Crossword 2590: Have a go *by Pabulum*

Seven unclued lights (all real words) are 36s minus one letter. A further 36 formed from the omitted letters will appear in the completed grid and must be shaded.

Across

- 1 Confederate creeshes wheels (8)
- 5 Poem (anonymous) involving ship in port (6)
- 9 Crooked creep with agent making profit (10)
- 16 Tinware company backed predator (6)
- 17 A new Troy with aged columns (5)
- 20 Bovine in old poem digs up underground stem (7)
- 24 Author noticed a probable 36 in Shakespeare (7)
- 25 Medical process still reducing sickness (5)
- 26 Some admit a layman translated Bible (5)
- 28 Language of goon pierced by short dagger (7)
- 31 Reformer from Zimbabwe at home wanting tissue (7)
- 33 Stars mingled in store (7)
- 37 Plant pruned behind (5)
- Jade beginning to complain about plant (5)
- 39 US admiral in university in New Zealand (6)
- 41 Sad herald into what's mournful (10)
- 42 Fellow cockney wall builder? (6)
- 43 By chance romping girl wins Oscar by miles (8)

Down

- 1 Pansy pirating crazy graffitist's art? (5-8)
- 2 Crowd from Costa Rica with one absent (5)
- 3 Plant in most of African country (6)

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- 4 Moral significance of specified people cycling (5)
- 6 Poor evidence acquitting northern cheat (7)
- 8 Tarry road needs work (4)
- 10 Ailment only German nursemaid catches (6)
- Moderately stunted cardinal shuts a small low window (9)
- 12 Mike scatted very accurately with no developed melody (13)
- 13 Excited Romeo and nice Juliet about to jabber? (8)
- 15 Ancestor of magnificent Man Friday? (7)
- 19 Dismal cop spoiled hymnal (9)
- 21 Chairman hugging honey with capital gets cross in Rio (8)
- 23 Difficult work in a unit in Guy's? (7)
- 27 A gossip overheard colouring stuff (7)
- 32 Two girls one pulled up bush (3-3)
- 34 Tree of heaven trimmed carelessly (5)
- 35 Hundred in trim go up in the Cairngorms (5)

A first prize of £30 and two runners-up prizes of £20 for the first correct solutions opened on 20 February. Please scan or photograph entries and email them (including the crossword number in the subject field) to **crosswords@spectator.co.uk**, or post to: Crossword 2590, The Spectator, 22 Old Queen Street, London SW1H 9HP. Please allow six weeks for prize delivery. The dictionary prize is not available at present.

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