

WORD FROM THE CLOISTERS

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Au revoir, Alain

THE TABLET'S legendary Paris correspondent Alain Woodrow died on 10 September.

Born in Hertfordshire in 1938 to an English father and a French mother he studied French and Russian at Oxford. He joined the Paris daily *Le Monde* in 1974; his first article for *The Tablet* was "Révolution à la Sorbonne", which we ran in June 1968. He contributed regularly into the early 2000s.

"I inherited him from Tom Burns, who was himself so influenced by French Catholic spirituality and thought," remembers John Wilkins, who edited *The Tablet* between 1982 and 2003. "He came from an Anglo-French family and had to decide whether to throw in his lot with the English side or the French side. So his choice of 'Alain' not 'Alan' as his Christian name was definitive. So was his adoption of a Breton beret. He looked French."

"Being bilingual and bicultural," Woodrow wrote in 1997, "I have attempted for over 30 years to justify the ways of the English to the French and vice versa. It has been a losing battle. In spite of geographic proximity, the two nations are worlds apart. Order, measure, logic on the one hand, spontaneity, disproportion, pragmatism on the other. Descartes



could only have been French while Dr Johnson is quintessentially English."

"I shall miss him," John Wilkins tells us. "I always looked forward to his Christmas cards, which were idiosyncratic pen and ink drawings of typical French scenes."

THORNTON COLLEGE, the independent day and boarding school for girls in Milton Keynes, has been recognised as a finalist in the Independent Schools of the Year Awards 2020. Its student careers programme has attracted particular praise. Head teacher, Mrs

Val Holmes, told us: "We're thrilled to be a finalist, as we passionately believe that pupils' interest in career paths will be fostered by seeing how their classroom learning transfers to the workplace."

The Sisters of Jesus and Mary purchased the Manor House of Thornton in 1917 and formed a school for a small number of girls, mostly from the landed gentry, mostly boarders. A few of the Sisters still teach in the school, which now has over 400 students.

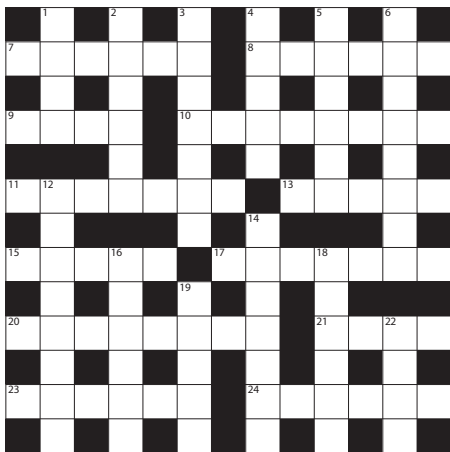
TONY BLAIR'S former spin doctor Alastair Campbell stuck a slightly crumpled but legible picture of Anne Chisholm's review in the 5 September issue of his latest book, *Living Better: How I Learned to Survive Depression* on his Instagram feed last week. Neighbour Conor Gearty had borrowed him his copy.

"I don't do God ... usually the context in which I am in *The Tablet*. But it is a very nice review full of glowing words and phrases, a litany of which I can imagine on the paperback cover. I can even live with 'long-winded and unsubtle' though probably not for the paperback."

But Campbell had one complaint. "Please don't use the word 'commit' when referring to suicide. That stems from the time it was a crime and a sin. It's not any more. It is the ultimate in illness." Point taken.

PUZZLES

PRIZE CROSSWORD No. 726 Axe



Please send your answers to: Crossword Competition 3 October, The Tablet, 1 King Street Cloisters, Clifton Walk, London W6 0GY. Email: thetablet@thetablet.co.uk, with Crossword in the subject field. Please include your full name, telephone number and email address, and a mailing address. Three books – on God, Miracles and Pilgrimage – from the OUP's Very Short Introduction series will go to the sender of the first correct entry drawn at random. **■ We cannot process entries or prizes at present. Please keep entering. Winners will be notified and prizes awarded as soon possible.**

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Across

- 7 Levite who sealed Nehemiah's Agreement of the People (6)
8 From near Corinth, a benefactor of the early Church (6)
9 Jezebel's idol (4)
10 Priest in Jerusalem under Nehemiah (variant spelling) (8)
11 Town south of Jerusalem where Joshua defeated several Amorite kings (7)
13 Former Jewish high Priest to whom Jesus was brought when first arrested (5)
15 Unnamed biblical queen, Balkis or Bilkis in the Qur'an (5)
17 Son of Haman, one of 500 killed by the Jews in the citadel of Susa (7)

- 20 High priest who rebuilt Jerusalem's Sheep Gate (8)
21 Confirmatory response of the O.T. originally, meaning "so be it" (4)
23 Ancient rabbinic writings, the basis of religious authority in Orthodox 3 (6)
24 Turkey's highest mountain, Noah's landfall (6)
- Down**
- 1 King of Sodom aided by Abraham (4)
2 Son of Joktan, and name of a district inhabited by his descendants (6)
3 Monotheistic religion emanating from the covenant of God with Abraham ... (7)
4 ... and a grandson of Abraham, son of Midian (5)

- 5 Town where Joseph was sold by his brothers to the Ishmaelites (6)
6 Levite clan leader, son of Korah (8)
12 Daughter of Ahab and Jezebel who seized the throne of Judah (8)
14 Alternative name (either spelling) for Ish-bosheth, fourth son of Saul (7)
16 First god of the Hindu triad (6)
18 Levite who assisted Ezra's reading of the Law (6)
19 Servant girl in Acts stunned to hear the voice of Peter (5)
22 Valley south-west of Jerusalem through which the Philistines marched to invade Israel (4)

SUDOKU | Moderate

6	2			9	5
		9	5		
7		1			4
	8	7	6	5	
	6			7	
1	3	8	2		
8		9			2
		4	1		
3	4			8	1

Each 3x3 box, each row and each column must contain all the numbers 1 to 9.

Solution to the 12 September puzzle

9	2	4	8	6	5	1	3	7
6	3	1	7	9	4	8	5	2
5	7	8	1	2	3	4	6	9
3	5	6	4	7	8	9	2	1
4	8	2	9	5	1	6	7	3
1	9	7	2	3	6	5	4	8
7	4	3	6	8	9	2	1	5
8	1	5	3	4	2	7	9	6
2	6	9	5	1	7	3	8	4

Solution to the 12 September crossword No. 723

Across: 1 Pisgah; 4 Canons; 8 Islam; 9 Abishai; 10 Susanna; 11 Edrei; 12 Arthaveda; 17 Achan; 19 Ananias; 21 Syrians; 22 Abiud; 23 Ridley; 24 Chesed. **Down:** 1 Priest; 2 Salt Sea; 3 Ammon; 5 Abilene; 6 Ophir; 7 Spirit; 9 Aramaeans; 13 Tyndale; 14 Asibias; 15 Caesar; 16 Ashdod; 18 Herod; 20 Asaph.