

2696: It's better up north!
by Fire

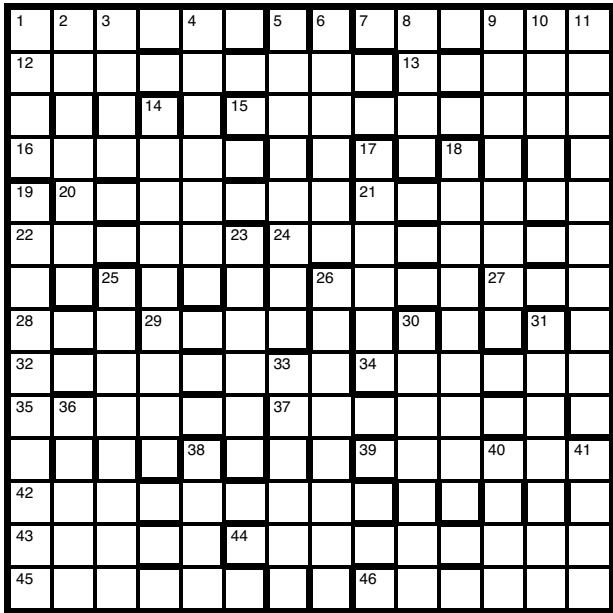
The unclued lights are of a kind.

Across

- 12 Sun ruined helter-skelter without cover (9)
- 13 Lizard found in Wagamama! (5)
- 15 Screen role I transformed into (9)
- 16 Rabbit's discovered in delay at terminus (6)
- 20 Quietly thatched house and made watertight (7)
- 21 Oddly, his leg is pulled by Cupid! (6)
- 22 Location of small storm (6)
- 26 In with ugly bruiser (4)
- 27 Recalled child's little digits (3)
- 28 Are offstage? (3)
- 29 Attitude of disheartened gang (4)
- 32 Melon is a messy thing to eat (8)
- 34 Woman from New Zealand overwhelmed by wah-wah in England (6)
- 35 Weavers weaving without a weave (6)
- 37 Shed in dodgy street changing hands (7)
- 39 Hound sometimes follows this blanket (6)
- 42 Weird dilemma leaves damage limitation in turmoil (9)
- 43 Girl in expensive car locates position (5)
- 44 We hear badly off and messy artist painted mugs? (9)
- 45 1000 Danes organised massages (6)
- 46 Losing tip of plimsoll, gets wet feet and goes off (6)

Down

- 2 On and on about entertaining baby food documentary (2,5)



- 3 Bits of fabric landed over pole (4)
- 4 Bony old Sue's so flexible (7)
- 5 Cross and curt about endless party (8)
- 6 Oystered offshore, discovered another mollusc (6)
- 8 Perjurer beset by inner turmoil in retreat (4)
- 9 Islanders' first class gratin dish fills empty hampers (8)
- 10 Surrounded by leaders of angry mutiny, our Nancy grimaced (5)
- 17 Abstain from drugs and meditate (6)
- 18 Henry's holding skirt and scarf for spiky sorts (9)
- 19 Origins of Sir Keir Starmer's esoteric way of showing emphasis (6,4)
- 23 Rewrite of *Spies* receives Oscar and flowers (6)
- 31 Slow movement beginning to annoy Northern poet (7)
- 33 It came up in midday thought (6)
- 38 Poet banned on radio (4)
- 40 Ice bucket gets hot when pressure dropped (4)
- 41 Head in four directions (4)

A first prize of a £30 John Lewis voucher and two runners-up prizes of £20 vouchers for the first correct solutions opened on 14 April. 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 2696, The Spectator, 22 Old Queen Street, London SW1H 9HP. Please allow six weeks for prize delivery.

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