

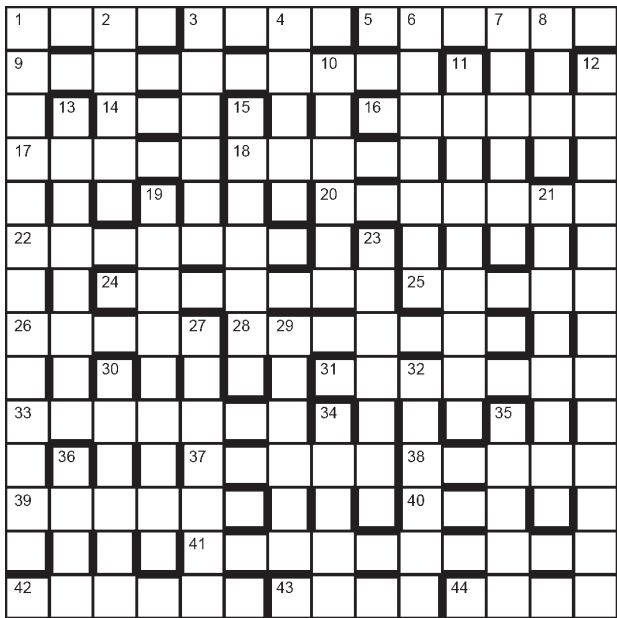
Crossword

2618:

Chain gang

by CheeseCracker

Eleven unclued entries may be connected from 38 to 17, their unchecked letters spelling out CHAIN'S PAIRS, WE AGREE?



Across

- 1 Maximum animosity reported (4)
- 3 Vineyard by cross (4)
- 5 Losing starter, rubbish service is behind (6)
- 9 Again communicate on mobile in van (10)
- 16 Mostly free car port (6)
- 18 Shocking accompaniment to seizure? (5)
- 20 Dull as a lake? (7)
- 22 Bill lying about clear English dramatist (7)
- 24 Tosca libretto nails level of excellence (7)
- 26 Lies about lines in peeled paint (5)
- 28 Not wanting tax, at leisure? (3,4)
- 31 Defector, note, very upset with EU (7)
- 33 Capital near the bombing (7)
- 37 Corner exposed hacks (5)
- 39 Stone I found in demolished hotel (6)
- 41 Central heating – source new parts having stripped defective timer (10)
- 42 Nags about extremely handy local forge (6)
- 43 Sign implied by 'Ladies'? (4)

Down

- 1 Chances for joining drunk, one between tots (13)
- 2 Personal servant denied opening the soul (5)

- 3 Stamp underneath tin weight (6)
- 4 Unionist in America left habitual drink (5)
- 6 Prod around radius bone (7)
- 7 Evoke limitless bliss (6)
- 11 Mob meant hope for pharaoh (9)
- 12 Bishop ragged the verger in zest (5,8)
- 13 Benefit not a little dismal (8)
- 19 Obsessive, say, over mostly weak painkiller (9)
- 21 Part with terribly spiteful woman (3-5)
- 23 Worked out act Bob almost stops (7)
- 27 Nick caught with grass in school (7)
- 30 Picked up cold pod (6)
- 32 Ruin reached, wife repeatedly leaving count (6)
- 34 Bravo, gents, maybe May's first flower (5)
- 35 Weaselly sort cheers topless girl up (5)

A first prize of £30 and two runners-up prizes of £20 for the first correct solutions opened on 4 September. 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 2618, 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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