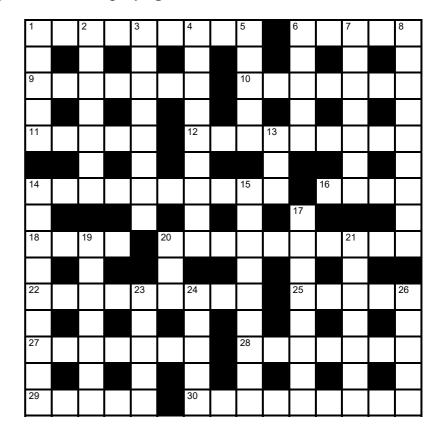
Christmas Pudding

There are a number of sixpences in the grid but, since they're supposed to be a surprise, the wordplay ignores them

Across

- 1 Tony is sick with fever frequently (4,5)
- 6 Furious Luxembourg confronts Italy (5)
- **9** Cater for eccentricity (7)
- 10 Cut Belgium free in time (7)
- 11 Services entitlements over the phone (5)
- 12 Blade cutting away skin of mouse laying eggs (9)
- 14 University in Asian country large one (10)
- 16 Study England's first prime minister (4)
- 18 See and kill deputy (4)
- 20 Craftsmen smoke a lot, right? Wrong! (10)
- 22 Detective finishes getting rewards (9)
- 25 Here in Abidjan, no good decoration (5)
- 27 I see old bananas as a useful plant (7)
- 28 Filthy graduate gets the last hole in one (7)
- 29 Quiet year with monarch being more retiring (5)



30 Stones are disrupting echoes (9)

Down

- 1 Queen snake (5)
- 2 Slept in tree door set to explode (7)
- 3 Old letter about leaving things out (8)
- 4 Partners stopping god playing god at the start (3,4,2)
- 5 One supporter turns up outside a canteen (5)
- 6 Immature creature hides in cellar vault (5)
- 7 Shot before odd bits drop down (7)
- 8 Arrange hot

- glasses (empty) for relishes (9)
- 13 Friend's tree lacking root (3)
- 14 Gratuitously discriminating between debt acknowledgement s (9)
- 15 Hints the whole of America is keeping going (9)
- 17 American lawyers working for Scottish politician (8)
- 19 One hands in rodent to get horsemen (7)
- 20 Constrain match (3)
- 21 Obvious film about nurse (7)

- 23 Poetically boring otologist? (5)
- 24 Bottom drain is faulty (5)
- 26 Horses feed noisily (5)