Crossword 2545: With a twist by Lavatch

41 (four words) suggests the other unclued lights – which are individual examples (not group names) of a kind – and how they must be entered in the grid. All answers are in *Chambers*.

Across

- 8 American twice rejected West African (4)
- Like some plants you'd set in cold ground without oxygen (14)
- 12 One's fired head dismissed from private school (5)
- 14 Insect-eating rodent moving lightly (7)
- 16 On the job, one way or another (4, two words)
- 21 No good place for putting ditch (4)
- 22 Noble king left to appear later (4)
- 23 Titans of business, one admitting defeat (7)
- 25 Kind of acid it blocks most of neck pain (6)
- 26 Glimpse in newspaper, customarily (6)
- 28 Regretted hiding key that's delivered (7)
- 31 A fly-by-night husband following Irish girl (4)
- 32 Cancel country club party (4)
- 35 Writer from Shetland moving around (8)
- 36 Paler, suffering old illness (5)
- 37 American city regressing once more (4)
- 39 Arterial road city almost developed (7)
- 40 Mug shot's frame, one from Europe (5)
- 42 Endless row in school once (4)
- 43 Bet cat gets crushed after gently running free (8)

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Down

- 1 Rebel about to maintain high acid level of soil (7)
- Daughter with needle or dagger (4)
- 3 Pile for Scot also with lots of Cambodian money (6)
- 4 Men protecting case of young spiders (7)
- 5 Lift up recipe at home for purgative (8)
- 7 Celebrating Noel, missing parties (11)
- 8 Navy in the drink to follow a winding course (5)
- 9 Liquor stalls set to hold posh officer up (9)
- 10 Compilers concocted fuel that's valuable (6)
- 13 Calls to limit obstacle for butterflies (8)
- 15 One making weak malt? Carouse wildly! (11)
- 24 Set of organic compounds for now storing zero energy (8)
- 27 Strips locks from hotel, one in awful ruins (7)
- 29 Spectacles, say, of English tree and some wheat (7)
- 31 Court in poor area raised fines (6)

- 33 Verse oddly titled for lady (6)
- 34 What predators do in communications with bird (5)
- 38 Clothed king, clothed by contemptible fellow (4)

A first prize of £30 for the first correct solution opened on 21 March. There are two runnersup 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. *Apologies that there may be a delay in sending out prizes at present.*

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