

**Free
Issue!**

ΜΑΓΑΡΙ

60½



**December 2007
Volume 6 Number 0**

Major Announcement: Gratis Promotional Inaugural E-dition

MAGPIE

Welcome to issue 60½ of the Magpie.

Greetings to any new readers who are with us for the first time, to any returning after a break, and above all to our loyal subscribers.

This is a very exciting moment, as the magazine changes style and distribution. I sincerely hope you enjoy the new-look offering, and offer my heartfelt thanks to our new co-editors Shane, webmaster Chris, and designer AJ. To them and our beta-testers goes all of the credit for the improved look of the magazine, for the fascinating website at www.piemag.com, and for the general improvements that I'm sure you will benefit from.

Apologies for the unusual numbering for this one-off issue. We are killing two birds with one stone by shifting along a month to move our year into line with the calendar year, and in the process providing a free issue to advertise more widely our improved magazine format and on-line presence.

For those who have not seen the magazine before, we aim every month to have amongst our six puzzles an A-grader (see under Mr Magoo's puzzle for a description of the system), and a numerical puzzle to cater for all tastes. We are always on the lookout for new compilers and all readers are welcome to submit puzzles for consideration. We will publish puzzles that other outlets often wouldn't, regardless of difficulty, providing they meet our number one criterion: that they are fun to solve.

In a bid to save submission fees in an issue for which we are not being paid, we have decided to produce the precise opposite of a guest issue and offer you puzzles compiled entirely by the new editorial team. Gareth provides us with an entertaining A grade. Unusually, Pieman has provided a B-graded Present, while Tiburon and Mr Magoo both offer excellent C grades that will get you warmed up for Mash who was determined to compile the hardest puzzle of the issue, and did so twice over. He claims of course that his knack is to exploit the weak points of the test solvers, not the subscribers. We leave it to you to decide, but recommend perseverance with the Magpie puzzle, because it will be worth the effort.

Mash also provides our monthly numerical, which two puzzles from him apparently comprise at least two years' worth of compiling in one issue.

As always, but worth mentioning, Chambers is our primary word source. ODO, Chambers Biographical Dictionary, Collins and Brewers are often used as secondary sources and may not always be mentioned. We dropped our research warning last year as it was becoming increasingly redundant, but from time to time (and always for a Gareth puzzle!), we may recommend the use of Wikipedia and/or an internet search engine.

We welcome subscribers from the entire English-speaking world, but our basic assumptions on general knowledge are aimed at a UK audience and will not always be flagged as such.

We do invite comment, particularly online, and will be very interested to hear what you have to say about this trial issue. Please spread the word to anyone you know who may be interested in subscribing that this issue can be downloaded free from the Public area on our website.

Enjoy the puzzles!

Mark Goodliffe

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Prizes

Magpie pens for each of:

– The Magpie Crossword:
Sixty (Carte Blanche et Noire)
by Mash

– Numerical Crossword:
65 Deplug and 47 Renoir
by Mash

– 5 correct solutions out of 6

Winners drawn at random

Closing date: 31st December 2007

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Gut Reaction

by Gareth

The solution is a reproduction of a work of art. The original artist's name (8,5) must be written below the grid.

Solvers must follow instructions to discover what's missing. They must then use the empty submission grid to show that they can paint like Titian.

Google (or a similar web search) is recommended.

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								

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Artist's name: _____

Across

- 1 Indian pony is the one who could turn you black and blue (9)
- 10 Speaking Spanish until such as Taliban stops it (5)
- 16 Brit takes girl to get Pelé? (6)
- 17 Thus Queen and Empress takes film of the shrew (8)
- 18 Legendary king translated the sign (7)
- 19 E.g. these could be remarkably good steel (7)
- 20 Vow so far conceals shame (5)
- 22 Provide for ancient four (5)
- 25 Changing side in parliament is immature – and fishy (4)
- 27 What's not unknown in a holy setting? (4)
- 29 Note colour's faded (5)
- 31 Far out – making wonderful underflow perhaps? (5, 2 words)
- 33 They're seen wading by the sea, and heard over waterfalls (7)
- 37 Bad news for alien wanting to phone home – this communication is low-tech (7)
- 41 Tolerate gold covering on tide gate (8)
- 42 For example, a branch almost reversed allowance for motorists (6)
- 43 Union awards five for such efforts (5)
- 44 Time polled in Old Norse: not a pangram (9)

Down

- 2 Seal caught outside is missing, hurt (4)
- 3 What's in the right region (5)
- 4 Chinese oil-producer heard speech (4)
- 5 Arrogant person's died instead of perhaps musician (6)
- 6 Ω – like Bond? (4)
- 7 There's hot chemistry going on here — a phase in nymph's life (6)
- 8 Historic Irishman's tax (4)
- 9 One degree away from boiling red-hot fit of pain (5)
- 10 How Germans greeted girl stripping off outer layer (4)
- 11 Take mushroom into show (6)
- 12 Slid(e)? (4)
- 13 Cardinal or general run (5)
- 14 British composer who's hell for a blind man? (4)
- 15 Ezekiel's bath starts to hold a high priest's evening up (5)
- 21 Rock with licence to intimidate? (6)
- 23 Sustained tune to jig (6)
- 24 Restrict supply to renegade (one with excess negativity) (6)
- 26 Wolverine's relation after switching sides (5)
- 28 French composer plugs Flaubert (5)
- 30 Where XP base goes to render expert unable to respond (5)
- 32 Dark blue pan (5)
- 33 Foster-child's delete key on computer (4)
- 34 Being perhaps unconscious, missing drink with jam and bread? (4)
- 35 Date that is endless (4)
- 36 This band could be interpreted as making class clash (4)
- 38 In bloom, Arab-style? (4)
- 39 Dandy left for dead twice turned up this month (4)
- 40 Protection provided by penguins every so often (4)

Difficulty rating



Sixty (Carte Blanche et Noire)

by Mash



Within their letter-length groups, clues are given in alphabetical order of answers.

Thirteen of the seven-letter answers are entered in one direction, and seven in the other. One letter from any point along the word must be taken out and placed centrally before entry. Six-letter answers are treated in similar fashion, but jumbled before entry.

The moved letters may be rearranged to form two thematic words, both of which describe the grid, but one only after (more than one) truncation. This latter word would be totally obscured if the grid were shaded in its traditional pattern (first seen in Denmark in the 1950s and used worldwide from 1970).

Twelve clues have a redundant word which, in clue order, should aid the solver in construction of the grid. The answers to four of these clues, entered in two diametrically opposite pairs, should be thematically helpful. A line of letters running through these twelve answers only can be anagrammed into a self-referential description (1,5,6). To confirm its position, the asterisked clues lead to pairs of answers which meet at the furthest points in the grid from this line. Two thematic six-letter answers to normal clues, also entered as an opposing pair, relate to the two parts of the title, thus providing further thematic help or confirmation in grid construction.

Entries should comprise only the descriptions of the grid provided by the two thematic words (32 letters in total) and the (1,5,6) phrase.

Two female names do not appear in Chambers. One is a familiar form of a standard name, the other a transliteration of a character appearing in traditional opera. One further surname is in the Chambers Biographical Dictionary.

Six letters

Desperate for place, missing the first quarter of training
Not a home-owner from Melrose perhaps? East becomes accepted
Mule moved shellfish
Vehicle: British working life's based on it
Suicide monsters within?
Letters despatched men as Romeo prepares for battle
Cloth producer centrally more than replete
Loud, losing his rag
Walled up and roofed over, Rodin sculpture has nothing
Di lied about another girl
Stirs up nonsense around American south
Score round about a hundred? Not in this game

Seven letters

Solid underlying foundation within night-time music?
Mad ones having sex
Liberal in double assault going back for sculptor
Boston snob composer: 'South' is Indiana
*Rub the wrong way with automated programs for swimmers
Demand cocaine, totally in favour (two words)
*Inmate taking thrashing may be in the soup
Heroic maid's part leads to Chinese understudy's inappropriate laughter in Act Nine
French leather faces posterior armour
*Southwestern county's given up time for river tramps
*In charge within ranks - they have no flowers
Vagrant set about remainder, almost blowing his top
Means of chilling headless bones before 8, say (two words)
Man of title embraces northern form - there's one in York
Wild Corsican animals French left on vertices in total reversal
Extravagant promissory notes after game
Change kit to compensate
All of queen of the realm, bar none
Imaginary opponent with fishy triple surname: wealthy and tough combined
More treacherous: checked near ski resort

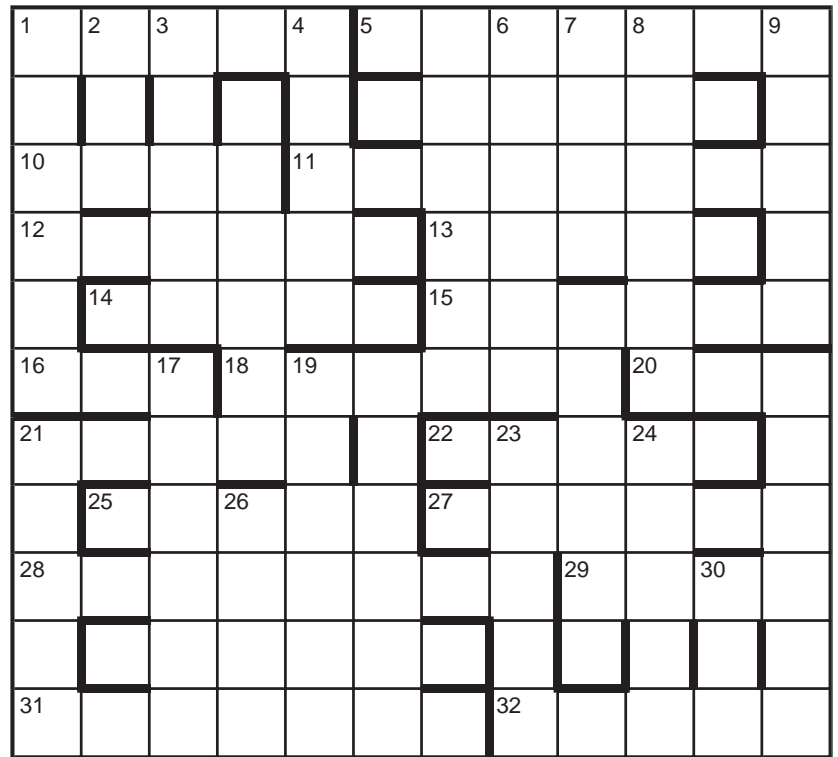
Difficulty rating



Wood

by Mr Magoo

A group of four cells in the grid includes two clashes. One reading of these four cells can be followed by a second reading and then by a third (backwards this time), giving a 12-letter theme. In each clashing position the letter used twice in the three readings must be entered rather than the letter used once. Hints to the 12-letter theme can be obtained in a number of ways: (twice) from the unclued words; from a number of clue answers, which must be highlighted, having a common link; from a number of letters that must fill remaining blanks in the completed grid (numbers in brackets give grid lengths); from first letters of the word in each clue that must be anagrammed to correct the clue; and from the title.



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Difficulty rating



Across

- 1 Jarul branch gale trimmed (5)
- 5 Priest chosen to be unstrict (7)
- 10 Length of brief character from starship (4)
- 11 Being new, ignores one's dropped nets (8)
- 12 Is *bugling*, perhaps, Darwin's litotes? (6)
- 13 Not erasing page in revolutionary regimen (5)
- 14 Like bride in *Elias*, perhaps, married out of county (5)
- 15 Street ringing river won't near Belfast (6)
- 16 Pirate costume indeed closing (3)
- 18 Endlessly spangly, like Nestorian? (6)
- 20 Opening article doc found tedious (3)
- 21 Female god inspires domestic eon with mean stare (5)
- 22 Reliving heartless Welsh poet (5)
- 25 More than one ambled in gentle paces (5)
- 27 Nearest duke, having been teased, was itchy (6)
- 28 No bear tied up (8)
- 29 Actor's bread sauce – acting (4)
- 31 Refuse leader – who's counting? (7)
- 32 Zabel's integral quality of little worth (5)

Down

- 2 Owls neglected to ape avian sprinter (3)
- 3 Spoiled lapdog avoids destiny with sidestep (5)
- 4 General, prepared, has no item to lose, in verse (5)
- 6 Tops blown off, get one 'man' altered to 'a volcano' (6)
- 7 Cover basket in citadel (4)
- 8 Innings that's a fraction of great 'undred? (6)
- 9 In the end, couldn't care less about difficult night (5)
- 17 Presumably one often douses the old trouble and strife (6)
- 19 Mexicans put meal here, were united and indign? (6)
- 21 Celebrity capers for audience (5)
- 23 Taffs carried by me bleed all over the place (5)
- 24 Adding to, for instance, ink being consumed (5)
- 26 Oldies into nard (4)
- 30 Fort built by naivest accident arising (3)

Difficulty ratings

For those unfamiliar with our system, we grade our puzzles on a scale ranging from barely harder than a standard daily 'broadsheet' cryptic (A), through an average regular thematic crossword such as The Listener, The Inquisitor or Enigmatic Variations (B – D depending on their own weekly differences), up to a level not commonly encountered elsewhere, on which our own test-solvers struggled (E).

Present

from Pieman

All clue answers are 4 letters long and within their groups are given in alphabetical order of their answers. The 'Triple' clues contain letters that form a framework, all of which are triple-checked. The 'Other' clues contain letters that are all *either* double- or triple-checked.

Double-checked letters from asterisked answers (in clued order) need to be decoded using the following string:

I S L O Z D P O X Q J W K Q Z H A A W T W F X D

This should allow solvers to identify what they should have created and must be attached as a label to identify the specific form of their submissions.

Triple

Lord's part in clear logic
Yielding queen is out of rough
Makes inroads through bog lacking phosphorus and sulphur
What glides possibly without tail? Not I!
Continue to unite league for millions
Meadows' reeds second cut
Messenger's aim
Tax discussion's finished without Austria
Bar dropping regulars from sell-outs
Chemist's daughter chasing returning dab?
Principle in English follows head of Yahoo
Gilt edges of security create land tax

Other

- * Long time away from Charlie?
Vehicle with this system makes a half-turn
- * One suit's cockeyed
Horried for want of saint's leader
Advanced banking system forgoes right discount
- * Petals recently start to tumble off
Pedestrian takes this drug second in boats
- * With this Irish darling add name for skiing
Club with missing knife?
- * Proper Lord escapes fair
With no news, cell is boomer?
- * Old bread lacking the volume
- * Large bird leaves lake base for fish
Stupid Spaniard vanishes to anoint
It glows red and ages
- * Port of navy
Brother leaving burden – it moves a bit
- * Jumbo carriers avoiding constant dangers
Has oik fortune?
- * Primarily Hebrew sin variant
Short match – fix!
Attractive and in bad taste without heart
- * Take money back for weapon
- * Partygoer has past

Difficulty
rating



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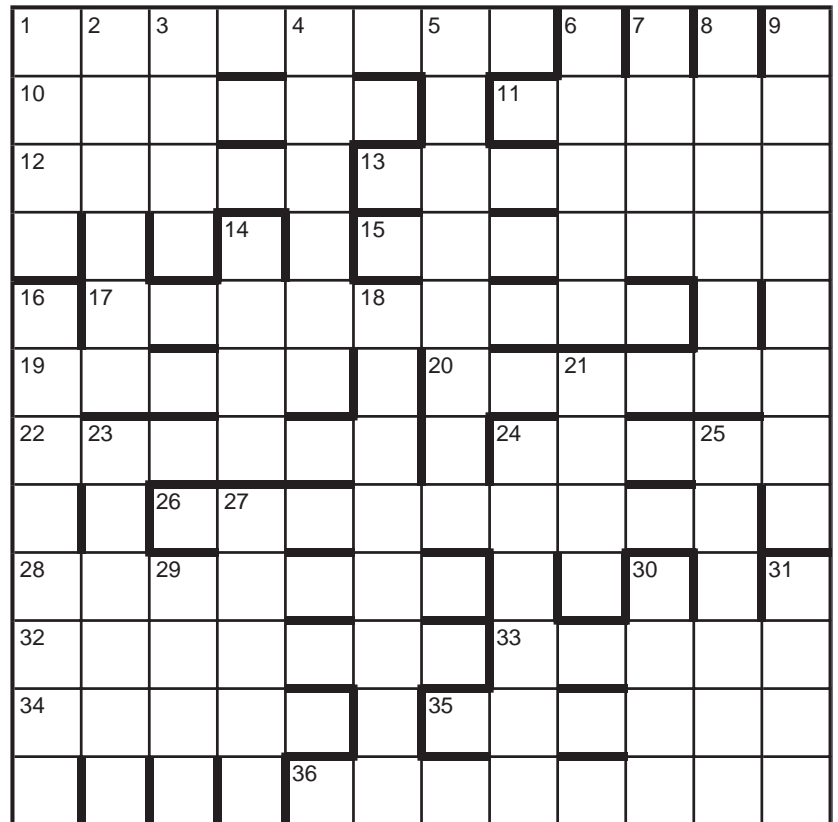
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Itinerant

by Tiburon

Twelve letters in the grid (one in each column/row) in row order spell a thematic word. These letters are excluded in wordplay of all associated clues. Remaining clues are normal, but also yield two further thematic words from the letters (in clue order) 'keyed' by the initial letter of each such clue's solution. For example, if the answer to such a clue begins with a Q, it is the 17th letter of that clue (ignoring any spaces or punctuation) that is to be used. After completion of the grid, solvers must replace the twelve letters in the grid (always creating real words) to yield, in column order, a phrase (9,3) linking all three thematic words.



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Difficulty rating



Across

- 1 Sedimentary rock fragment found on pleasant Sunday afternoon at top of mountain (8)
- 10 Fabulously grand letter about *Magpie* (6)
- 11 Building opening assumes approval (5)
- 12 Horse? Letter initially missing (5)
- 13 Troubled industry drops new gear for divers (7, two words)
- 15 Electronically deliver warrant? (7)
- 17 Repair accomplished with potential for improvement (9)
- 19 Nonchalant yet able to be shocked (5)
- 20 Patois of Italy has Parma fans, say, in retreat (6)
- 22 Gamblers, several losing 5000 (6)
- 24 Those enthralled visit website for *Listener* before Saturday's dawn (5)
- 26 Country squire caught in patchy rain (9)
- 28 Run over in wreck then show acceleration – that's acting in an unprincipled manner (7)
- 32 Essentially half a corpse is half-dead (7)
- 33 Excellent ransom (5)
- 34 Search for versatile oven? (5)
- 35 San Francisco players sang it out of tune (6)
- 36 Least emotional and fairest to exclude nothing (8)

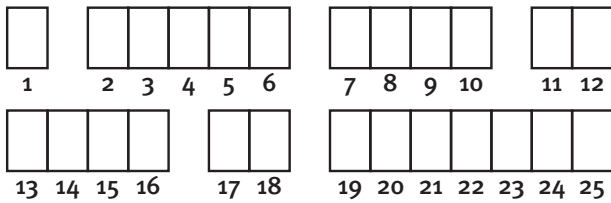
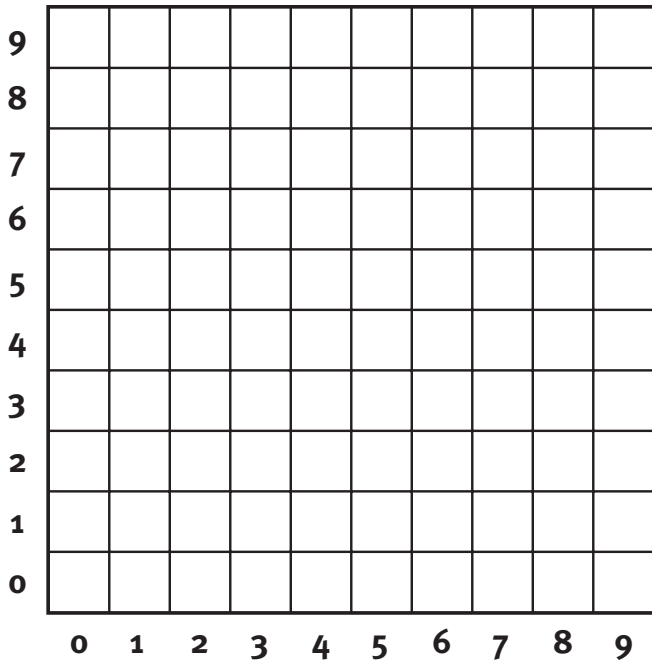
Down

- 1 Separate revolutionary nuts? (4)
- 2 Name dividing certain rubies arising (6)
- 3 Sprightly topless pixie (4)
- 4 Seascape from island in French river (6)
- 5 Menace then tear to bits (8)
- 6 A bad egg long covered by waste (5)
- 7 The outing (4)
- 8 Is overlooking some task I've set! (6)
- 9 Remiss at recollecting constellation (8)
- 14 Keynote speech at core supports leader of Marxists (4)
- 16 Tenacity born of the French blocking ability to communicate freely (8)
- 18 Scratch from list awful *Red Lions* (8)
- 21 Irish performance competition is underpinning further education (4)
- 23 Wedding phrase long supported by fallacy (6)
- 24 *Sun* and *Express* draw tight race (6)
- 25 Passes out \$5 notes around Thailand (6)
- 27 Man carrying unusual alcoholic drink (5)
- 29 Bit of fun – after school, note (4)
- 30 U rushed? (4)
- 31 Established machine-gun placement (4)

Do you know anyone who may be interested in becoming a subscriber?

As you know this is a free taster issue, available to all via our website at: www.piemag.com

Please spread the word!



Clues may provide further help at this stage. For confirmation, in each block six letters are already in position, five must be moved within the block and four substituted for new ones.

Finally, solvers must fill in the 'note to self' Mash has jotted under the grid for reference. This comprises all the letters and decoded numbers of the title and six letters to be extracted by 're-using' the decoded title three times for each figure in the final grid. For this the solver needs to imagine three successive degrees of accuracy for each figure. To aid correct completion, the final six letters (in the sequence derived from the title) are in positions 17, 18, 12, 13, 1, 14 and the decoded digits (again, in title sequence) are in positions 6, 4, 10, 7.

Numerical Prize Crossword No. 60 1/2

65 Deplug and 47 Renoir by Mash



Two of the digits 0-9 each correspond to a single letter. The remaining eight are each encoded by three different letters, in no particular order, to be deduced.

Clues follow the normal rules of algebra, except that multiplication is explicitly given because concatenation represents a multiple-digit number.

Each row has four clues, leading to either two- or three-digit numbers to be entered consecutively in clue order. Columns have two clues each, all of which have four-digit answers, also entered in order. Entries exhibit normal symmetry, are all different, have no leading zeros and no more than one unchecked digit.

Having found the numerical solutions, solvers must convert digits back to letters. Making the correct choices causes ten landmarks to appear in the grid.

The title pinpoints the actual locations of two larger-than-life figures, which solvers must reveal in the grid by transforming two blocks of 15 squares, symmetrically disposed and appropriately positioned.

Across

- 9 $C - I + T^2$; $Y^3 + E^3 + M + B^2 + L$;
 $-E + M \times S + S + J^4 \times (C + P)$; $Y \times F / (O + P)$
- 8 $T \times E \times (S + T)$; $A \times (R + E) - N/A$;
 $S^2 + E - A + T^2$; $(E + P) \times Z^2 + U^3$
- 7 $(C + A) \times T + A + R$; A^8 ; $C^2 - T^3 + N^3 + Y^{10/3}$;
 $I + L^2 + K + I + V + O$
- 6 $-A^5 + NC \times E - S$; $-T + R + AL \times P$; $IL \times E$;
 $S + (K^3 + A) \times EO + UO \times I$
- 5 $M \times (E + T \times A)$; $L^4 + A^2 \times R + C + H$; $S \times J$;
 $RU + DO + P \times C$
- 4 $RO - M^{5/3}$; $A \times N^2$; $S^3 \times (P^2 - A - S + T) + U$;
 $BOR + X^{1/2} + E$
- 3 $M^{1/3} + O + N \times UM$; EN ; $T^2 + S - U$;
 $I + D^7 + (AS)^2 - K^3 - I$
- 2 $(CO/N)^2$; $CE/R + T^2 + V^2 + EN \times U$;
 $E^3 + T \times Q^{1/3} + (A + E)^3$; $-R + U + G \times E$
- 1 $C^3 + A^3 \times T^2 - H + E$; $D + R + A + LT$; $Q^{5/3}$;
 $(J + A + O)^2 + (M + I)^3 \times I$
- 0 $B^3 + A^2 - T^2 - T - L^2$; $E^3 + S^4 - H^{1/2} + I$;
 $P^6 - S^2 - U^3$; $N^3 - A^3 - VOO/Z$

Down

- 0 $C^7 + L^5 - A + S^{7/2} + S + I$;
 $HA \times SH - S^{9/2} - S^2 + C - G^2$
- 1 $H - Q^2 + CLAM$;
 $R^5 - ITE - T \times L - A^3 - E \times B + I$
- 2 $-A + (VO + U + S^{3/2})^2 - I$;
 $(A^6 + AO)^2 - BO + I + R^2 + A^3$
- 3 $(E + N \times D^2 + V^2)^2 + A^4$; $-N - L + ENTE + A$
- 4 $(T^2 + I + R^2 - E)^2 + BE$; $-(E^2 \times S/IR)^2 + R^5 - S^5$
- 5 $(F^2 - R)^2 + S^2 + BW - H + P$;
 $(N + C)^2 + T + N^2/F + W^4 - AON$
- 6 $(H^2 - A^2 + T^2/U) \times IOO$; $-IG - EGO/N + F^4$
- 7 $((R/A)^4 - R)^2 + D \times R + L^2$;
 $LO + U - N - L + R + G^4 - T^3$
- 8 $G/E \times (L + T) \times L^2 + C^7$;
 $(GR)^2 - (I + D) \times (C + H)$
- 9 $Y^2 \times (E^2 + S^3 + S/H)$;
 $E \times Y + (E^2 + S^3) \times (L^2 + Y \times L)$

Difficulty rating



Full clue explanations for all solutions on the following pages, plus a logical solution path for our monthly numerical puzzle, can be found on the website at www.piemag.com/category/for-subscribers/solutions/

Note that this service is only available to subscribers. Yet another compelling reason to sign up.

A Battle on Paper by Ploy

Letters omitted from answers 5, 7, 9, 10, 11, 13, 15, 17, 18, 20, 21, 23, 24, 26, 27, 29, 30, 31, 33, 34 spelt TRY MAGIC LATIN WORD SET, all words that can precede SQUARE. For other answers, the clue number followed by the position of a significant cell formed a square number: 16, 25, 36, 49, 64, 81, 121, 144, 169, 196, 225, 256, 289, 324. These significant cells contained letters that could be arranged to form TRAFALGAR and TIMES, two notable squares.

1	T	2	R	3	A	N	4	S	5	M	6	I	7	T	T	8	A	9	L	10	S
11	H	E	12	L	I	A	I	S	O	N	S	A	U								
13	R	A	L	E	N	N	A	14	C	O	A	R	B								
15	B	L	O	O	D	S	A	16	C	17	R	F	C	E							
	O	I	N	18	S	H	E	C	R	A	T	E	R								
19	R	A	20	G	E	R	Y	Y	W	21	H	N	G								
M	22	C	E	K	A	23	A	24	P	P	L	E	25	P	E						
26	S	A	S	H	P	27	L	A	T	E	A	H	E								
28	T	R	A	N	S	U	D	A	T	I	O	N									
29	E	A	30	E	N	31	D	T	R	D	32	F	R	E	T						
R	F	33	C	H	I	N	O	I	D	A	B	S									
34	S	E	A	R	C	H	P	A	R	I	E	S									

TRAFALGAR, TIMES

It wasn't only Ploy fans from the Listener who were misled into trying to make the SATOR word-square relevant in some way after finding "TRY MAGIC LATIN ...", but at least those solvers were onto squares in some way.

A number of mathematicians immediately spotted the connection between the clue numbers and positionings, but for many it was quite a labour to amass enough data to join the dots. Few failed though, and overall there was much pleasure evinced at this puzzle ("I enjoyed this a lot"; "probably my favourite this month"), and Ploy's cunning and construction were praised.

One or two solvers were sad that too had to be missed out of the squares sequence, though it was acknowledged this "would have been difficult!", and the last step proved the only likely area of difficulty. A couple of imaginative tries involved STRATAGEMS and a SAGITTAL FARMER was offered by one subscriber by now fixated on Arepo the mythical sator.

"Probably a C rather than D until the last stage" offered one solver, noting that the title was better as a prompt for the final anagram in hindsight.

Shiftwork by Pointer

Clue answers were: ISLAM, NOUN, EMBER, FOND, NYLON, BOOT, SWAYS, FAKE, TORSO, TIDE, SANDY, NOSE, RUSTY, RIOT, GRAIN, HAIL; MARCHES, ALMOST, KING, BOX, OSIER, FIN, END, LUNAR, TERROR, MASS, FRY, SLY, STY, TOAD; FOUR, FOUR, ZERO, ONE, FIVE, ONE, SIX, SEVEN, NOUGHT; THREE, SEVEN, FIVE, ELEVEN, EIGHT, TEN, NINE.

After applying Down shifts, CHAMBERS appeared in column 0, and DICTIONARY in row 0 after applying Across shifts. Final shifts left the grid as a 'solver's bookshelf'.

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
0	B	I	L	T	W	A	I	A	L	S
1	R	N	E	H	O	N	N	N	A	Y
2	A	F	X	E	R	T	T	A	R	N
3	D	O	I	S	D	O	E	G	O	O
4	F	B	C	A	L	N	R	R	U	N
5	O	O	O	U	I	Y	N	A	S	Y
6	R	O	N	R	S	M	E	M	S	M
7	D	K	S	I	T	S	T	S	E	Y

Printer's Devilry really polarises reaction. Some subscribers rolled up their sleeves and tucked in ("At last a printer's devilry puzzle!"), while other stifled groans and gritted teeth ("Though I'm not keen on PD's, I enjoyed this puzzle"). The latter's antipathy was occasionally exacerbated by the lack of checking in the early stages of the solution.

Some of the clues eluded even successful solvers, but by the later stages of the puzzle, it was clear from the appearances of the 'primary reference source' what shifts were needed, and therefore remaining letters could be back-filled from the final grid. One or two solvers expected the appearance of Chambers Dictionary directly from the preamble.

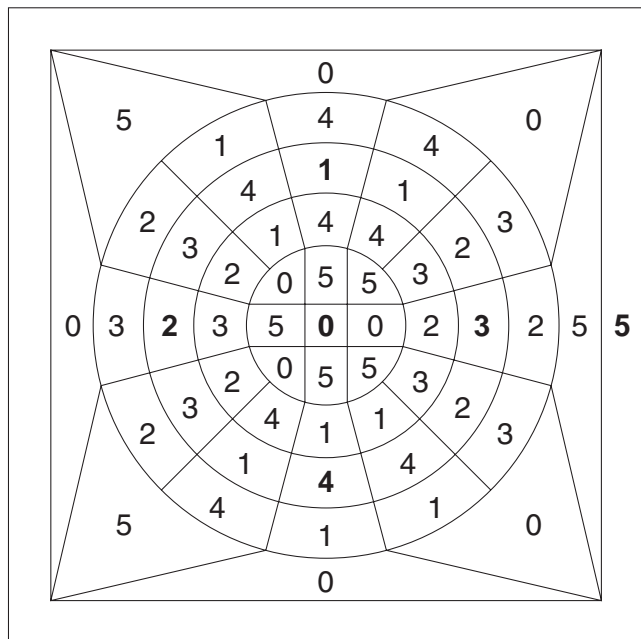
The final grid came as an excellent penny-drop for many ("the secrets were concealed for ages, though realisation flooded through at the end"), though not all appreciated the appearance of a bookshelf ("This represents what every serious crossworder should have on their bookshelves" though one might wonder quite how to fit the Internet on), and there was some doubt about whether the final shift to this arrangement was necessary.

Overall, Pointer was congratulated on a most successful, and C-rated, innovation.

Large Child's Game

by Les James

The base 6 numbers from 0 to 5 were represented in order by the letters C RUBIK V WENDS, intended to hint at five turns for a Rubik's cube, and the grid was a Schlegel diagram (anagram of title) of such a cube, with colours represented by numbers. Once clue answers had been filled in, the five turns necessary to restore the cube allowed solvers to determine the numbers for all blank cells. The notation system used required each number to represent a 180° turn *opposite* that central number, and the five moves 3, 1, 4, 0, 5 that restored the cube translated to BRICK.



This puzzle has excited as much comment as almost any in recent times. To begin with, the early stages were treated quite differently by various solvers, some of whom found the maths involved to solve the clues “trivial – no more than A grade”, whilst others struggled with it, though often this involved understanding the entry mechanisms.

The message from letters was enough to reveal to all that we were looking at a Rubik's cube – indeed one or two had divined that immediately on seeing the diagram. Is there an adjective for such cross-dimensional spatial awareness?

The need to ‘solve’ the cube in five moves had been appreciated by most from the preamble, though this is where the fun started.

Once some solvers had equipped themselves with the necessary tools (one reached forward to pick up his own Rubik's cube, another had to track down a used cube for £1 in a seaside shop), they set about this problem.

There seems to be no standard notation for Rubik's cube solving, with many expecting – fairly logically – that the side being turned's central letter would be the relevant one for each move.

Another complication was that some people visualised parallel double turns of outside slices in terms of a single double turn of a central slice, reducing the number of ‘moves’ down to three.

Other solvers introduced superscript A's or F's and L's (for Fronts and Lefts) based on possible orientations. A popular attempt at the solution word was URICK, justified as a ‘word’ by being a (somewhat uncommon) name for some, while others tried such possibilities as DUNSE, FARAD, BUR, RUB, CUBE, SUPERFLIP, LES (and L²E²S²), VENDS and WENDS.

Broken Bones

by Quincy

Four each of DR, GP, MB and MO were omitted from wordplay in the across clues, each being a type of doctor (‘bones’ = a doctor; ‘doctors’ = loaded dice (bones)).

1	M	A	2	G	P	3	I	E	4	S		5	P	A	6	D	R	7	O	N	8	E
	A		L		N		U		O		A		S		N							
9	T	R	E	M	B	L	E	R	S		10	M	O	T	O	R						
	I		A		O		Z		T		A		R		A							
11	N	U	M	B	A	T		12	P	I	N	G	P	O	N	G						
	E				R		13	H		L		E		G		E						
14	E	S	15	P	A	D	R	I	L	L	E		16	M	O	O	D					
			L		S		B		I		17	L		T								
18	S	M	O	G		19	D	E	M	O	L	I	S	H	E	20	D					
	P		U		21	A		R		N		N										
22	E	G	G	P	L	A	N	T		23	C	O	M	24	B	A	T					
	E		H		L		I		25	E		L		A		H						
26	D	R	I	V	E		27	A	D	D	R	E	S	S	E	E						
	U		N		G		N		E		U		T		R							
28	P	I	G	P	E	N	S		29	N	U	M	B	E	R	S						

As always there was much relief around when an A-grader proved to be genuinely that. The theme came swiftly for most, often immediately, and the puzzle was popular without being overly taxing.

There were occasional quibbles with answers, such as INBOARDS not being supported by Chambers, and one solver questioned whether HIBERNIANS (plural) was a football club (“Hibernian, yes, or Hibs”); another with less interest in the ‘beautiful game’ had no idea how ‘Newcastle’ could define MAGPIES.

The clues were generally enjoyed with PI(GP)ENS being singled out (“Name possessed by certain pork enclosures?”).

The neat execution and the variety of doctors were admired – especially there being four of each. “Just what an A should be” was a fairly typical comment though a little concern was voiced that the preamble didn't fit the puzzle precisely.

Happily, 27 intrepid solvers felt BRICK to be the most likely solution word, and many of those were comfortable that it answered the requirements adequately. AN alternative disposition of the apparent ‘diagonals’ in the grid, which still allows the cube to be completed in the requisite five turns, was allowed.

There was considerable praise for the puzzle's innovation and lateral thinking (“a clever idea”; “good fun puzzle...”; “A beautiful puzzle from any viewpoint”), but this was regularly allayed by concern over the finish and the perceived notational (and spatial) ambiguity. Appreciation of the title anagram has been exclusively post-solution, and subscribers are invited to inspect the correspondence, mainly about this puzzle, currently at <http://www.piemag.com/2007/11/09/issue-59-october-2007-solutions/#comments>

PF & LL by Radix

The playfair key was formed from the full title of the puzzle (Playfair and Letters Latent by Radix), with 17 of its 31 letters latent. The other letters latent spelt out Sir Charles Wheatstone, who invented the Playfair cipher.

P	L	A	Y	F
I	R	N	D	E
T	S	B	X	C
G	H	K	M	O
Q	U	V	W	Z

The answers to be enciphered were: 16a PROD, 17a IDEM, 27a CRUX, 29a AVES, 4d AVER, 7d FECS, 30d KILN, 32d SHOG. The enciphered clue-words were: 19a crib, 21a pi, 24a bad, 26a him, 5d die, 6d rug, 18d lid, 25d ne.

1	A	2	T	3	O	4	N	5	I	6	H	7	M	8	E	9	N	10	T	11	C	12	S
11	V	E	L	A	M	N	A	12	C	A	C	O	13	W	14								
13	C	L	O	I	14	P	I	T	H	I	R	15	L	E	16								
15	A	V	E	N	E	D	17	U	T	18	L	19	I	20	M	E							
17	R	E	D	O	N	18	W	19	R	20	U	B	21	R	I	C							
21	P	22	E	R	I	D	I	A	L	D	A	N	23	H	24								
	E	S	A	23	P	24	A	T	T	25	E	N	D	E	E								
26	T	C	L	O	T	H	E	V	27	S	E	28	W	S									
29	N	A	R	C	30	G	T	31	J	O	32	H	N	I	N								
33	A	L	P	E	N	H	O	N	U	A	N	U											
34	K	A	B	A	A	35	A	V	N	G	M	N	T										
	E	D	36	T	U	R	T	L	E	H	E	L	L										

Radix fans had a treat in store – his trademark words-coding-into-real-words was of course much in evidence here, and a seemingly baffling set of loose ends began to tie themselves up very neatly (“very Radix” said one).

There were one or two solvers who completed the puzzle and of course the Playfair grid without bothering themselves about what phrase it represented, but in general there was much amusement when it was realised that the code-phrase was the title en clair. Perhaps this was an in-joke but most Magpie solvers obviously appreciated that LL can stand for Letters Latent.

It was just a coincidence that the only fully ‘latent’ word in the code-phrase was LATENT, but it was no coincidence that Sir Charles Wheatstone, the “verray parfit gentil knight” spelled out (apologies for the mistake in the example word-square, which apparently hindered nobody), was the inventor of the Playfair code.

There were some big fans of the puzzle (“definitely a contender for the year’s best”), and many who admired its clueing and elegance – but there were few who quibbled with a D grade, except for one who guessed the code-phrase immediately. This gentleman however also committed the only common error, entering HIGH instead of HUGH as the Playfair translation of SHOG, so perhaps the struggle availed after all.

Pitch by MynoT

Blanks left in the grid were to be filled with a drawing of a treble clef.

T	A	B	U	L	A	R	A	S	A														
O	P	I	N	E				L	E	U													
O	P	O	S	S			U			M	S												
G	E	N	E							M	A	S											
O	A	T		H				S	A	T	I												
O	R		N	I				T	H	I	C												
D		I	T																				
T		O		N				L	E		T												
O		N		D				I	T		S												
B		A		R				M		C	A												
E		C		H				O		E													
T		H		O																			
R		U		S				E		S													
U		R		S				A															
E		L		A				S		T													

Very few disagreed with a C grading on this puzzle (certainly nobody rated it harder), and quite a few commented that they “got on better with a MynoT than usual”.

Some were grateful to the compiler for achieving the perimeter in four long answers, which helped tremendously with positioning of the other answers, and therefore with the identification of the necessary blanks.

Most had little idea what shape was required until nearing the last few clues to be solved, partly because until this stage certain squares were unresolved between letters and blanks (“I saw the line almost immediately on reading the message (which I’d left to last”).

The only occasional concern was about the lack of thematic coherence, in that (apart from the title) there was no hint or reason to suspect the appearance of the clef (“...the ‘theme’ that is displayed isn’t really a theme, it’s just a picture”).

Overall the puzzle was enjoyed, sometimes as a diversion from the others in the issue.

“Shame there was no Latin in it, though” added one solver, somewhat mischievously.

Statistics for Issue 59, October 2007

How many people solved each puzzle?

		Rating	Correct	Incorrect	Total entry	Success rate	Adjusted rate	
1	Broken Bones	Quincy	A	60	4	64	93.75%	83.33%
2	Shift Work	Pointer	D	27	24	51	52.94%	37.50%
3	Large Child's Game †	Les James	D	27	21	48	56.25%	37.50%
4	A Battle on Paper	Ploy	D	47	8	55	85.45%	65.28%
5	PF & LL *	Radix	D	42	4	46	91.30%	58.33%
6	Pitch	MynoT	C	55	4	59	93.22%	76.39%

* Magpie prize, † Numerical prize.

'Adjusted rate' is the percentage of the total number of solvers entering any solution to any puzzle in this issue.

What was the breakdown? (After JEG)

	Number of puzzles entered						Total solvers
	1	2	3	4	5	6	
0	3	2					5
1	4	1	1				6
2		3	3	2			8
3			4	4	1	3	12
4				2	4	7	13
5					5	15	20
6						8	8
Total solvers	7	6	8	8	10	33	72

Who got them all right?

L. Baum,
R. Chamberlain,
A. R. Dunn,
C. Lear,
J. Reardon,
P. Sant,
N. Talbott,
M. J. Tomkinson

Who won the prizes?

Magpie prize puzzle
(PF & LL by Radix)
Alan Mills
Numerical prize puzzle
(Large Child's Game
by Les James):
F. R. C. Dunn
5 out of 6:
Brenda Widger

Who is in the running for the annual prize?

(from 66 puzzles in eleven issues to date)

	Numerical	Magpie	Total	Latest Failure
1 P. Sant	11	11	66	–
2 N. Talbott	11	11	65	51.2
3 T. Powell	11	11	64	59.3
4 A. R. Dunn	9	10	64	57.6
5 F. W. Pasterczyk	10	10	62	59.4
R. Wells	9	10	62	59.2
7 J. Reardon	9	9	62	58.5
8 D. McNeill	11	11	61	59.3
9 C. Lear	10	10	61	57.3
10 C. Boyd	10	10	60	59.2
11 D. Horne	10	9	59	59.3
12 R. Chamberlain	7	7	59	58.5
13 S. Shabankareh	11	11	58	59.2
14 P. Brooksbank	9	10	58	59.6
15 D. Harris	9	9	58	59.5
16 L. Baum	10	10	57	55.6
17 G. Mullineux	9	9	57	59.2
M. Walmsley	9	9	57	59.5
19 B. & R. Rougvie	8	8	57	59.3
20 F. R. C. Dunn	10	9	56	59.2

Ties broken by number of Magpie puzzles correctly solved, then by time since most recent failure.

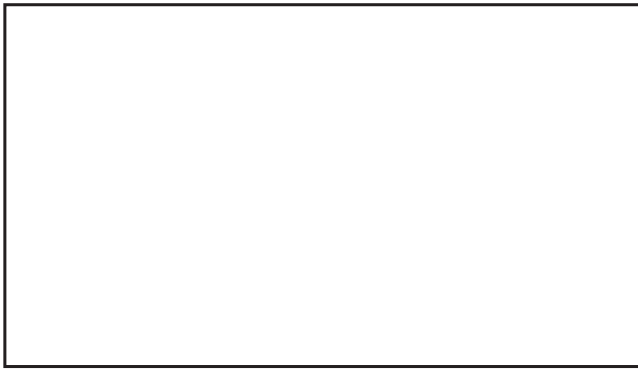
All the above information plus much more, including your own personal record and complete statistics for the year to date, is available to subscribers on our website at: www.piemag.com/stats/

We make every effort to ensure that our records are as complete as possible, but please inform us if you feel that your results are misrepresented either here or online.

Note that statistics for the current promotional issue will not count towards either this or next year's annual prize. However, top solvers should not take their foot off the pedal as it may be used as a tie-breaker in either year.

Please take a few minutes to vote for your favourite puzzle of the year (Issues 49-60) if you have not already done so. The complete list of puzzles is available on the website.

1. Gut Reaction by Gareth



Artist's name: _____

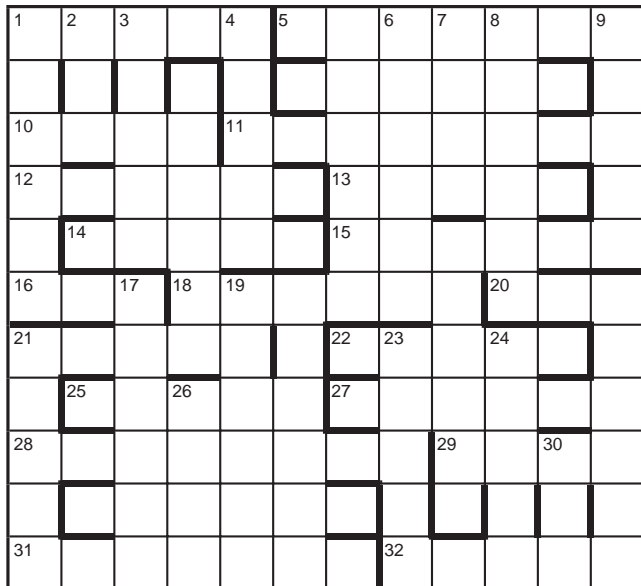
2. Magpie Prize Crossword No. 60^{1/2}
Sixty (Carte Blanche et Noire) by Mash

Thematic word 1: _____

Thematic word 2: _____

Thematic phrase: _____

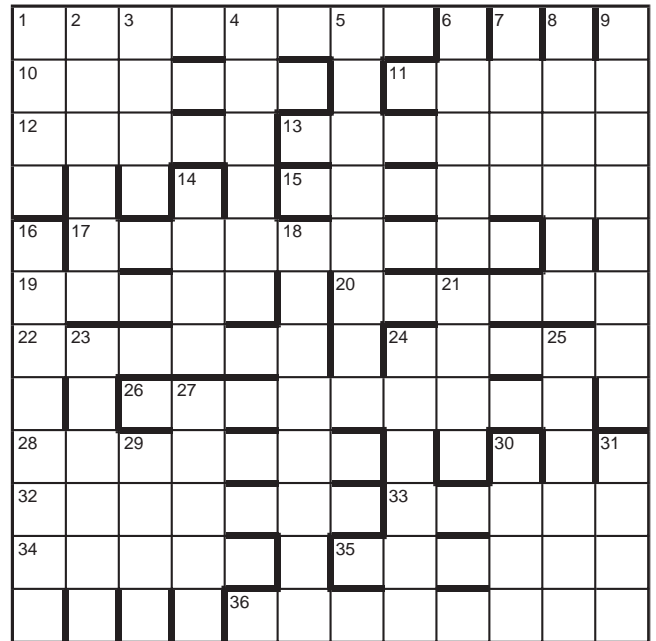
3. Wood by Mr Magoo



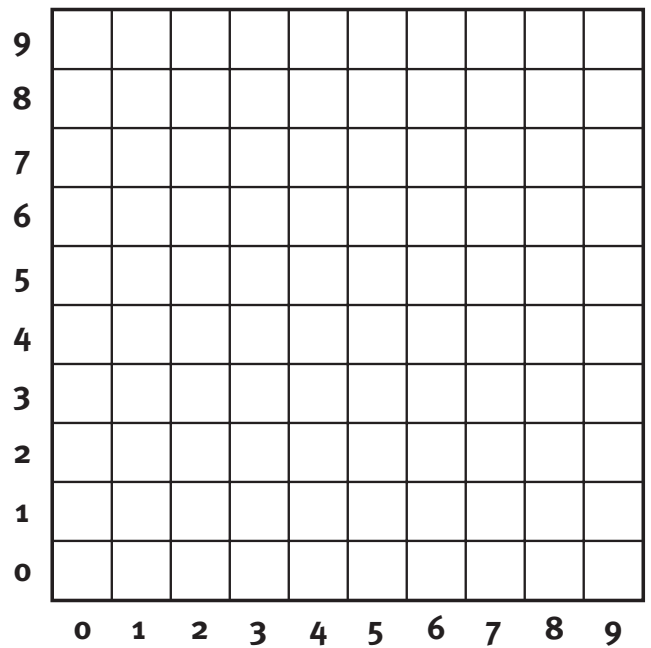
4. Present from Pieman

Solvers may use the other side of this sheet for their solution to Pieman's Present.

5. Itinerant by Tiburon



6. Numerical Prize Crossword No. 60^{1/2}
65 Deplug and 47 Renoir by Mash



We welcome your feedback on these puzzles.
Please use the form on the web site at:
www.piemag.com/feedback/ rather than e-mail for this.
If you have no internet access, please use the reverse of this sheet.
Please note that electronic solutions should be sent to entries@piemag.com Using another address may mean that your solutions go astray.

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25