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ACROSS

Subscription Crosswords

YEAR 33

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*The Old Chapel, Middleton Tyas,
RICHMOND, North Yorkshire DL10 6PP*

Hello everyone,

For the last few weeks I've been mentally picturing four enormous pairs of shoes in the 1 Across Editors' Shoebox – marked 'John Graham', 'John Henderson', 'Mike Rich' and 'Tom Johnson' – all the while somewhat nervous about how comparatively diminutive I feel my feet to be. But I'm delighted to have accepted the invitation to become Crossword Editor of 1 Across, and welcome you to the first issue for which I wield the red pen. I'm sure you'd join me in thanking Tom for his decade and a half of service, and wish him very well as he continues to stave off retirement by keeping himself busy with all manner of puzzles.

Looking back at the last couple of years' issues of 1 Across, I'm struck by the sheer breadth of style in the puzzles that we've had. Barred grids (with and without arcane instructions!), alphabetical and perimetrical jigsaws, normal and themed cryptics, circular puzzles, Scrabble[®] boards, blank grids... the list goes on. We're lucky to have an incredibly talented group of setters compiling for us, and I'm looking forward to working with them, and with Chris, in the coming months. Do please spread the word about 1 Across: we always welcome new subscribers. You can download a sample issue at www.1across.co.uk - or why not give a four-month subscription as a Christmas present? More details below and on the enclosed application form.

It's my intention to keep a broad spread of styles and difficulties in each issue, so there's something for everyone, with four new crosswords and one Araucaria from the archives. One change I'll make is that over the course of the next few months I'll be bringing the publication date of each issue forward slightly, so that by the New Year we'll have each issue hitting your doormats within the first week or two of the month in which it's published. I'd also like to feature a few more puzzles by setters who you may not have seen before, in keeping with Araucaria's original idea of making 1 Across a 'nursery' for those up and coming in the craft. And, thirdly, you can now submit prize entries by email as well as post – see details on the entry form.

I feel it's only fair to let you know a bit about your new Crossword Editor. I'm 36, a former software developer and (before that) biochemist, living in Cambridge with my wife and one-year-old daughter. I've been solving for about 15 years, and setting for the last five or so, having been encouraged by Araucaria and Boatman.

(I was lucky enough to meet Araucaria after I commissioned a custom puzzle from him for a couple for whom I was being Best Man; he pulled some strings and the bride and groom's surnames, along with some words relevant to them, appeared as answers in the Guardian cryptic on their wedding day. He was a friendly, gentle man, and I was sorry to see his health decline; I was proud to play a small part in his memorial service when three friends and I sang a quartet arrangement of one of his favourite hymns.) As well as setting for 1 Across and other outlets – I've set the Guardian Genius puzzle for November 2016, for example – I also run www.customcrypticcrosswords.com, where people can commission one-off custom crosswords; I find it particularly fun to tailor puzzles specifically for one person. As for 'Soup': my ancestors ran Symington's Soups, in Market Harborough. Mr Hughes, my long-suffering Latin teacher at school, was one of the old school of teachers who referred to pupils by surname or nickname, and he christened me 'Soup'. It felt like a pleasing pseudonym to set under, and I like the harking back to my ancestors.

Enough from me: on with the puzzles!

With best wishes,

Hamish (Soup)

PS If there's anything you'd like to talk to me about, tell me you want, tell me you don't want, or anything in between, then please do email me – you'll find me at editor@1across.co.uk. I'd love to hear from you.

August Prize winner: David Holmes of Weston-Super-Mare.

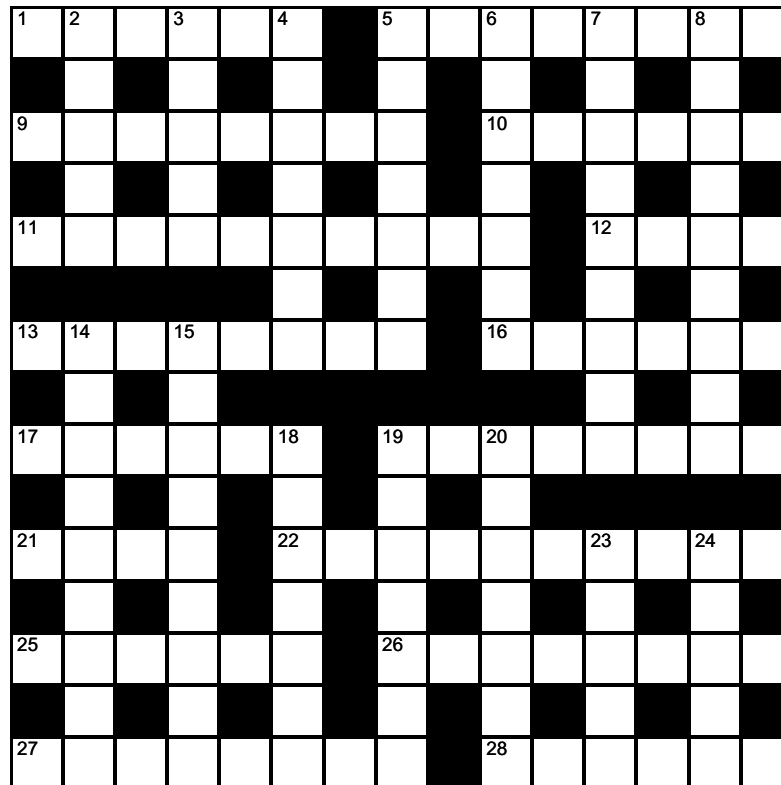
1 Across makes an excellent Christmas present!

Our subscription year runs from April to March, but we have a special Christmas offer: **four months' subscription to 1 Across for just £15.** It's the perfect present! A form is enclosed for you to complete/return; or email Chris at info@1across.co.uk and she will gather the relevant details. We'll send the first issue in time for Christmas (marked on the envelope 'For Christmas Day'), with a note inside saying the subscription is a gift from you.

Please order before 3 December!

CROSSWORD NO. 1747: ANTONYMS by CASTILA

Eight clues each give two word counts. The first is the answer length as clued; the second is the final length to be entered after a word within the answer is substituted by its opposite.
(NB the resulting solution is meaningless!).



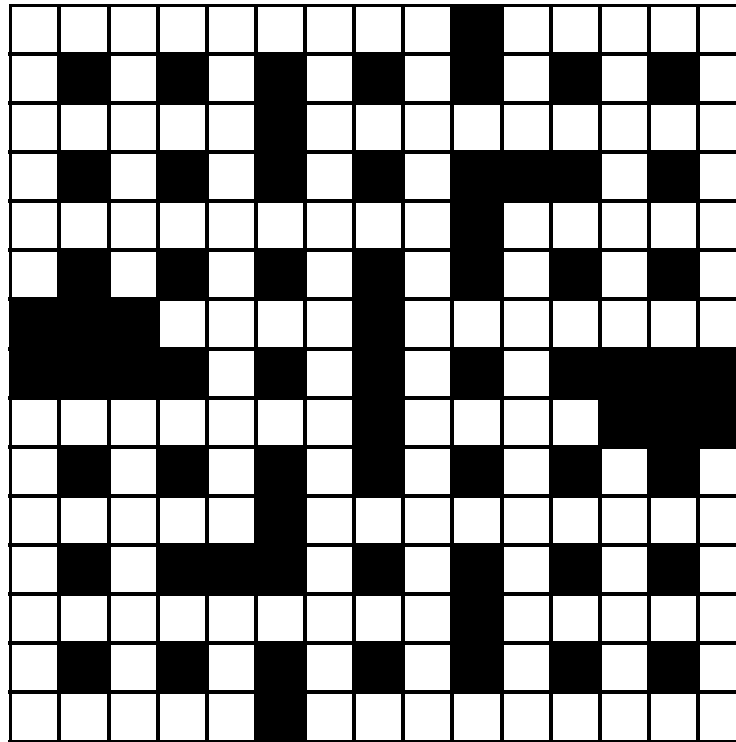
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1. First, Tigger plays with Pooh – snap! (5/6)
5. Left girl in class about office work (8)
9. Joyous when fuss with Bill is sorted out (8)
10. Drug I took after work (6)
11. Clumsily losing CD, get a dressing-down (8/10)
12. Launch finally seen on river is a mere shell (4)
13. Dash en masse from chaotic department store, cleared of torrent (8)
16. Little piece of little bird? (6)
17. State of emergency is twice declared following cold end of winter (6)
19. Only half sorted, put back in a daze (6/8)
21. Dismantle enclosure in ground outside (4)
22. Piled up defences when Spooner's group gave way (10)
25. Hurry! Does my bum look big in this? (6)
26. Hormone treatment for Reg and Donna (8)
27. A new 17 drunkenly makes bloomers (8)
28. Look afresh at Katharine dropping AA while drunk (7/6)

DOWN

2. Removal of British university from pastoral setting causes hurt (5)
3. Look! Animal has got inside rope (5)
4. Crime concerning dealer in hot property (7)
5. Clash - it's dog eat dog at first (7)
6. Castila's on location for audition, which makes sense (8/7)
7. Girl starts to have scares scares over rising damp; makes a meal of it? (5,4)
8. An officer is a simple lad, almost, with a high voice (9)
14. It has four pairs of legs, making lively dance if the Spanish replaces a quick turn (9)
15. Came across everyone in charge of brass (8/9)
18. Relations in terrible distress after losing daughter (7)
19. Wrap contents of safe in garment for journey (6/7)
20. Follow Orderly Officer with the German philanthropist (8/7)
23. Fellows covered in sludge? Rot! (2,3)
24. With head missing, substandard item is cast out (5)

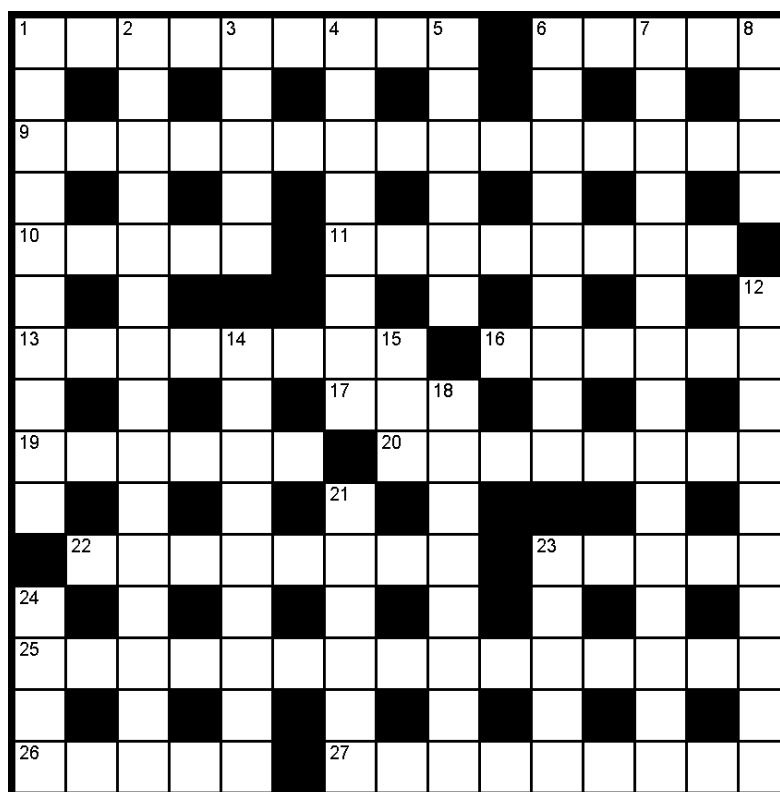
CROSSWORD No. 1748: ALPHABETICAL JIGSAW – ARAUCARIA



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| <p>A. Scriptural birds with effect of the sun (7)</p> <p>B. A lot of work not turned to water, themed (7)
Old girl in favour within, themed (7)</p> <p>C. Complaints about 2's peculiar theme (9)
Cheats noisy relations? (6)</p> <p>D. Miller's answer? (5)</p> <p>E. Issue of crisis with new conclusion (9)</p> <p>F. Fish to? (3)</p> <p>G. Attempt I in my turn made – we weren't picked (5)
Pull back inside (3)</p> <p>H. Damage in collision with girl, a hand to mouth affair (9)</p> <p>I. Little picture of trendy clique (5)</p> <p>J. Weed needs physical training, reported boy (6)</p> <p>K. Bird on a string? (4)</p> <p>L. Like the hippocampus, after time keeping work on rustic cattle station first (15)</p> <p>M. Extra weight in marsh, themed (7)</p> | <p>N. Cravat with which to embrace the clergy (9)</p> <p>O. Not controlled at once (3,2,4)</p> <p>P. Birdman taking order in September at Queens (9)</p> <p>Q. Ghost treated with quinine dropped hard interrogation (11)
Leave holding string from piano (5)</p> <p>R. Horseman's comment in court (5)</p> <p>S. Thames crossing for true bird, goshawk possibly (9,6)</p> <p>T. Multiplier from unfinished article on cereal (6)</p> <p>U. Climbing fruit needing modernisations (7)</p> <p>V. Reverse back? (4)</p> <p>W. Bertie keeps sleuth (male) in place, themed (11)</p> <p>X. Fair girl finds ten hymns whose texts were lost (6)</p> <p>Y. It's risky to upset a white man (7)</p> <p>Z. Masked man expressing something like grief (5)</p> |
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CROSSWORD NO. 1749: CONCISE by PEDROCK

Ten clues are to be taken literally and have no definitions.



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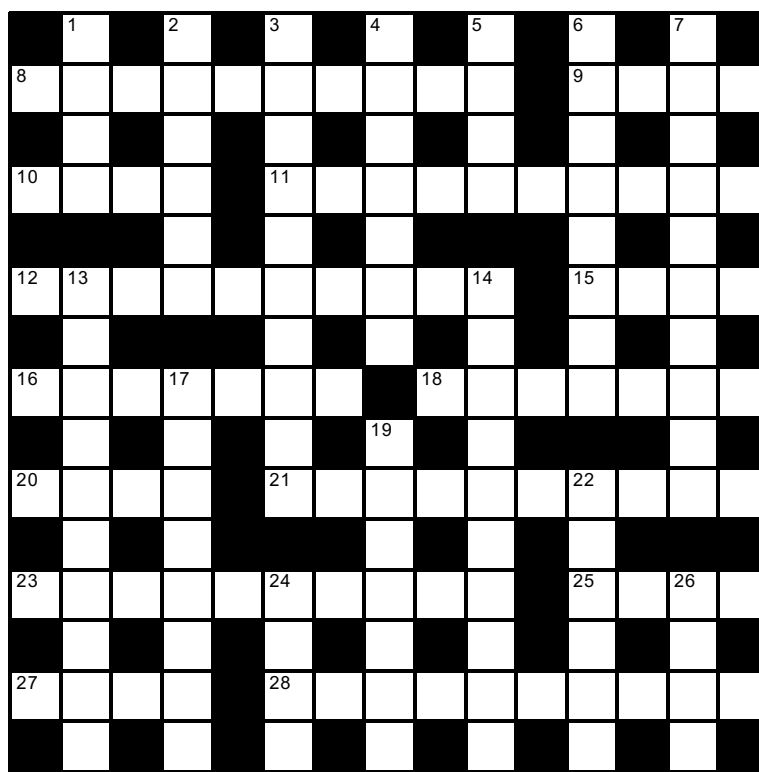
1. Struggle with side not usually seen to retaliate (5,4)
6. Spirit of those recycling (5)
9. RI (3,2,1,9)
10. HY (5)
11. Type of heat remedy (8)
13. WOLF (8)
16. In tartan, Glen found the web (6)
17. One card game or another does not start (3)
19. Knight with endless abundance, but only one bit of pasta (6)
20. Sarah names bad representative (8)
22. CU (3,5)
23. Rascal not finishing prawns (5)
25. ETIUQ (5,3,7)
26. Sheltered rebellious Andrew? Not right (5)
27. Dirge Cleo circulated for poet (9)

DOWN

1. SHELF (5,5)
2. GENRE (5,10)
3. With tassels or separate lock of hair at end of day (5)
4. Sticking head on is tortuous (8)
5. Officer reported what nutcase is holding (6)
6. Do away with bird in select group (9)
7. HER GAIN (7-8)
8. EYER (4)
12. PBIT (5-5)
14. One can go no faster than this (4-5)
15. Used to be cut up (3)
18. Reportedly did well in examination of the country (8)
21. Obtained this Latin architectural style (6)
23. One coming to the rescue with cheap travel ticket (5)
24. A question on a liquid (4)

CROSSWORD NO. 1750: JACK SPRAT by CUTTER

In the 8- and 10-letter solutions, and in one 6-letter solution, either Jack Sprat (10 solutions) or his wife (6 solutions) has chewed and swallowed a food item of his or her preference. In the subsidiary indication of these clues, this item is clued in its original, unmasticated form. For example, if either of them ate wheat products, the clue "Brother or sister briefly studies related stories" could lead to SI[B + READ*]S, which in turn gives SIDEBARS. Other clues are normal.



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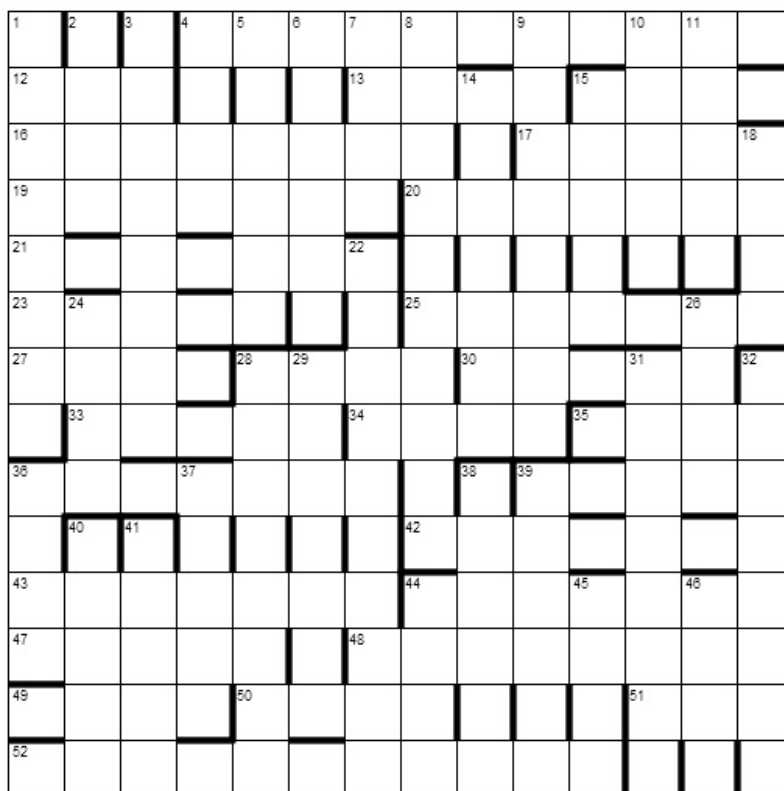
- 8. Title number 'Wave Back in Car' is benchmark of purity (6,4)
- 9/26. Covers musical opponents (8)
- 10. River garden (4)
- 11. Hesitate to spoil replacement for spectacles of miser, one who gets his head down (10)
- 12. Talk at length with liberal girl in suit, redhead (10)
- 15. Relaxed face? (4)
- 16. Fool swamps leader's requests (7)
- 18. With a sob, almost splash paint (7)
- 20. So monster retreated (4)
- 21. Members of Simply Red and ELO in summer flowers (10)
- 23. Retaliate with energy in quick change of direction (6,4)
- 25/27. Jade and a lot of amber produce desirable quality of magician's prop (8)
- 28. Judges sign on or independent (10)

DOWN

- 1. See 24
- 2. Aversion against Florence's call to action (6)
- 3. Not satisfied that peacekeeper's dated around America (10)
- 4. Where he might cast an unsatisfactory Xmas stocking? (7)
- 5. Engage in activity for which one is expected to wear a suit (4)
- 6. Yellow hood on headless novelist (8)
- 7. Show turned into apparition (10)
- 13. Not meant to lose business to bum - get it ready for irrigation! (6,4)
- 14. Verifying again that register includes trendy man (10)
- 17. I carry out one college's worships (8)
- 19. Where the perseverent go to find sisters? (7)
- 22. I regret holding politician to be tainted (6)
- 24/1. After consumption, one Communist is raised in posh school (4-4)
- 26. See 9 Across

CROSSWORD NO. 1751: SEQUENCE 2 by ECLOGUE

The unclued answers are the ten most recent members of a sequence to be deduced, the latest addition to which solvers must highlight in the completed grid. Clue answers include one abbreviation.



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4. *Unclued* (11)
12. Excited old local's on (3)
13. Wool bearer bucked large priest (4)
15. *Unclued* (4)
16. Christian, for one, performing minuet with little hesitation (8)
17. Harmful substance derived from electric intensity (5)
19. Irreverent uni bod, one in St Andrews? (7)
20. *Unclued* (7)
21. Special brew 'The Bear' flogged? (7, two words)
23. Wander over the mountains (5)
25. The old run practice for eaters, maybe (7)
27. English movie, a blockbuster? (4)
28. With navy turning to South, join country's flank (4)
30. African drum man pounded over a spell (5)
33. Female in air staff remains (5)
34. Secures troughs in pastures (4)
35. I lightly touch back hairs (4)
36. 'Arry got busy with revolver (7)
39. Monkey taking half of lily for showy person (5)
42. Fliers dropping left for university conductors (7)
43. Destroyers concerned with the Queen in Latin country (7)
44. Throwing fist, say, to pay off a debt (7)
47. In higher nests are eagles (5)
48. Poem, half epic, lionly in style (8)
49. A verse that hurt an old promise (4)
50. Wartime troupers? Initially, efforts never secured applause (4)
51. It's essential to overarching (3)
52. The ideal monitor sends his second along to head (11)

DOWN

1. *Unclued* (8)
2. Ergot erupts violently erasing beginnings of esparto and timothy (4)
3. Southern Rail ragged, surrounded by interminable outcry (8)
4. Spoliation for Scot on condition... (4)
5. ...gold bottom's mostly decorated (6)
6. *Unclued* (6)
7. Swiss-German artist elevated European deer (4)
8. Setting aside making rare upset (10)
9. Screw measurement for runs in pendants (8)
10. Evangelist's missing lord (5)
11. Chamber's limited entry in Early English condiment, once (8)
14. Ancient period's over in my view, we hear (7)
15. *Unclued* (5)
18. Partners embracing their opponents, it's reported (4)
22. Obscure substrates? Most obscure (10)
24. No longer satisfy before a meal primarily young adult's ser up (4)
26. Bones turned up in mutilation (4)
28. I'm deciding to allow Middle English view (8, three words)
29. Accelerator influenced torsion (7)
31. Funny isleman, I? (8)
32. Mime, perhaps, psyching out Liberal for good (8)
36. *Unclued* (4)
37. *Unclued* (5)
38. *Unclued* (6)
39. Designates time taken by bowlers, say (6)
40. Rod taking e.g. Winnebago in bend? (5)
41. Lower digger to shift earth for Ohio (5)
44. Fresh team to measure nine inches (4)
45. Ailments I look like surviving at first (4)
46. *Unclued* (4)

There would then usually follow solutions from
last month's issue.

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