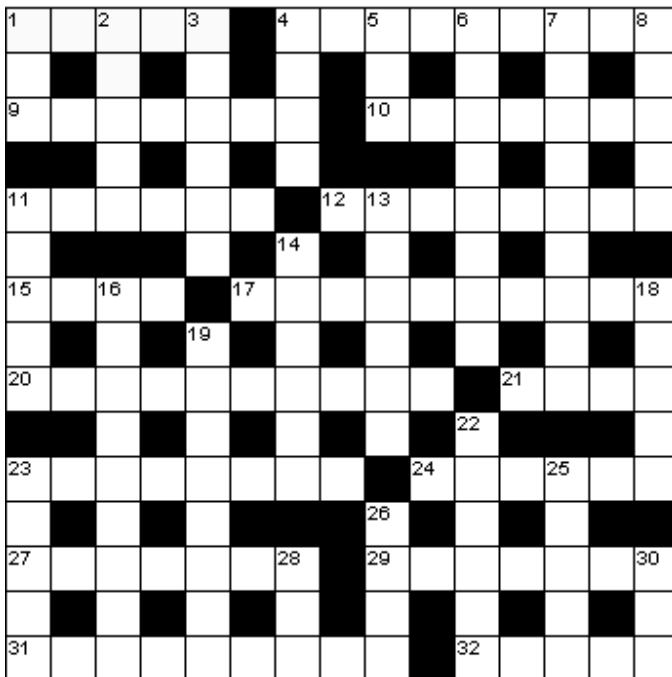


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An anagram of the answer to each clue is hidden in the clue. The words of the clue allude to the answer, but shouldn't be interpreted too literally.

An example:

For added sparkle, it's nice to put this on the tree (6)

The answer TINSEL is hidden as an anagram (...sparkLE ITS Nice...).

Not all clues suggest the answer quite so clearly, however.

Across

- 1 Common gift from Tesco's knitwear range (5)
- 4 Old jokes stun the comedian's audience (9)
- 9 Brother sent parcel for Christmas (7)
- 10 Scientist makes lady afraid of him (7)
- 11 Where road rage aggressor leaves his car (6)
- 12 Having no fear, creepy movies leave me unperturbed (8)
- 15 Go pale in a dead faint (4)
- 17 Cancel festival at independent school (10)
- 20 Things aren't as casual for him this month (5,5)
- 21 Tots danced as Dad slept (4)
- 23 Celebration consists of evil satanic rituals (8)
- 24 Vegans maybe eschew such fare (6)
- 27 Chilly reception for those in science class (7)
- 29 Birds in the sky turn towards the south (7)
- 31 There'll be few dry eyes at the end of this song (9)
- 32 It's stupid to think this will give you a six-pack (3-2)

Down

- 1 It goes up as the days get longer (3)
- 2 Merriment and glee Christmas can bring (5)
- 3 Used by Father Christmas as he glides through the air (6)
- 4 A decorated spruce tree can be adorable (4)
- 5 He helps at Christmas with little fuss (3)
- 6 Essential item curry chefs use regularly (8)
- 7 Poor mouse disappeared up drainpipe (9)
- 8 Graceful yet simple fashion (5)
- 11 Kids find them in their stockings if they've been good (5)
- 13 In Mecca, a businessman may count on this (6)
- 14 Old England invaded by Belgian attackers (6)
- 16 Ruling families with extended stays in power (9)
- 18 Follow the sun every Winter (5)
- 19 Island language that has been likened to Indonesian (8)
- 22 Drinks served across the bar (6)
- 23 She's Christmassy, if rather twee (5)
- 25 A big occasion that never really took off (5)
- 26 Don't go so fast; you'll get arrested (4)
- 28 Depressed as days get shorter (3)
- 30 Take a drink from one's pint (3)