

FINANCIAL TIMES

One down, many (a)cross

Colin Inman became FT crossword editor in 1979, inheriting three compilers. He retires having seen more than 13,000 crosswords to publication, and leaves a stable of more than 30 setters. Many of those pay tribute to him, in prose and clues, while the crossword below has been put together by Julius (Rob Jacques) to mark Colin's retirement.

I always felt very relaxed working under you because of your light-touch style, one that fairly rooted out misgivings and yet gave me the chance to develop free from the imposition of an invasive house style. And all this whilst editing seamlessly, in an incredibly dignified and quiet way. You put the FT right up there in the top group of respected international daily cryptics. Heartfelt thanks and here's to a long, healthy and relaxed retirement. Retiring chap repeatedly on the spot when embraced by un-American filthy worker? (5,5)
MONK (Mark Kelmanson)

I still fondly remember the email hitting my inbox in October 2020 from Colin letting me know my first puzzle was up and asking what pseudonym I wanted to use (which completely caught me on the hop). I have really enjoyed being part of the FT team, it's a complete honour to be part of such a talented group. So, thank you Colin for your editorial guidance and support over the last few years.
LEONIDAS (Nick Huntley)

Many thanks, Colin. It's been a privilege and a pleasure working with you – have a long, happy retirement. Company consisting of staff entertaining popular, retiring gentleman (5,5)
BASILISK (Jason Crampton)

I'm deeply grateful to Colin for his thoughtful, supportive and calm stewardship for many years. With his insightful understanding of the arcana of crosswords and his patient assistance, the FT series was a pleasure to set for. We'll miss him very much. All the best in well-earned retirement. Foremost of crossworders, extremely original and doubly cool guy! (5,5)
BUCCANEER (James Brydon)

Thank you for buying into the idea of a monthly date-themed puzzle which we've kept going for 12 years! So far!

Thank you also for the light touch of your expert editing over the years. I've learned something from every question and comment! Enjoy your retirement, and if I may be permitted some advice, fill that time to the brim!
He corrects all our Ninas and mnemonics; I avoid nominal duress (5,5)
GAFF (Peter Wilmot)

Thanks for picking my contribution off the slush pile in 1993 and for all your support and encouragement since then. Enjoy your retirement!
PHSSTHPOK (Adam Sanitt)

Fran and I have been privileged to work with you. Your light touch approach made it so easy for us but I am aware from the occasional questions you raised so rarely that the light touch was somewhat deceptive and that you have an eagle eye for any errors we inevitably make. After such a glorious run as crossword editor, we wish you a well-deserved rest and a very happy and healthy retirement.
GOLIATH (Samer Nashef)
VELIA (Fran Malley)

Many thanks for having me at the FT, Colin. It was a privilege to be part of the FT team and to appear in such an esteemed publication. Your editing always had the lightest of touches and you have a well-earned retirement.
SLORMGORM (David Maclean)

There was much to admire about Colin's editing – firm but fair, never authoritarian, always flexible. I owe him a great deal of gratitude. Apart from the editing, Colin is just a Very Nice Man. I wish him all the best in retirement, or "tseb eht lla".
Here we raise our glasses to honour newspaper employee, firm hand at the helm (5,5)
IO (John Henderson)

Crossword editor's newspaper section repeatedly in hand (5,5)
AARDVARK (Mike Warburton)

Thank you so much for the opportunity to set for the FT. I have appreciated both your kindly advice and your supportive approach to editing. Have a wonderful retirement.
PETO (Ron Major)



Congratulations on a wonderful 42 years in the role! Always courteous, efficient, with a light editorial touch, ideal for setters. Happy retirement! To whom crossworders owe lots from the start, doubly popular guy! (5,5)
GURNEY (Niall MacSweeney)

So have fun, Colin; you did a great job (4,6)
GUY (James McGaughey)

Colin's hands-off but nonetheless careful approach brought out the very best in his setters, allowing them to develop their styles but with the security of a reliable editorial safety net. It was a genuine pleasure to work with him, and he'll be much missed. Editor, boundlessly uncomplaining, edited without pressure (5,5)
ROSA KLEBB (Sarah Hayes)

Enjoy your retirement Colin – and well done for keeping cool with a wayward Bradman from time to time. Popular fellow backing company with the ultimate in cruciverbal "cool" (5,5)
BRADMAN (Don Manley)

The key to his success was his willingness to communicate, listen and advise. He had high standards but was no autocrat. He respected compilers and as a result they respected him. Thank you Colin for your friendship and delicate expertise.
GOZO (Tom Johnson)

Colin, many thanks for all your help and guidance, and for giving me the opportunity to work for such a prestigious publication. Company policy mostly followed by trendy fellow editor (5,5)
STEERPIKE (Brendan Donaghy)

Thanks to Colin for accepting me as a setter for the FT and I'd like to wish you a very happy retirement.
ARTEXLEN (Steve Bartlett)

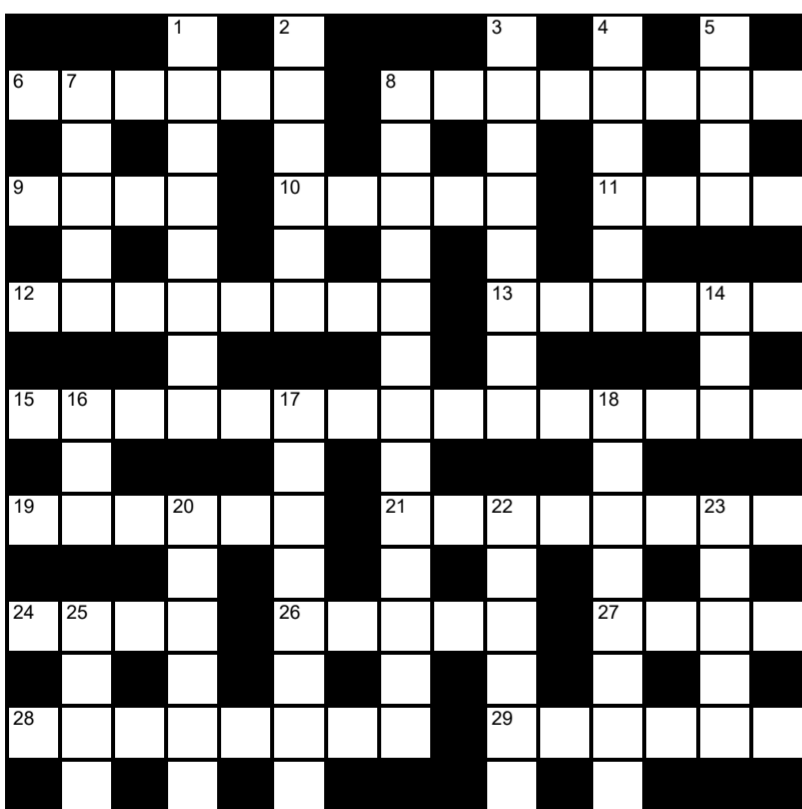
Colin had through the years been delightfully hands off and trusting, for which I was always grateful. Colin was always kind though, and simply enjoyed his work, which made our jobs so much easier.
MUDD (John Halpern)

Taking time off, chap on way to see wizard crossword editor (5)
MOO (David Battye)

NIKKEI Asia The voice of the Asian century

CROSSWORD

No 17,342 Set by JULIUS



ACROSS

- 6 Composer of Harlem Shuffle? (6)
- 8 Model tracks revolutionary experiment covering precipitation (5,3)
- 9 Push son to leave south coast resort (4)
- 10 Heading into the wind, be still at sea grappling with Eliot? (3,2)
- 11 Cycle bell? (4)
- 12 1st of January: new year, new extremely effete boring Bildungsroman (4,4)
- 13 Friedrich visiting Gelsenkirchen twice? (6)
- 15 Tetchy argument about Diderot upset my boss (9,6)
- 19 Ellen, touring India in retirement, the recipient of a long-distance trunk call (6)
- 21 E Sussex market town had manufactured sausage casing (8)
- 24 Staunch bit of glass (4)
- 26 Plod generally hosts masonic events here (5)
- 27 Robotic-sounding assistant sent back flower (4)
- 28 Errand boy to struggle with internet site visit (4,4)
- 29 Introduction to Lorna Doone sadly goes over my head! (6)

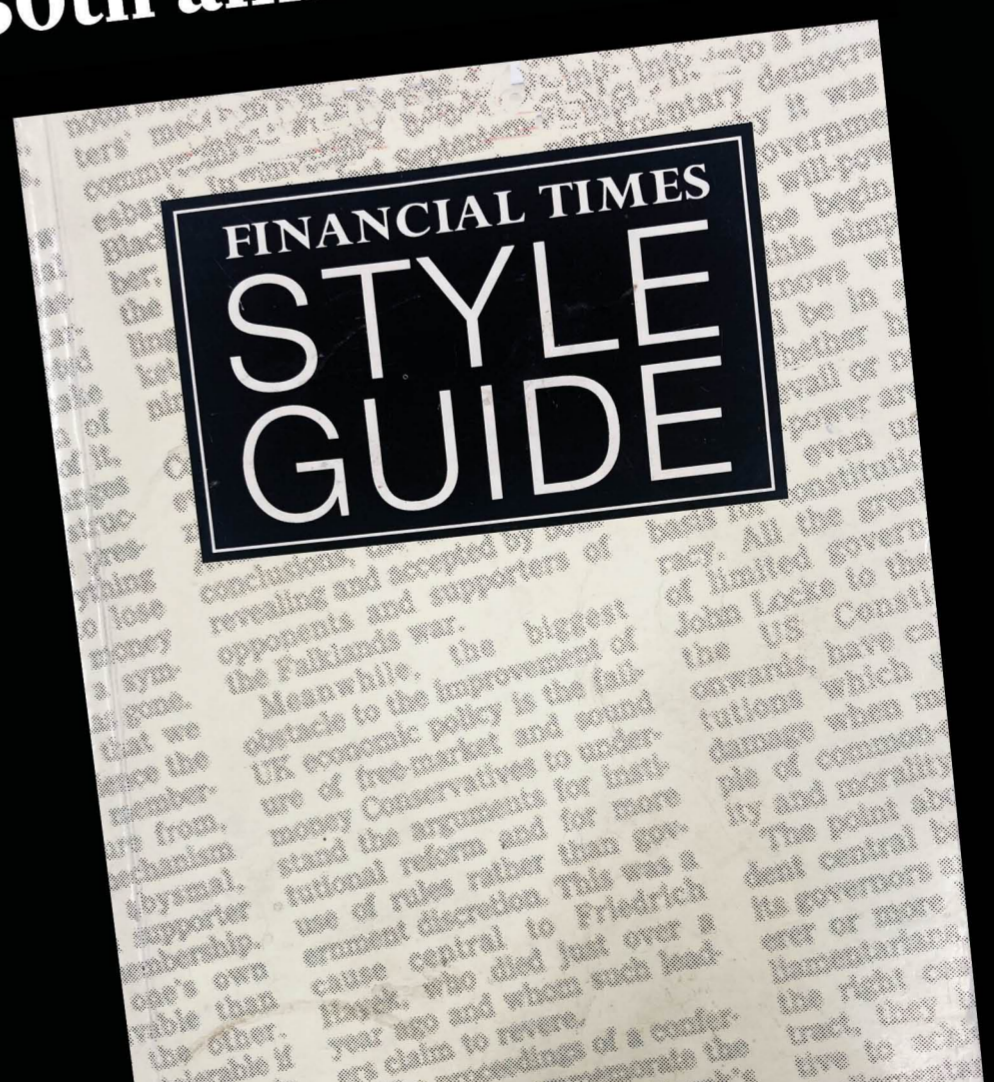
DOWN

- 1 15 can't be left like this completely in the dark (8)
- 2 Start to organise demo as way to deliver speech (6)
- 3 Home ale brewed around Belgium which has been popular since 1896 (2,6)
- 4 As Danny La Rue appeared following daring transformation? (2,4)
- 5 Gas firm cancelled by right wing American (4)
- 7 Greek market: gold stuck in a range (5)
- 8 Hanna tipsy when getting stuck in to Veuve Clicquot? (3,5,5)
- 14 Sign Solskjaer putting nought on the end? (3)
- 16 Regret killing grouse every now and again? (3)
- 17 Caprice featuring lively reel - a part created by Wagner in Germany? (5,3)
- 18 One sister, one child, together (2,6)
- 20 Stupid PM tangling with EU, occasionally blunt about it (6)
- 22 Governess expected to bring up Ann (6)
- 23 What's squeezed out of pipes Sherlock emptied in real life? (5)
- 25 Asian/Indian set meal to take away: one pound (4)

JOTTER PAD

You can now solve our crosswords in the new FT crossword app at ft.com/crosswordapp

FT Style Guide 30th anniversary reissue!



All abstract words banned!!

It's gaol, not jail!!

Return to ye, thee and other proper pronouns!!

Honorifics are back!!

Special section on correct use of that and which!!

'No one rites proper anymore' - Collin Inkman

Get the business insights you need to succeed in Asia
Visit asia.nikkei.com