

# Crossword

## 2623: Half-day

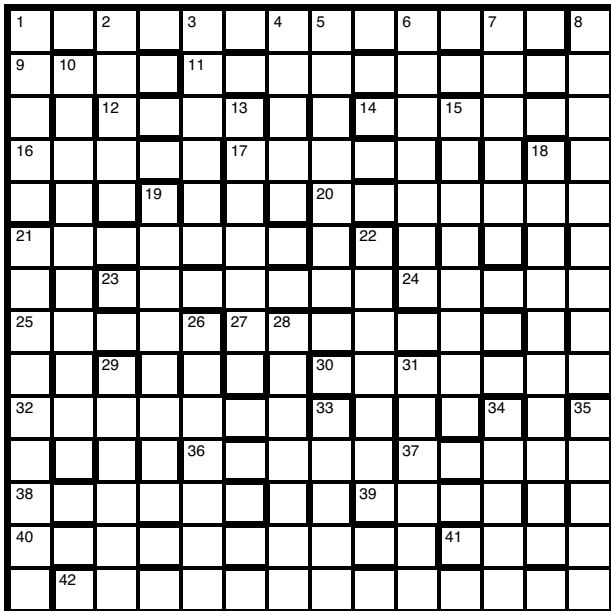
### closing?

by CheeseCracker

29 29-36's 14 13 31 25 1D 2 24, in which 1 Down and 24 are each non-words that concatenate two real terms. Unchecked, unclued letters spell out SEXY DUTCH X-MAG.

#### Across

- 1 Fling marauder off base, across main road (7,6)
- 9 Husband going inside can slim (4)
- 11 Distinguished mayor's robing on the way to work (10)
- 12 Semi-smooth iron instrument (4)
- 16 Keen on crossing river passage before others (5)
- 17 Cycling team's muscles (5)
- 20 Coach, theirs regularly taking shower (7)
- 21 WW2 commando's language in court (7)
- 23 Scrooge perhaps first on since November (7)
- 27 Diffusion of oxygen, sulphur and iodine in spongy soil (7)
- 30 Dental floss essentially a no-no, I see (7)
- 32 British novelist recalled top-notch perennial herb (7)
- 37 Partly predictable after retirement drink (5)
- 38 Servant picked up leaves and fruit (6)
- 39 Old book of facts missing cover (4)
- 40 Aeronaut crashed having depleted thrust within electrical device (10)
- 41 Bill recognises broadcast (4)
- 42 Supernatural harpy left psyche damaged around India (13)



#### Down

- 3 Embrace trendy congregation (6)
  - 4 Setter collared by petition over grounded fliers (5)
  - 5 Kicks around ball, primarily in seated ground (7)
  - 6 European dish mum eats certainly outside America (7)
  - 7 Note vessels making reversals (1-5)
  - 8 Cynic, agitated with rest, aiming at reconciliation (9)
  - 10 Pages whence come uncovered plays in Honduras (10)
  - 15 Vitamin evident in bone following fracture? (8)
  - 18 Off and on, closest enemies unexpectedly showing decorum (10)
  - 19 Billie Jean King finally getting on and winning (8)
  - 21 Tom for one periodically told to call up stockbroker? (9)
  - 22 Dull person king, say, hits on head (7)
  - 26 Precious jade you sent abroad (2-5)
  - 28 Bother about member admitting answer on which pointers and much more are shown? (4,3)
  - 33 Force needs support on case from Toxteth (5)
  - 34 Impromptu notice on unconfined outrage (2,3)
  - 35 What might be catcher's first fishing gear? (5)
- A first prize of £30 for the first correct solution opened on 9 October. 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](mailto:crosswords@spectator.co.uk), or post to: Crossword 2623, The Spectator, 22 Old Queen Street, London SW1H 9HP. Please allow six weeks for prize delivery.

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