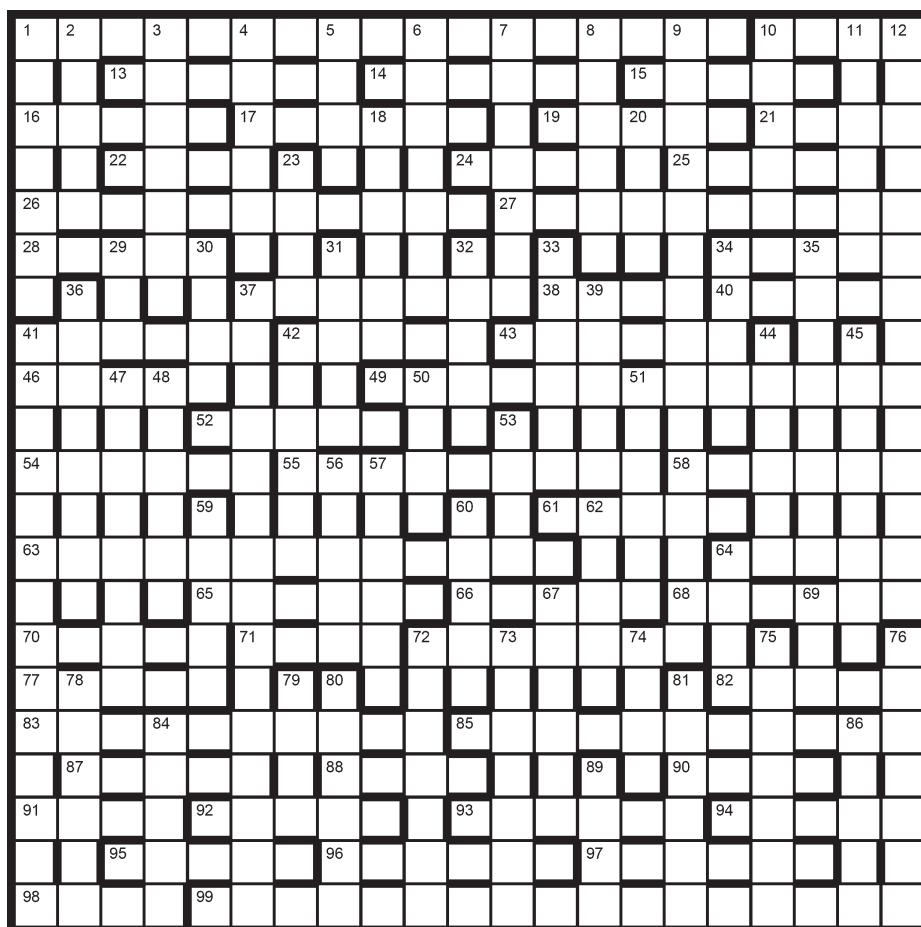


Christmas crossword

Double celebration

by *Fieldfare*

Unclued lights have something in common, nine of two words, five pairs, and one singleton.



Across

- 10 Always hard to keep a maid (4)
- 13 Only covering one's losing bid (6)
- 15 Put down women's medieval instrument (5)
- 16 Follow the game secretly from chimney (5)
- 21 Indian wasting minutes in queue (4)
- 22 In recess, they are on the phone to reporters (4)
- 24 Yank pokes right inside basket (4)
- 25 Sort of breakfast originally eaten day after day (5)
- 27 Observe baseball player striking woman (3-7)
- 28 Not altogether keen about lecturer's lectern (5)
- 37 Helps receive salmon, about a stone (2-5)
- 38 A la stair's extended half of speech (4)
- 40 Fish, swimming back from the bottom of the world? (5)
- 41 Capital vehicle grabbed by drivers at hotel (6)
- 42 Animal slept briefly, dropping head and curling round (5)
- 46 Britain's holding advance energy order (5)
- 52 Spy who didn't mince his words? (5)
- 54 Lover abandoning ancient city in high Andean plain (6)
- 55 Bore troubled us instead (9)
- 58 Developer's spine finally fails with no bracing (6)

- 61 American power absorbs Europe: finish! (3,2)
- 63 Thinking of briefly helping people on islands (13)
- 64 I'm a Yankee, preserving American language (5)
- 65 Seaweed's very strange reach (6)
- 66 Painful activity, to smooth a bit of masonry (1,3,1)
- 68 It hurt to call round wielding a blade (6)
- 70 Charlotte over there say coming back (5)
- 71 Arrogance of team (4)
- 72 Ponder spending time intervening (7)
- 77 Roll that's big for Taki in New York (5)
- 82 Kick off in the style of an Aussie native (5)
- 83 A-team, I note, failing in turn (3,2,1,4)
- 87 An aged relative in Scottish town (5)
- 88 Informal friend is to be quiet (4)
- 90 Keep worrying a snake (4)
- 91 Sounds like an antelope again (4)
- 92 Contrive to move to and fro (5)
- 93 Gypsy is a giant of a sort (6)
- 94 Stop that butterfly! (5)
- 95 Poet barely deletes a line (5)
- 96 Having got up, is near falling (6)
- 97 Austere girl leaving region (6)
- 98 Drink: take a little drop (4)

Down

- 1 Rides so awkwardly in single file (7)
- 2 Titus shows energy, tucking into porridge (5)
- 3 Bribe to get African tree? (3,4)
- 4 In hospital turning up to anoint old woman (6)
- 5 Travel with purpose (4)
- 6 Wild journey between Brazil and America? (7)



A first prize of £100, three prizes of £25 and six further prizes of *The Dictionary People* by Sarah Ogilvie (Vintage) will be awarded for the first correct solutions opened. The first four winners will each also receive a bottle of champagne. Email entries by 15 January to crosswords@spectator.co.uk, with 'Christmas Crossword' in the subject field, or post to: Christmas Crossword, The Spectator, 22 Old Queen Street, London SW1H 9HP. Please include a phone number. This is to arrange delivery if you win champagne.

Name

Address

Phone

- 7 Lie sprawled at first across earth floors (7)
- 8 Old king's daughter returning by ass (6)
- 9 Graft as a quarrel breaks out in public space (9,6)
- 10 Room is a dry one, and cold (5)
- 11 A president, reversing direction at last, stays (6)
- 18 Unacceptable to retain one idea (6)
- 20 Why husband removed chestnut tree (4)
- 23 Submariner's warning: surfacing (4)
- 29 Chap commonly seen in good light (3)
- 30 Anglo-Saxon slave seen trembling (4)
- 31 Tea within range (5)
- 32 Safe from the start, thanks to quiet hiding place (5)
- 33 Redeployed legion to move away (6)
- 34 In extremely stable wet earth raised rock plant (5)
- 35 Only eating melon rind? Seriously? (8)
- 36 Select a street restaurant (4-4)
- 44 Late Dame hosting women's group, and her? (6)
- 45 Wood rotting among hay (8)
- 47 Ventilating a poor energy certificate (8)
- 50 As far as university, keep reading (2,2)
- 51 Duet with me performing hymn (2,4)
- 56 Made money for broadcast, potted (5)
- 59 Mean home to be place near Brighton, and large (5)
- 60 More learned how I serialise parts (5)
- 64 Sneer at exam (4)
- 67 Best family crime novel initially taken up (6)
- 69 Where one may save lives? Ace! (3)
- 72 Some breakfast choices may make us smile (7)
- 73 Low, about to get into dire trouble, then lower (7)
- 74 Fall heavily, fitting getting up (4)
- 75 Trout travel through burn (7)
- 76 Made haste with bag for plunder (7)
- 78 Necessity to be left out of a low joint (6)
- 79 Where did Zeno teach? Seconds to answer (4)
- 80 Brief opportunity to secure a job? (3,3)
- 81 A clueless type, I almost colour up (6)
- 86 Dealing with smell that's universal but not constant (5)
- 89 Approve conjuror's move (4)