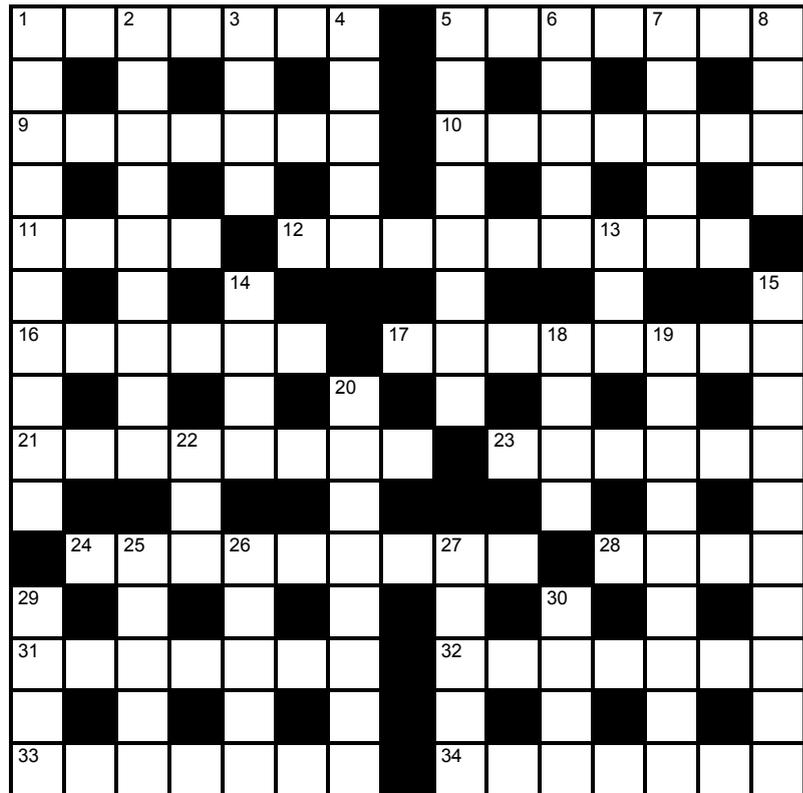


Happy New Year!

Two solutions are pop culture references that I don't think have made it into the dictionary...yet.

Across

- 1 Nick has a whip-round for this flipping person (7)
- 5 Someone who clears up rubbish left after New Year's Day (7)
- 9 Announce application for alimony (7)
- 10 I like following creator of giant peach blossoms (7)
- 11 Sound of Big Ben beginning to blast on midnight (4)
- 12 Hanging baskets? (4,5)
- 16 The closer one gets to one's neighbours, the more likely things are to be tempestuous (6)
- 17 Overtone or under Dave, perhaps ;-) (8)



- 21/29 Duly sang with elan when intoxicated (4,4,4)
- 23 Knocked back the last of Champagne magnum (bubbly fizz) again because it aids digestion (6)
- 24 Three quarters of audience is after something given out in New Year's Honours List for doing as one's told (9)
- 28 Tough guy with nothing to lose, changes sides and becomes sweetheart (4)
- 31 Whiskey (not whisky) and rye drunk on 31st December (4,3)
- 32/3 It sounds like my other half dropped the ball (6,1,4)

- 33 "It offers respite from the din" - recommendation for *The Listener* (7)
- 34 Paused around end of December and puckered (7)

Down

- 1 Country where a zebra roams freely on New Year's Day (10)
- 2 Sex and drugs and....a fish sandwich? (4,1,4)
- 3 See 32 Across
- 4 So-called tiger is tame, but having had tail pulled then wild at heart (5)
- 5/7 Mmmmm...form of cinematic psychological control it is.. (4,4,5)

- 6 Layer up with sport's jacket (5)
- 7 See 5
- 8 User error or 7 (4)
- 13 Group of birds who are game for New Year's Eve initially (3)
- 14 Globally held party (4)
- 15 Start to hope excessively for technology we've been led to expect in 2015 (10)
- 18 Up to one's elbow in plentiful narcotics (4)
- 19 Party poopers weirdly stay in, giving it a miss on New Years (9)
- 20 Not the favourite place to tickle setter's tummy (8)
- 22 Add some colour to middle of coldest half of year (3)
- 25 Political leader overthrown in gladiatorial battle (5)
- 26 Reside within the borders of Llandrindod Wells (5)
- 27 For example, Russell Brand could be "*The Dandy*" (5)
- 29 See 21 Across
- 30 Expression of appreciation found in concise edition (1,3)