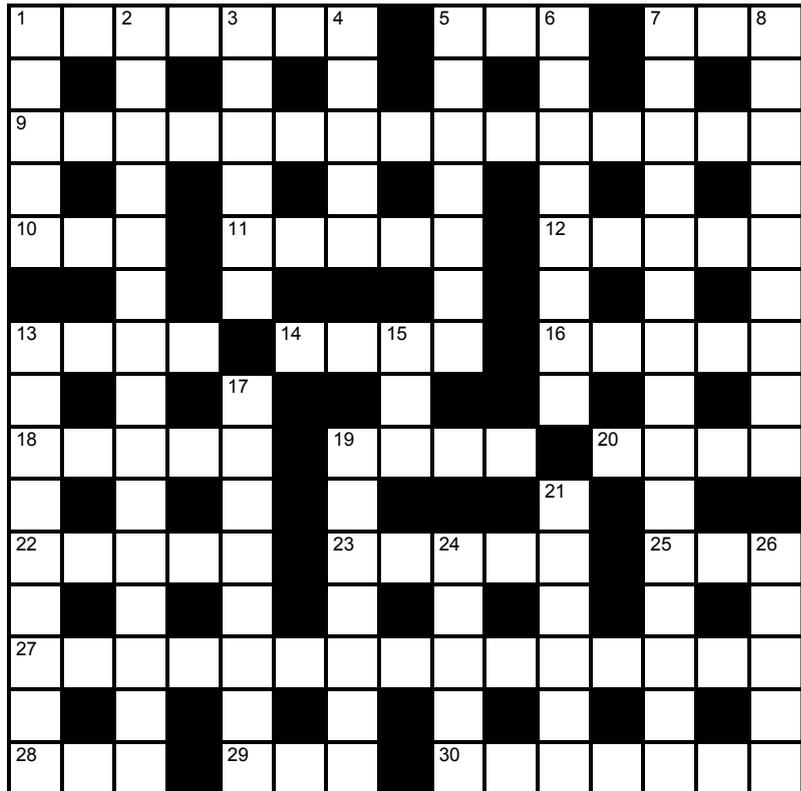


Merry Christmas

Across

- 1 On the contrary, it's a must as a stocking filler (7)
- 5 Here in France it's freezing - minus two (3)
- 7 Something dangerous hidden in Christmas pudding (3)
- 9 Debauched man bed a short young lady - Carol (4,3,8)
- 10 Ending of quite awful wisecrack: "it looks like reindeer" (3)
- 11 Disentangle first two couples from underneath mistletoe - kiss! (5)
- 12 Measure of snowfall: six inches? or 4? (5)
- 13 Good man full of love, middle of abdomen is what gets stuck in chimney (4)
- 14 Ogle South Londoner's mince pies (4)
- 16 Sounds like Christmas dinner is tongue (5)
- 18 Sparkling silver loveliness of winter entrances (5)
- 19 It appears in the forecasts nowadays (4)
- 20 See 24 Down
- 22 Last of advocaat consumed by midday, that's unacceptable (3,2)
- 23 Initially Santa tried assigning individual reindeer for each part of flight (5)
- 25 A single Christmas



- ornament is on display from 1st to 3rd of the month (3)
- 27 Feature in Father Christmas' local paper (3,5,7)
- 28 Starts to dread office staff parties (3)
- 29 Beginning to get in the spirit (3)
- 30 Mopes about Christmas trees (7)

Down

- 1 A sled crashed and was responsible for Merry Xmas Everybody (5)
- 2 A, H, K, N, O, T, U and Y (5,3,7)
- 3 Key ingredient of Glühwein that's dotty (6)

- 4 Baby's motherland somewhere in Gulf? Just the opposite (5)
- 5 Mail arrives here, like Christmas presents (2-5)
- 6 Half of us in pub on 25th December, say, and it's overrun (8)
- 7 Dad, rare painting is bizarre and (with 24 and 20) impractical present (3,1,9,2)
- 8 Queue for drink at party to get to the other side? (9)
- 13 Put on play including leading parts of Narrator, Aladdin and Twankey. Fresh and original? Oh no it isn't! (9)

- 15 We heard "Noël, Noël" in new arrangement, it goes on for ages (3)
- 17 Final performance could be The Twelve Days of Christmas (4,4)
- 19 Make alterations to Santa Suit; having taken a little off the bottom of each piece, keep going (7)
- 21 Prepare presents or prepare oneself for winter weather (4,2)
- 24/20 A lively repartee is, along with 7, one of my true love's many gifts (1,4,4)
- 26 Leaders of carollers although sloshed keep singing, they can hold booze (5)