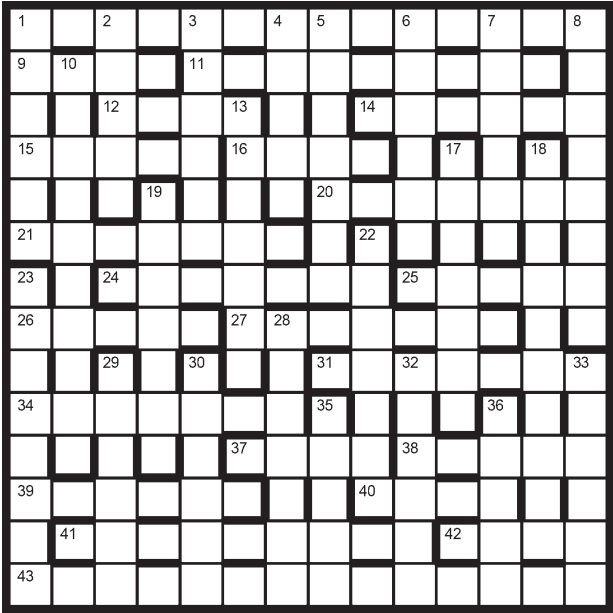


43 (two words) created 1A (four words) and 3 10 14 (seven words). The latter inspired 17 30, whose work introduced the egregious 18. Elsewhere, ignore one accent.

- Across**
- 9 The first three letters of ‘skunk’ (4)
 - 11 Duke ordering wild heroics (9, hyphenated)
 - 12 Beat wife and cover up (4)
 - 15 Mark has no time for heart drug (5)
 - 16 Satan, not dead, is this (4)
 - 20 Something greasy my big cat’s brought back (7, two words)
 - 21 One entitled to insist on touring boundaries of estate (7)
 - 24 Engineers extra base for one railing (7)
 - 25 Pity quiet soul (5)
 - 26 One boring gold plate returned (5)
 - 27 Element of stupid-sounding trick (7)
 - 31 Green Knight painting rejected? The opposite (7, two words)
 - 34 A restart of game Neil suggested (7, hyphenated)
 - 37 Leap from plane tree to the rear (4)
 - 38 Engine finally cut in dock (5)
 - 39 Darling Dad has the sulks (6)
 - 40 Loss of life as head breaks off island (4)
 - 41 Females sadly putting on two pounds are embarrassed (9, two words)
 - 42 Stars ignoring two unknowns for special performance (4)



- Down**
- 1 Commonly warms food and swallows it all (6, two words)
 - 2 Statesman pale under the moon (5)
 - 4 Long for wild party at college (5)
 - 5 Lorry left, dropping paper item (7)
 - 6 Grass in good shape? (6)
 - 7 One making changes replaces diet with alternative (6)
 - 8 Smothers lover – little energy is involved (8)
 - 13 Keep going forward, holding girl close (7)
 - 19 Virginia’s shoe? (7)
 - 22 Deer runs into patrol (7)
 - 23 Alpinist suffering spiralling fall (8)
 - 28 One new period of instruction succeeded explicitly (7, two words)
 - 29 Hoping for good result in half-moon spectacles (6, two words)
 - 32 Fine to leave untidy roomful of gilt ware (6)
 - 33 Excellent old Italian has no love for pilot (6)
 - 35 Fasten components up (5)
 - 36 Titan finally losing footing (5)
- A first prize of £30 for the first correct solution opened on 28 March. There are two runners-up prizes of £20. Please scan or photograph entries and email them (including the crossword number in the subject field) to **crosswords@spectator.co.uk** – the dictionary prize is not available. We will accept postal entries again at some point.
- Name**
- Address**
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