

Now that's what I call

**MΔ9P1Q**

**1-60**

**Free  
Sample**



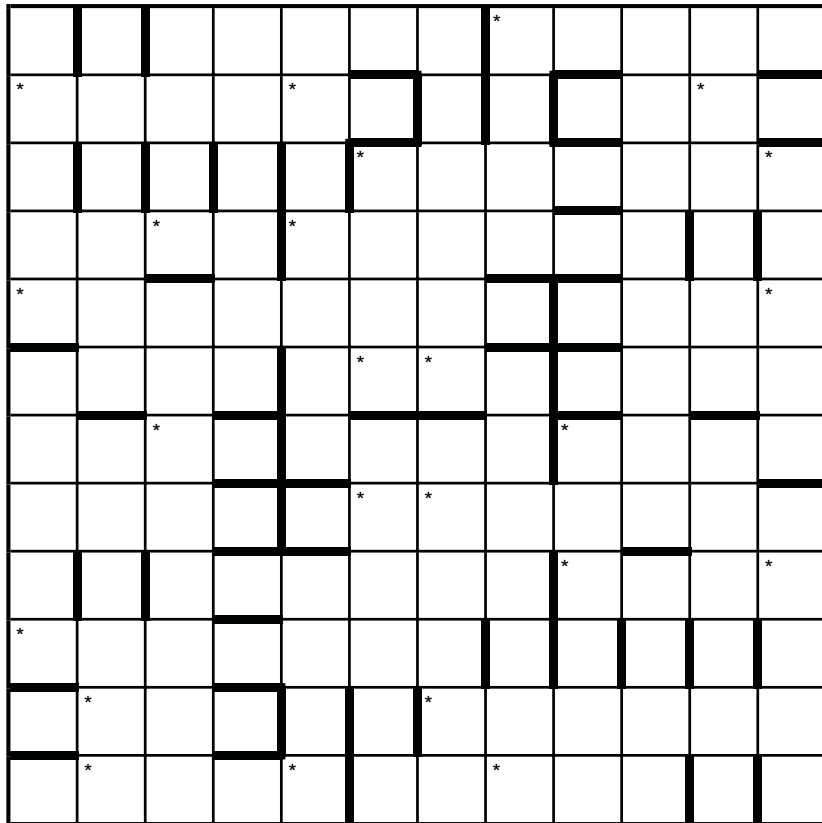
**A selection of puzzles  
from our first five years**

**Making Archive Gallery Proves Interesting Experience**

# Advent Calendar

by Mr Magoo

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Solvers are asked to help Mr Magoo open his Advent Calendar. The clues are all normal, but letters in 24 answers provide the labels for the doors of the calendar, currently shown only by stars. Instead of these 'labels', solvers should enter instead the letters revealed by 'opening the doors', (which will be confirmed by checking letters). These give instructions concerning the empty gift-box (if the doors are opened in the correct order). All entries changed in the grid form words. A figure appearing eventually should be highlighted.



Difficulty rating



[From Issue No. 2  
December 2002]

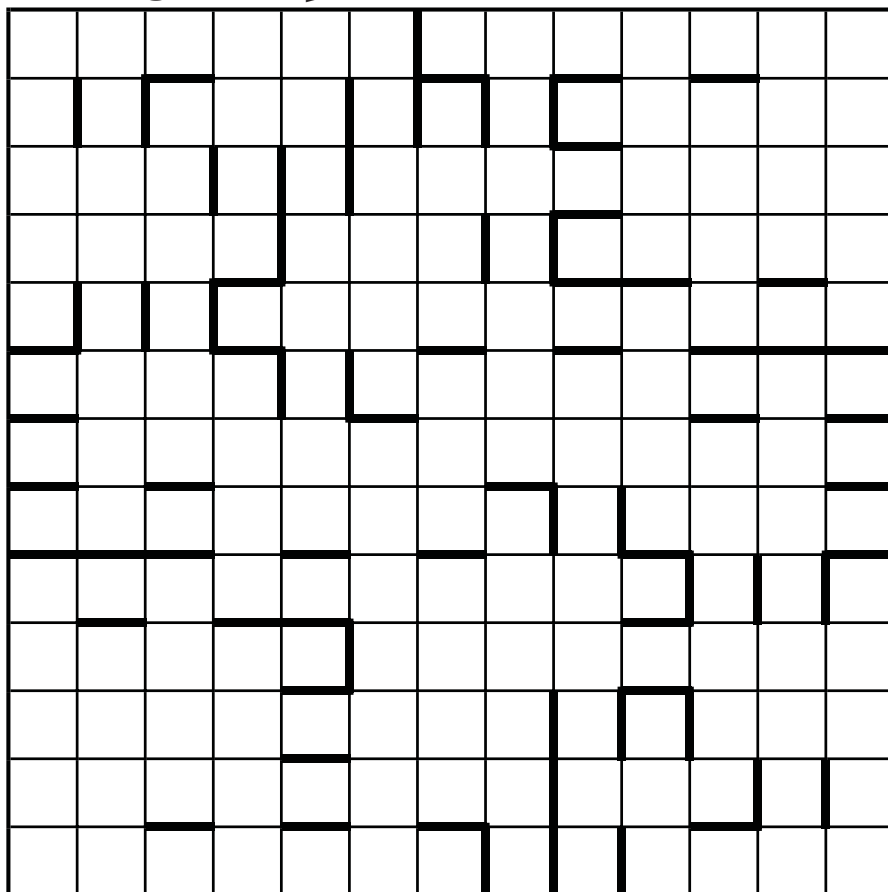
Centurion may have wrapped this around salt dish  
 Sadly Anne dies – substances found in tissue  
 Protection from tree creatures, say, included  
 Hail something enjoyable (not books)  
 Lively baron abandons fob-chain  
 Prince questioning his own accuracy?  
 Try out two exemplary indicators?  
 Committing a crime out of gratitude (two words)  
 We must be interposed between one and ten at intervals  
 Take drop of Armagnac out of wine flask in bistro  
 Large country including California and nothing in Mexico?  
 They study deaths, except for suicides initially  
 Leave waste  
 A babe will do, for starters  
 Compere mostly entertains prom to thrust of Spenser  
 Old fraternity member taking directions from messenger?  
 (Appropriate frolic for) our MEP?  
 Princess Grace's first to turn throne  
 Responses to force, featured in Green Party manifesto?  
 Overwhelming \$5 for one in prison  
 Flighty lassie, sick in transport?  
 King takes Empire in contest  
 Bird-lover in legend, one wanting information?

Tame animal, or wild one  
 Centre of item on a vehicle?  
 Times in question, what it reports showing love for English  
 Clever movement not requiring man in work  
 Double second part of what's heating yoke, maybe  
 Choose a diamond (or a spade)  
 They provide assurances for schoolgirl taking drug  
 Tenor to quit Spanish villa: I'll make that pain go away!  
 The Frogs require Germany's expulsion from leading golf club  
 Poet's scratched Russia's leader's back  
 Uniform taken from alluring dancer? Look out!  
 Man's distressed, so taken in!  
 Mostly cutting Caledonian shift  
 Mounted policeman's first to avoid fate of Apache's victim?  
 Edmund's hurt beast in silence  
 Reason a snore disturbed this lady twice  
 Government like Raj's struggling to give out justice  
 Almost suggest intercourse is outside basic linguistic description  
 Shoot senior naval officer described by 007?  
 By filibustering, defeat resolve (two words)  
 Gathered tips from translator re number of classics?  
 Nine disguised in state capital  
 Flight lieutenant one leaves limp

# Circling the Square

by Pieman

Magpie Prize  
Crossword No. 18



Some squares contain more than one letter and these squares give solvers the incomplete picture. Solvers must draw in the rest of the picture, heeding the title where relevant (the focal point is at the very base of the relevant square and, in Pieman's version, things must be taken to the absolute limit). The correct solution will show only the completed picture, and its name positioned in a titular and approximate manner (solvers must highlight every letter).

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## Across

Rare gangs after Chinese drapery  
 King and Lord chase honour in Swiss mountain area  
 Teacher with these last words gives outdoor party  
 Bachelor's so plain  
 Take Paul heroin for penny  
 Doll with hang-up about carucate  
 Ruler Frost backed  
 In this letter had expression of disbelief  
 Spider's beginning to chase sailor in insect's feet  
 Murderous states in all articles, perhaps  
 This building's exchanged for money without accountant  
 Kin awfully heartbroken losing chopped oak  
 Baron in damaged suit poorly cleared up  
 The Queen moving about with beau, Will  
 Losing good bird is evil, perhaps  
 Throw handbag and use maritime commission?  
 Loose board leaves ambassador in heap  
 Counsellor to talk nonsense about dreadful college first  
 I'm upset in voluntary cause of sickness...  
 ... as this vessel is reversing back  
 Stares down cliff in remote bit of Somerset  
 Turn to the old island  
 Confirm madness of fiery court?  
 Mathematician's name has risen

## Down

Cinders and Daniel lifted comb  
 Huge prim nasty pig  
 Knot to slip over tip of rod  
 Law-enforcer's patriotic 'daughters' married into sort of pool  
 Policeman born wonderful  
 Kick swindler made illegally  
 Piece of music heard abroad originally  
 Goes bankrupt from following these troubles?  
 Short char brewed his tea-like mixture?  
 These countries drop all terms initially from their conditions  
 In all evening studying this?  
 Like Mr Spenser's opening hour, one?  
 Those there are for the Queen!  
 Scottish puddle around before crude oil?  
 With this scratch shows ancient penmanship  
 Go short with shame against novelist  
 Crawlers seam bowler cursed missing short ball  
 Outlaw strangles surprised expression, the big rat!  
 Dessert from Thailand with far out mixture  
 Fluff hearts of old fluffy plant  
 Briefly bear only child in chaos  
 Foams up on jacket and trousers  
 Cutting home from holy refuge  
 Younger niece loses heart to hot Henry (under one)?  
 Grimace when saints leave pudding  
 Analyse change without hope, initially  
 Old character with uplifted bony bottom half

Difficulty  
rating



# The Four Bs

by Charybdis and 53



51 (i.e. the grid – which is NOT symmetrical) 24. The answer to each across and down clue enters the grid at its numbered cell in a manner to be deduced but some cells contain two solution letters.

Centres of cells A, B, C and D need to be joined by lines to their nearest grid corners. The wordplay to each clue indicates a surplus letter and these letters provide further instructions (which should also help resolve any ambiguities in the grid).

After appropriate reflection solvers should list the four Bs (3, 9, 4 and 3 travelling anti-clockwise from the top) below the grid. Bar lines are optional.

## Difficulty rating



### Across

- 1 Dioceses holding a welcome for shrinks (5)
- 2 French article, perhaps old kettle, makes tea (5)
- 3 Area Health Authority that's Most Excellent – by heading for base at Faslane (8)
- 5 Might this be Venus? – only half has survived from iconoclasm (4)
- 6 Title-holder may have one fight that's about nothing (6)
- 7 Heathens in Paradise Lost slip and Man is cast out (6)
- 9 Partner's playing Bach (Goldberg numbers 2 and 6) (5)
- 10 Oz's exquisite court case reverses (4)
- 14 Approve of atmosphere and a little space (4)
- 15 Show nonchalance at first for Thailand's dye-source (7)
- 16 Absent war-god's pile (5)
- 17 Crazy poet might brew tea with this writer (5)
- 19 Look into circumstances comes to conclusion (6)
- 23 Fleece that is for Bambi's mother? (3)
- 26 Sheriff from city put on guard about onset of marauding (6)
- 27 Seaweed from a piece of shore within crofter's boundary markings (5)
- 30 They teach some superb arabesques (6)
- 31 Strangely, talc is and is not a basic compound (8, two words)
- 33 Indian robber acquiring something of little value following his country's mail-post (6)
- 35 Pine with a hole housing a bird (9, two words)

- 36 Look! Houdini emerging from a pit? On the contrary (4)
- 37 Lover of Scotland set out ... (3)
- 38 ... to sing soft and long about ... (4)
- 40 ... search for love in flower of Scotland (5)
- 41 Very large cut in capital (4)
- 42 Aim to feed and clothe (5)
- 44 US Defense body cover listening unit – not for extremists (5)
- 48 Little Anselm's extreme unction (5)
- 49 Bets on ball amateur dropped during sports (7)
- 50 Petty quarrel initially stops agreement (4)
- 52 Went to restaurant, the place for a starter when in August in France (6, two words)
- 54 Animal completely driven back by cairn (5)

### Down

- 4 Man's dangerous way of working (4)
- 6 Horseman invested in worthless stable (8)
- 8 Muscle tumour – manifestly one enucleated by a master (5)
- 9 Company slaughtered everyone in bailey (10, two words)
- 11 One superannuated tax prompts second (4)
- 12 Time to go in to weigh up the advantages (6)
- 13 I'm a bachelor settling in island, abandoning Northern city (9)
- 18 What you know of's found in a Hindu symbol (4)
- 20 Old, and time drags heavily all

- round? Here's a source of bliss and indolence (5)
- 21 Immerse in Brahms's first as theme developed (7)
- 22 A piece of cake that is like a piece of yourself? (4)
- 23 Hairstyle's affected – nothing from the top (6, two words)
- 25 Mixed up, fed up or out of love? Psychiatrist's required (5)
- 28 Lines on a victory – an account of Robert the Bruce? (5)
- 29 Canton's chief magistrate, refined male mandarin not needing religious instruction (9)
- 31 Club caretaker's right to take off one summer (5)
- 32 Irritable PA, I am told, would make a bad one! (8)
- 34 Letter 'thorn' perhaps? (3)
- 36 After destruction of Kabul new order given to thank Mongol leader (9, two words)
- 37 John Milton's ablution is endless (3)
- 39 Children, two girls (5)
- 43 International system on dance steps and springs (4)
- 45 Moisten Indian dish (4)
- 46 May, long ago – second decade (4)
- 47 Cut short scan across column by unknown publisher (8)
- 49 A gloom that's about to lift – add a bit of sparkle (9)
- 50 Sound attracting attention in middle of Beethoven's Ninth, a sustained energy (7)
- 54 Ghastly temptation to the lowest instincts (5)

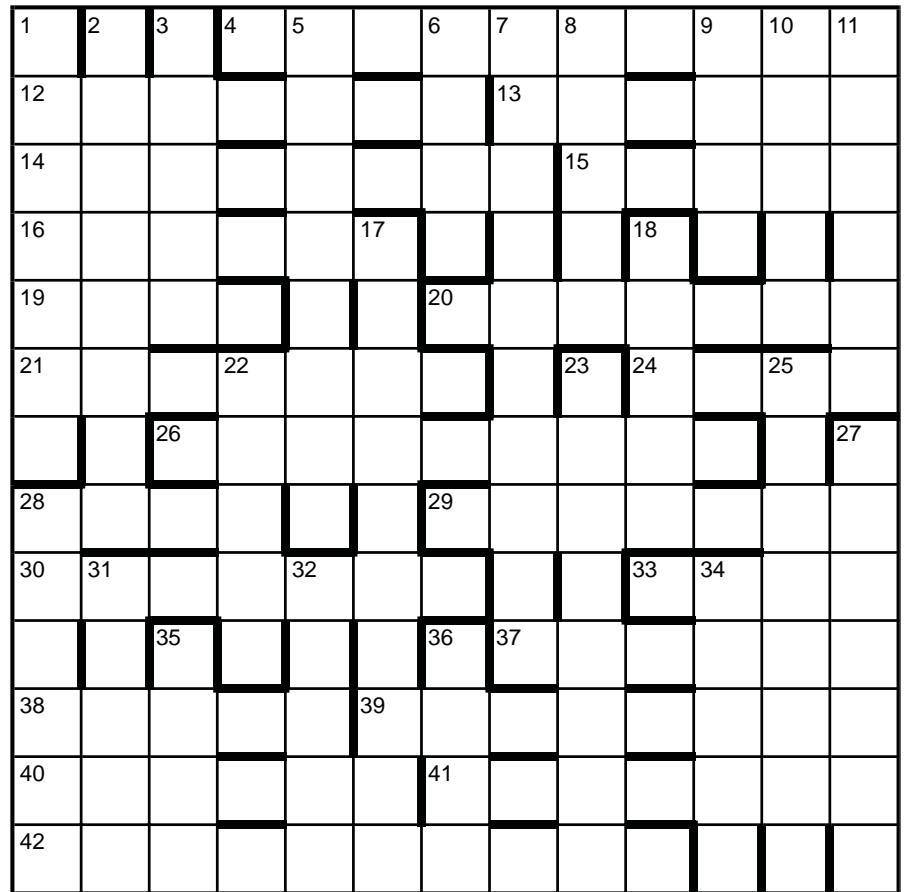
			1					2				B
A	3					4	5			6		
7			8		9					10		
11	12			13	14					15		
		16				17			18	19	20	
		21				22		23			24	
			25		26					27		28
29		30						31		32		
								33			34	35
	36					37		38	39			
			40					41			42	
			43	44	45	46		47	48			49
C		50		51	52		53				54	D

# Magpie Prize Crossword No. 29

## The Omen by Mango



Some clues contain a misprint of one letter. The correct letters give the title of a work, and 26 across reveals how the author might have chosen to augment his name had he been in on the act. Solvers must highlight five other names.



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### Across

- 4 I'm thin and wrinkled, a hundred, with death verging on life (10, two words)
- 12 Evangelicals, not genuine, producing agreeable sound (7)
- 13 Wined enthralling date to cause a stir? (6)
- 14 Fizzy drink available in specific hotel, The Queen (8)
- 15 Hanging arranged by Assistant Secretary (5)
- 16 Spurs have a cracking season (6)
- 19 End of amateur orchestra (4)
- 20 Biker agrees moving start of race (7)
- 21 A sixty-minute gap – midday to one, that is – belonging to us (7)
- 24 Bound round, bound round (4)
- 26 *See preamble* (9)
- 28 Gum arabic, arabic (4)
- 29 Muppet's New Orleans initially played fast (7)
- 30 Ceramic composed of acid (7)
- 33 Hungary's average annual rainfall providing raw weather (4)
- 37 Jockey canters endlessly through passage (6)
- 38 Sing in tune, perversely causing irritation (5)
- 39 Rail and row mostly about rent (8)
- 40 Are insects invigorating this creature as is? (6)
- 41 Ice tops formed with crests? (7)
- 42 Right off, ignore theme novel having 36 pages? (10)

### Down

- 1 Dandy back masseuse losing custom in July (7)
- 2 One involved in yielding more? (8)
- 3 Captivated the prison guards (5)
- 5 Trash a politician with spin (8)
- 6 Marking time finishing off the old Magpie (4)
- 7 Pa interacting with mutterer may produce this (10)
- 8 This old balance artist's worried realizing it's a trapeze (5)
- 9 Blast parish priest (4)
- 10 Walker's goal maybe leads to extra time as Palace equalize (5)
- 11 Outrageous trousers American removed in Bermuda? (6)
- 17 Tablet added to drink gets niece zonked – it's Ecstasy (10)
- 18 All agree I'm a bore (5)
- 22 Wives and mistresses Harlem Globetrotters' No 2 abandoned (5)
- 23 John and Bartholomew managed without Lew (8)
- 25 Balk initially at Square Mile's greed (8)
- 27 Time for tea and a bit of cake, we hear – divine (7)
- 28 Titch avoiding awful huge rat – that's wise (6)
- 31 Fish on banks of Ure? We were ready on the Tiber (5)
- 32 Choral composition marks old festival (5)
- 34 A year in the life of Joanna Lumley? (5)
- 35 Readers of Marx expected new Germany to unite (4)
- 36 Socks and shoes singularly dishevelled (4)

Difficulty  
rating



# Dark Secret

by Seth Mould

In case some solvers are partial 34s, an item indicated by 1a and 10d does not appear 9d 14a.

Unchecked letters in 1a match those unchecked in 10d.

[From Issue No. 30, May 2005]

Difficulty rating



1	2	3		4		5		6	7	8	9
10			11								
					12						
14							15				
16					17				18		
19					20		21				
	22		23		24						
25							26	27			
	28	29				30				31	
32											
					33						
34											

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## Across

- 1 *See preamble*
- 10 Tool one wants recast (8, 2 words)
- 12 Secret weapon containing tin and Uranium (7)
- 14 Scandinavian playing ridiculous part? (6)
- 15 A pork pie producer in Cheapside could be dropping iodine, a banned preservative (4)
- 16 Church and Society abandon scholars of the sun (5)
- 17 See inside quaint curio depicting Alpine gully (7)
- 19 It may be needed in deciphering important news (7)
- 24 One taking no bull, perhaps, ordered the rice (7)
- 25 Trendy person's beastly (7)
- 26 I accepted hiding vulgar business — it's a common resort.
- 28 Your work is outstanding, could be top (4)
- 30 Sail stupefies lecturer (6)
- 32 Piles of old books about King do seem strange (7)
- 33 Crown Office enquiry about Blunkett's last flirtation (8)
- 34 I may not relish one rib being treated with endless homeopathy (11)

## Down

- 2 Head north after bear runs off (4)
- 3 Horse in haply renovated picture with two prints (8)
- 4 Unusually detailed vent with metal surround (7)
- 5 Protoplasm physician in *Times* recalled (7)
- 6 "O honestly!", not "E by gum"? (6)
- 7 An Australian laid back band (4)
- 8 A team of vehicles owned by Madame Curie? Not an English lady. (6)
- 9 Clue Marilyn devised & Lit? No! (11)
- 10 *See preamble*
- 11 Mediocre artist portraying ladies' fingers (4)
- 18 Ground-bass is lost in a *Tosca* excerpt (8)
- 20 Modern bar outside hotel reflecting part of black widow's vision? (7)
- 21 Review's dressed in pure wit (7)
- 22 Scandinavian visiting marginal seats (6)
- 23 Man races for Seychelles in Surrey, making harness ring (6)
- 27 Bar drug: it might be used to dope a cocktail (4)
- 29 Found primarily in your elder Tibetans' imagination? (4)
- 31 European engineers returning in Scandinavian car could be getting AA out (4)

# Numerical Prize Crossword No. 30

## Petals by Elap



One digit is to be inserted in each square. Upper and lower case letters denote across and down entries respectively. Ordinary algebraic notation has been used in the clues.

None of the grid entries starts with a zero.

Once the clues have been solved, a digit is to be inserted in the central square and then a single line is to be drawn through all the digits in the grid. The sum of the 38 grid entries may be helpful during this final stage.

[From Issue No. 30, May 2005]

### Clues

- A =  $83E + 3R + M$
- C =  $35Q + 8r + a$
- E =  $5w + Q$
- F =  $23P + 38S + m$
- G =  $2v + h$
- J =  $58h + w$
- L =  $52w + 3G + J = 83w + 38E$
- N =  $18H + 55a + c = 23H + 3m + R$
- R =  $35w + 3q + D = 38w + 32h + t$
- S =  $21w + 12f + v$

Aa	b		c	d	Be	f	g	h
C		j				D		
E			F					k
G					H	m		
Jn	p				K			
L			q	r	Ms			t
N		u				P	v	
Qw				R				
S				T				

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- $g = 82E + 31P + u$
- $j = 55h + e = 5w + 8n + S = T - 38s$
- $k = 25w + b = d - 83w - 2K$
- $p = 33n + 5R + B$
- $q = 51h$
- $v = (h^{1/2} + h^{1/3})h + w = 2h + f$

Difficulty  
rating



# Snakes & Ladders

by Child's Play



In the clues each upper case letter represents one of the first eleven primes. Normal rules of algebra apply. There are no leading zeros.

All answers must undergo two consecutive transformations prior to entry. First, they are to be converted to base 5; then additional digits are to be systematically added to the end (not the beginning), singly or in groups, to form palindromes, until the required length is reached. The numbers in brackets after each clue indicate the lengths of the answer after conversion to base 5 and the grid entry respectively. The positions of the entries in the grid, which are all different, have to be determined.

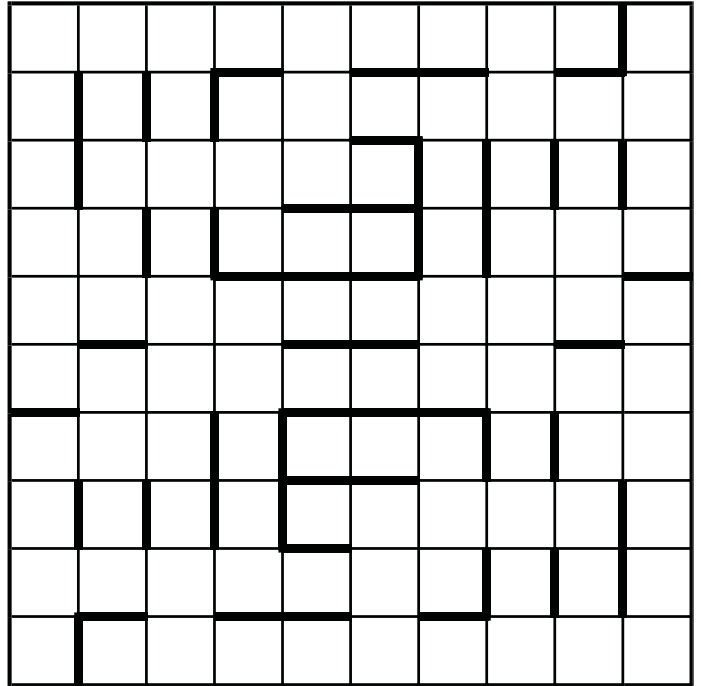
Each clue answer, once converted to base 5, contains the least number of digits that can be correctly extended to form the required grid entry. A clue (2,5) giving 17 converts to 32, and extends (twice) to give an entry of 32323. Six such numbers have only one digit and no further clue is given for these.

Any remaining ambiguities can be resolved by creating and playing a game of Snakes & Ladders on the grid.

The digit 2, wherever it appears in the completed grid, indicates one end of a snake; the digit 3 similarly indicates an end of a ladder. If they are drawn as straight lines, mid-cell to mid-cell, the ladders do not cross each other whereas every snake crosses exactly one other snake. No snake or ladder connects cells in the same row or column of the grid. The snakes and ladders should be drawn in their appropriate places on the completed grid.

In the game, players enter the board from the bottom left and progress along rows alternately left-to-right and right-to-left until they reach the top left square. Pieces start from off the board so the first move lands on one of the first six squares depending on the throw of a single die. When a move ends at the bottom of a ladder or the head of a snake it is climbed or descended prior to the next turn. The game is won by landing exactly on the final square at the top left, which happens at the first attempt here.

Thirty throws of the die which complete a game, using every ladder and every snake exactly once, can be identified by treating each of the clue answers (not the grid entries) in clue order as follows: (i) convert to base 5; (ii) sum its digits; (iii) express the result modulo 6 for values greater than 6 – e.g. clue answer 443 sums to 11 = a 5 thrown on the die.



- 1 I (2,3)
- 2 *see preamble* (1,2)
- 3 IE (2,5)
- 4 *see preamble* (1,3)
- 5 O + N + S + I + D + E (3,5)
- 6 E + D (2,3)
- 7 E × *prime* (4,7)
- 8 (S + I)/N (2,4)
- 9 L (2,4)
- 10 N(I + D + O + R + S) (3,5)
- 11 IE (2,4)
- 12 R + A + S + P (3,5)
- 13 PA (5,10)
- 14 *see preamble* (1,5)
- 15 IE (2,3)
- 16 *see preamble* (1,6)
- 17 DE(M + O + R + A + L + I + S + E + D) (5,10)
- 18 (S + I)/N (2,3)
- 19 *see preamble* (1,3)
- 20 PA + NDS (5,10)
- 21 D(I – E) (2,3)
- 22 *prime* (4,7)
- 23 *prime* (5,9)
- 24 (R + I)(M + A + L) (5,10)
- 25 *see preamble* (1,2)
- 26 D (2,3)
- 27 ON (3,6)
- 28 L + A + M (3,5)
- 29 S (2,4)
- 30 E × *prime* (5,9)

Difficulty rating

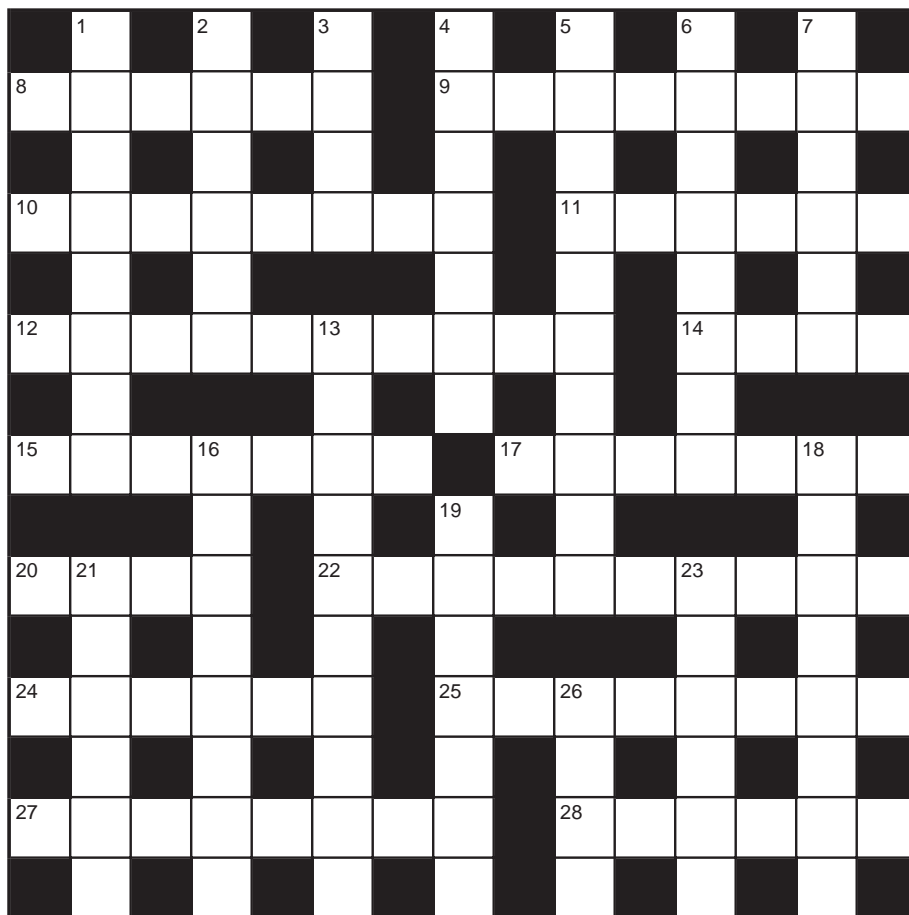


# Major Star

by Mr Magoo

Solvers must highlight a possible motto of our hero.

[From Issue No. 45  
August 2006]



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## Across

- 8 In a way, is sporting classic all right to begin with, though not the first two rounds? (6)
- 9 What would make colourful finishes? Bad luck, one might say (8)
- 10 Tiger's always heartless and ultimately sure to have an effect whilst remaining unaffected? (8)
- 11 Chap pursuing major: Tiger? (3,3)
- 12 Determined to secure eagle, we hear, having got married and being confined? (10)
- 14 Man who's third is skilful, you could say (4)
- 15 On Thursday, partner for Open not getting lead – no change (3,4)
- 17 When prodigy's spotted having a daydream? (7)
- 20 Singular American won, note, having made cut? (4)
- 22 To some extent, Europe chap goes into reverse and avails nothing in struggle (10)
- 24 Widespread praise for resistance by number one being content in difficult goal (6)
- 25 Asian mother goes inside to see one coasting home? (8)
- 27 I have the power to retain it, a repeat being possible (8)
- 28 Feature person who's first, they say, taking part of claret jug? (6)

## Down

- 1 Woods not featuring here, in Georgia? (8)
- 2 Relish one's found in prize (6)
- 3 Observe some of favourite's pyrotechnics (4)
- 4 He dared to be different, and clung on (7)
- 5 Hoylake's last two are beset regularly with one's flags? (10)
- 6 Tiger and mother showing no hesitation in appeal for special marks (8)
- 7 Recently defeated, shown in odds for Open (2,4)
- 13 Name adopted in US war by and by, not like Tiger? (5-5)
- 16 Miss for Spaniard, no Sergio in last shake-up, losing out (8)
- 18 Having character, not caught at the end (8)
- 19 I catch fire, reeling in Tiger (7)
- 21 Coolness shown by American left in to clean up at British (6)
- 23 Essentially lazy half year – 13th at Augusta (6)
- 26 One finishing hole picked up by contents of claret jug? (4)

Difficulty  
rating



# DIY

by Lucan

The completed grid contains a representation of a DIY task. Three entries (symmetrically placed) must be altered by one letter each to ensure a correct finish. The amended entries will still be real words. Appropriate shading may assist matters, but is not mandatory.

[From Issue No. 46  
September 2006]

Difficulty  
rating



1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12								13				
14					15			16				
		17					18					
19		20	21		22			23	24	25		26
				27	28		29					
30				31				32				
	33		34		35	36			37		38	
39								40				
41					42				43			
	44				45			46				
47					48				49			

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## Across

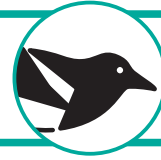
- 4 Baby born to Greek goddess (7)
- 12 Saw the result of first red card? (5)
- 13 Dicky: ceremonial garment (5)
- 14 Initially deficient roof support is concerning (5)
- 15 Clawing back 75% of fee is a good deal (3)
- 16 Very small measure engulfed by another (5)
- 17 Otherwise seen in posh part of London ... (7)
- 18 ... woman's heading off west again (4)
- 19 Somehow steer in harbour (5)
- 22 Hill to go quickly knocking a second off (3)
- 23 Cook fruit friedcake (5)
- 27 Cultivate essentially good soil (5)
- 30 Took E-bay items back? (5)
- 32 Sister acquires female servant (5)
- 35 Buzzer, to begin with? (3)
- 39 Ideal drive around country (5)
- 40 Dreadful tackle might yield Kirkpatrick such applause (5)
- 41 Gent seen in the sauna (4)
- 42 Cloth with stripes going both ways (3)
- 43 Type of mapping is quick when applied to Puerto Rico (4)
- 44 Try out Earl's rubber cushion (4)
- 45 Have sufficient power to terminate employment (3)
- 46 Impressive mince pie starter for Christmas (4)
- 47 High place is very grey, from time to time (4)
- 48 Page stolen from clergyman is opening to requiem (5)
- 49 Measure scrap heap (4)

## Down

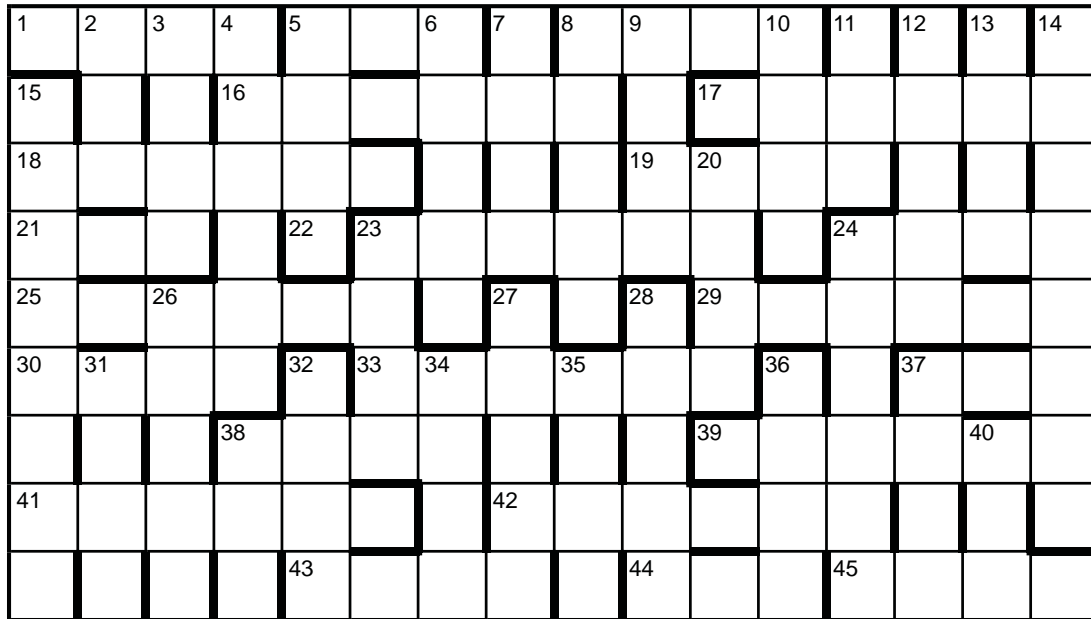
- 1 Send back other guns for Colt (4)
- 2 Send back mischief maker, back into house of the clergy (7)
- 3 Advance on to base (4)
- 4 Carol is lacking public transport (4)
- 5 What identifies hooker turning to tackle the French winger? (5)
- 6 Mind study could make loony go wild (7)
- 7 Make tartar sauce without right oil (5)
- 8 Point east to relieve oneself (4)
- 9 Cook up a plot to capture Queen (4)
- 10 Mix prisoner with fellow having to take drugs (7)
- 11 Eye trouble to the disadvantage of 'illbillies, we hear (4)
- 19 Flowers are so rotten, including hole in one? (8)
- 20 Drag her around Ohio (4)
- 21 Timber's cut length is 45in (3)
- 24 Concert hall's 'unacceptable' composition? (3)
- 25 Starts of negotiations ending wars, say (4)
- 26 Mythical figure involved in yogic flying, a terrible affliction (8)
- 28 'Hold me up' underwear by Gordon Brown (7)
- 29 Hanging US president seeing rise in the no vote (7)
- 31 Worship King Beetle (6)
- 32 Hi-fi, not lo-fi, in wild loft soiree (6)
- 33 White meat product (5)
- 34 Turn on French lady finally showing interest (5)
- 36 Island dessert in need of topping (4)
- 37 Kent policeman's capacity for action? (5)
- 38 Make up with bad-tempered person (5)

# Hide and Seek

by Jaques



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A character is in disguise and solvers need to find and unmask him. There are fourteen clashes in the grid which solvers should resolve by entering only one of the two letters, although the somewhat elusive letters to be omitted may prove more useful. Two answers are abbreviations.

Solvers are recommended not to write in ink – selecting pencil and eraser will be a far better option.

## Difficulty rating



### Across

- 1 Kebab not completely cooked? Put in the oven (4)
- 5 Australian Navy? Smuggled?! (3)
- 8 Ptarmigan is in wintry *pelt*? (4)
- 15 Shed pounds in dance (6)
- 16 One who exploits immigrants is evasive or the equivalent (6)
- 18 In part of Europe there's no hint of fjord away from the coast (6)
- 19 The Earth – not something you can inherit (4)
- 21 Fish in Sargasso (3)
- 23 Middle English saga returns past to present (6)
- 24 A lesson in Latin needing attention (4)
- 25 Not the simplest compounds in inflamed dermis (6)
- 29 Young skate on old local, polo field? (6)
- 30 Genuine German and French found around Switzerland (4)
- 33 Deep collar, interfering with the bra? (6)
- 37 Investigating agency that produce fib? (3)
- 38 Nobody lacking hesitation to shoot at young grouse (4)
- 39 A small curiosity upsetting everything in natural order, I claim (6)
- 41 See a striking display of colour in golden bird (6)
- 42 Out of spite vegetarian left for Italy (6)
- 43 Cut is seen in opera sets (4)
- 44 Most of current affairs revolves around London (3)
- 45 Cash for builder up front in account – it's put under the door (4)

### Down

- 2 Those Scottish calls for attention turn the South to North (3)
- 3 Switch off a channel (4)
- 4 Tree's extremities sticking up underneath – dash kite (6)
- 5 It's fashionable inside Racine's outside, Spenser's outside (4)
- 6 Fish had bored into ship (5)
- 7 English plough in Scottish earth (4)
- 8 Duck put its head down and flew wide of a hawk (5)
- 9 Year made inroads into Ed's entrance money (4)
- 10 Vast time periods wearily counted in ascending seconds (4)
- 11 Near old city start to excavate (3)
- 12 Hand-reared lamb loses some strangeness in a reduced group (5)
- 13 Have a constant need for Italian centre half (4)
- 14 Discovering the first hint of lactose and rennet (8)
- 15 Delivery in fog got cards wrong (8)
- 20 Girl after space is young one's mother (4)
- 23 Device that could restrain nuisance needs a second man (4)
- 24 Elderly still loiter around book clubs (6)
- 26 Flock of finches is something thought to possess occult power (5)
- 27 It's about six, could be five or seven (5)
- 28 Bring forth young with assistance (5)
- 31 Maybe Apache war cry with loss of heart makes for defeat (4)
- 32 Treat rafter's exterior for a type of beetle (4)
- 34 Menial workers caste thrown out without a hint of compunction (4)
- 35 God is only half ecclesiastical tyranny (4)
- 36 In existence though narrow-minded to a large degree (4)
- 37 Thin plates, they must be worth at least ten dollars (4)
- 38 Spoil religious rule book (3)
- 40 Move wool around, giving nothing away? (3)

# Doctor, Doctor

by Samuel

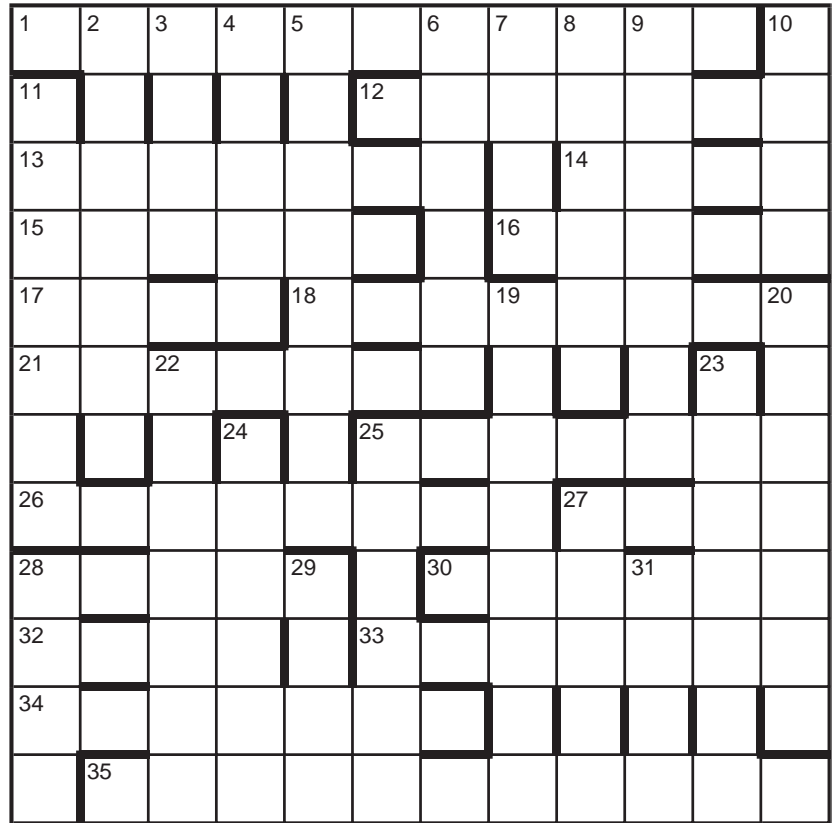
A ‘doctor, doctor’ joke is one where a patient visits a doctor with a complaint, the punchline being the doctor’s response to the patient’s question. For example:

Patient: “Doctor, doctor, I keep thinking I’m a pair of curtains.”

Doctor: “Pull yourself together then!”

Eight thematic clues consist of the punchline to such a joke. Solvers must enter into the grid, where they will fit, the original object causing the complaint. The grid entry in the given example would be CURTAINS.

Wordplay in across clues gives an answer together with a superfluous letter. In clue order these spell out the real reason for the patient’s visiting the doctor. This completes the sentence “Doctor, doctor, I keep thinking I’m...” and solvers must enter a possible answer of their own beneath the completed grid. One entry is a variant spelling found in Collins.



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- Across**
- 1 Son, cat-like, disturbed remote fish (11)
  - 12 Carnally knowledgeable about clues being heartless and hard (7)
  - 13 Without arrangement, one spoke tediously (7)
  - 15 Echo reverberating after endless sand dune’s periodic movement... (6)
  - 16 ...returning, drives off outcast (5)
  - 17 Food pile (4)
  - 21 Brother with Dallas family making beer (7)
  - 25 Dot almost screwing up garish tea towel (7)
  - 26 Nourishing fruit? Take regularly, or hibernate (8)
  - 27 Fish swallowing mother’s clump of hair (4)
  - 28 Two in capsized boat died (5)
  - 30 Radical tax on Conservative alternative to necktie (6)
  - 32 Conspiratorial group poisoned duke without drug (4)
  - 33 A German republican group, about to return, associated with parasites (7)
  - 34 Hand over more than unfashionable award in day celebrating triumph over Germany (7)
  - 35 Prehistoric reptile caught, some say, outside the Spanish ancient city of religious order (11)

## Punchlines

- a What’s come over you?
- b I’ll deal with you later
- c Don’t talk rubbish!
- d I’ve got some cream for that
- e Take these, and give me a ring later
- f I find that very hard to believe
- g Don’t get wound up about it
- h Didn’t I see you yesterday?

## Down

- 2 Jerry’s rival holds tight part of turntable (7, two words)
- 3 Zulu warriors portrayed in Guggenheim picture (4)
- 5 One from disputed eastern region to serve quiet communes (8)
- 6 Top 60% of tree is no good for fuel north of the border (6)
- 8 Dormant young fish swims upstream, following a salmon’s lead (6)
- 9 Fit clubs: trendier (7)
- 10 Norse god overthrowing motherless martyr (4)
- 19 Star soprano quitting *Tosca* in anger – Farinelli, perhaps? (8)
- 20 Queen imposes a curfew on workers (7)
- 22 Put metal in water to corrode (7, two words)
- 23 Anteater’s not quite housetrained and initially uneasy (7)
- 28 Stop external transmission of drug (4)
- 29 Tense afternoon in Lahore opener for Hoggard, Harmison and Panesar, perhaps (4)
- 31 Advanced after force used to enter foreign country (4)