Crossword 2609: Hard work by Mr Magoo

One unclued light (2 words) labels the others (two of 3 words and one of 5 words, each spread across two entries).

Across

- If I could cut down showing contempt for Shakespeare ... (4)
- 14 Dispute what stroke does? (3)
- 15 We should explain coda?(8)
- 17 They don't fly about when filled with hydrogen (5)
- 18 Revolution where TV show's researchers work?(7)
- 19 Arrested democrat by French square (6)
- 22 One making checks for bed canopy (6)
- 24 Maiden leaves inadequate bore (5)
- 26 King Charles to flourish uncrowned, in place used at intervals (5,4)
- 27 Supermarket's punch it sent signals (5,4)
- 29 Permission to resign (5)
- 31 Blair, so-called creator of doublethink (6)
- 34 French leader's non-French accent (6)
- 38 Feeling excited and awkward, with couples swapping? (5)
- 40 Described sheep's milk? (3)
- 41 Voluntary director pursues poor annual rise (name withheld) (10)
- 42 What's found in higher nest (4)
- 43 It's not true I excited Aunt Dotty (12)

Down

- 2 Stinking rich, but not well brought up? (4-6)
- 3 Aussie natives with very skilled trades (7)

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- 4 Heard joints explode with irritation (5)
- 5 Desperate man and pickpocket inform old pipsqueak (9)
- 6 Expert champion gets uniform for India (6)
- 7 Admit protein has no power (3,2)
- 8 S African people sent up are so cross (4)
- 13 Bet engagement's missed in Dad and Mum penning one nuptial ode (12)
- 16 Creature among cockles and whelks, one way or another (3)
- 19 This plant might supply seeds, with one part multiplied fourfold (6)
- 20 Goal with this poll is to name famous actress? (6)
- 23 Four claim to be ill, emitting gas (9)
- 25 One doesn't hang around otter playing with egg (2-6)
- 28 Matching clothes in two 80s movies? (7)
- 30 Listener's problem puzzle ultimately accepted by editor at last with a kiss (6)
- 32 What rube might call Georgia Lambert? (3)

- Lewis character, apparently initially killed at first, I missed (5)
- 35 Hooter that is painful to suffer (5)
- Shakespearean bears include panda in species finally (4)

A first prize of £30 and two runners-up prizes of £20 for the first correct solutions opened on 10 July. 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 2609, The Spectator, 22 Old Queen Street, London SW1H 9HP.

Address