BEECH	15di By gum, this nut's a busy one at church (5)	BEECH (nut chewing gum) BEE + CH
17	PIECE OF MY HEART	16di,35C 22 urged to take another little one with gut-wrenching fiery ache and tortuous tempo (5,2,2,5)	Janis Joplin song (FIERY ACHE TEMPO)*
18	HD	17up Resolution to watch TV colloq under the influence of drugs or alcohol (2)	Definition of HIGH = HD (Chambers 21st century dictionary)

19	SKINNER	18di It could be pelting down? Eddie 'The Eagle' say, sliding and holding on to two poles (7)	Cryptic question – a SKINNER is involved with skinning producing skins or pelts. Down could be involved too as fine hairs on skin. SKI(NN)ER
20	RAJ	19C-3 Return beer glass as a rule (3)	<JAR British RAJ
21	JEFFERSON	20C,23,24C President on Airplane from San Francisco asking "Don't you need somebody to love?" (9)	(3 rd US President) JEFFERSON Airplane sang 'Somebody to Love'
22	JANIS	20di Singer of 17, Baez, losing nothing is followed by which banjo-plinking covers? (5)	JANIS Joplin sang #Piece of my Heart' J(o)AN + IS
23	FONDA	21di Audience indicates greater liking for Jane in Love, Peace etc (here in 2011) (5)	Jane FONDA homophone starred in 2011 film
24	FAME	22d Note note note (4)	FA + ME
25	COUNTRY JOE AND THE FISH	25di,47C They held over 400,000 in a spell with rendition of <i>Under Chaos</i> passing around hefty joint, totally stoned (7,3,3,3,4)	Compound anagram (UNDER CHAOS HEFTY JOINT)* CJ famously asked for an 'F' etc and then asked "What's that Spell?" several times
26	SHANKAR	26C-7 Ravishing performer? Showing bit of leg before revelatory closing sitar piece (7)	Ravi SHANKAR SHANK + AR
27	CEDAR	27di Bursting, raced to wood (5)	(RACED)*
28	EARDRUM	28di Heard rumba inside. I turn on to Santana vibe (7)	Hidden
29	DEAD END	29di Grateful follower close to bottom going asleep? (4,3)	grateful DEAD + END
30	WIDEN	30di eyes in disbelief: Black Sabbath (not here) in cricket book? (5)	WIsDEN - S

31	MAHUANG	31C Bad trip man! Ugh! A drug to clear the old tubes (7)	(MAN UGH A)*
32	CHERRY	32di Wild wood? (5)	Ref to group Wild Cherry well known for 'Play that Funky Music'
33	GABRIEL	33di Angelic Peter here ten years after '84 for 25 th (7)	Peter GABRIEL played at the 25 th anniversary event
34	GURU	34di Another opening for Swami Satchidananda in Max Yasgur up-the-country holding (4)	Hidden
35	FORUM	36di Pro-thinking conference (5)	FOR + UM
36	CLAIMED	37di Declared medical emergency (7)	(MEDICAL)*
37	MOIRA	38di Female artist follows Family Stone (Sly) filled with love (5)	A sly stone centre of family M(O)I + RA
38	SCRIPTS	39di Crisps, T-shaped, that are playfully put in people's mouths? (7)	(CRISPST)*
39	RAINE	40di Precipitation and Edgar's opening accounts for Edmund's time on the throne (5)	RAIN + E Spenserean
40	HATCHET	41up Ritchie Havens, spaced out pin-up, in transforming hate, placed underground at peace (7)	ritCHiE (fed up with CHE = Rev pr red) (CHE HATE)*
41	FLAUNT	42up Hand given for uncle's cracker perhaps after loud display (6)	F + L + AUNT
42	PINXSTER	43di Playwright squeezing extra small part in <i>Summer Holiday</i> (7)	PIN(XS)TER

43	HEXING	44di Bewitching kiss for woman in cleavage (6)	HEWING - HEXING
44	RNA	45C Jeans carrying information about acid? On the contrary according to report (3)	RNA carries coding of genes Echoes of acid (Lysergic acid diethyl amide) burns a hole in your jean
45	AMORE	46up-5 Love sung by Carlos Santana perhaps when the moon hits your eye (5) cuando la luna golpea tu ojo	Dean Martin ref
46	JAXIE	47di Joni's (first guitar that is) base sat on equipment for 21's drummer (5)	J + AX + IE = buttocks which are essential equipment for a Moon (Keith of The Who) (Collins)
47	ACHES	48up-5 Pines for frolicking chase (5) Pines curing Greek warrior's heel?	(CHASE)*
48	DRAWN	49up-5 Mona Lisa was tired reading into morning (5)	D®AWN
49	TAXON	50di Group fulfils demand for number about love (5)	TAX + O + N

August Sirius Puzzle - Solvers Comments

Another superb and puzzling puzzle. Lots of new scrabble words too. RE

Took me a long time to get 34di. Then I realised it was 4 letters not 5. Well done finding all those theme words with X in them. Much enjoyed as usual and new words to baffle my scrabble opponents. PD

Being a music tragic and a child of the 60's youth revolution I was so excited as I saw this theme unfolding. It was the most fun I have had with the 3D puzzles which is saying something as they are all so enjoyable. So many wonderful clever clues. Thanks a million Sirius! Wow the wonderful memories. Oh and the Peanuts cartoons were favourites too during my adolescence. JA PS Having Jimmy Hendrix as the centre clue was gold. Who could ever forget his "star spangled banner".

What a tour de force! But I must admit the logic of a couple of clues escapes me. E.g. 17up which I can't find in Chambers 21st on line. But hugely enjoyable and very challenging. JM

A great trip back in time! Loved the Peanuts reference(s). I'd completely forgotten about Woodstock. Thanks for a wonderful crossword. DH

Great fun, as usual. AH

A well crafted puzzle with the right percentage of obscurities I thought. Lots of clever misdirection in the clues! JP

Another whirling grid from Sirius and an enjoyable challenge bringing back memories of 1969. My favourite clues were the relatively straightforward clue 32 CHERRY and clue 35 FORUM JB

Superb puzzle that was right up my musical street. Pretty tough in places, but full of ingenuity, and I'm glad I persevered with working out all the wordplay. JAXIE and MOIRA were the last I parsed, the latter 'sly' indeed. Too many highlights to mention but *C*E*N*S*O*R* was brilliant. ML-J

At the last gasp with this month's effort! Got a trifle stuck on a few of them, and still not happy about one, but it's my best stab. Adam's witterings always invariably help with the clues I've already sussed, and I look in vain for pointers for the ones I don't! How can Woodstock already be so many years distant! SF

Had fun listening to the LPs whilst solving AR

What a long strange trip this was! We suspected HENDRIX for the centre clue but were not sure why (still not quite). The magnificent clue 14 made it all clear. Thanks N&SI

Woodstock! Hence the reference to all the trees when clueing the artist. How could I miss that link...? Good grief! As Charlie Brown would say... JN

2. Update on the future of Calendar Crosswords

A year or so ago Eric had the foresight to spread the burden of producing and running the 3D Calendar crossword, at least a little from his own shoulders, by bringing in others to share the load. At the same time he set out the basics of a project to ensure the future of the whole concept.

When ill health forced him to withdraw from the frontline just a few months back there was therefore a team in place to at least continue running the project. What was needed was someone to step forward and take command. Keith Williams, known perhaps better to most of you as the setter Logograph, took on this responsibility. Keith has taken on the task of setting up the basics of a company to take over and continue to run 3D Calendar Crosswords in the same charity mould set by Eric.

The supporting members of the team are:

Nora Boswell: chief examiner for solutions

Alan Goddard: newsletter editor

Ben Lovering: crossword editor

Jos Tait: website manager

As things currently stand we are continuing to run the balance of the 2019 programme and work is progressing full steam ahead in production of the 2020 Calendar. More next month.

Alan Goddard