

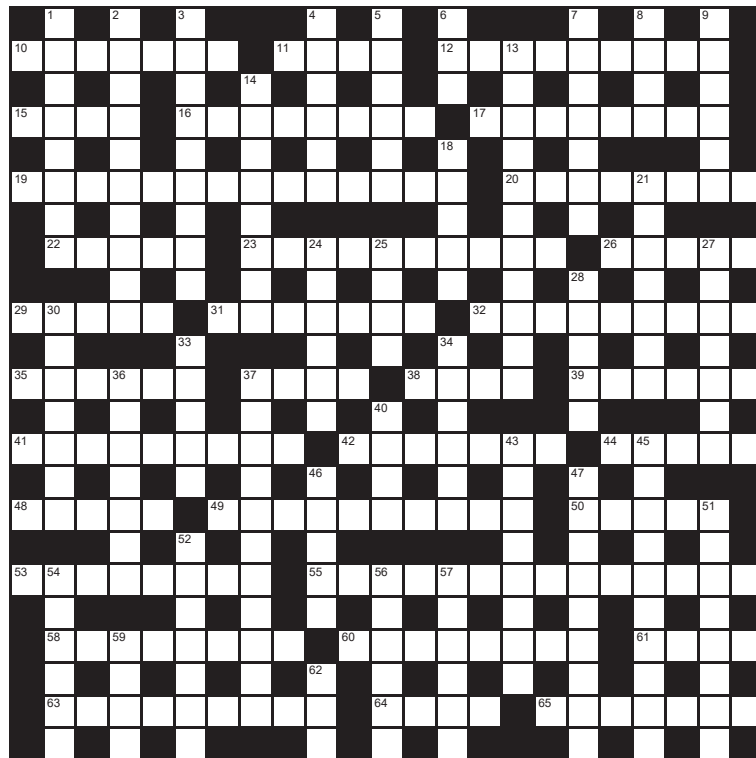
Christmas Crossword Set by Gozo

The 26 alphabetical solutions (two associated groups of 13) have to be fitted into the grid wherever they will go. None of them includes a thematic definition.

- A** 36 worked out with first of clues (8)
B Bistro with wine, reportedly (6)
C A curry and beer cans ordered (9,5)
D Bermuda rum with a touch of ice added (8)
E In Germany, they returned with new cooking about one (7)
F Extremely anxious puss during the day (8)
G Travel round the Home Counties (5)
H Unpleasant surprise with top sponsor leaving (4)
I The Chancellor moves one to the front (5)
J Explosive sweet for babies (5)
K Chris, drunk, after drop of kümmel (6)
L Meat course not finished, sadly (9)
M The London Eye? (5,3)
N Turn round by Kentish house (3,5)
O Head's flippancy (5,5)
P Silk pants being laid out (4,2,8)
Q What, in France, I in Germany tucked into! (6)
R Goes without starter – having fish (8)
S Bar has nothing inside (5)
T New York court loses nothing reassembling (6,5)
U No odd letters from our Gillie (4)
V Rebuilt oven vault (3,2,4)
W Victor's successor! (7)
X Max mashed potato (4,3)
Y Poor young Nell dropped both names (4,3)
Z New Zealand openers involved with Anfield (9)
- 20** Came into force (8)
26 Train -- or part of one (5)
32 Monopoly or chess at the table. Ready? (5,4)
35 Got ale, bananas and ice-cream (6)
38 Large cart at entrance, dropping last of hay (4)
48 Amateur warning, previously (5)
49 Danes crept around stylish *Strictly* performer? (4,6)
50 Team leaves Lake District town for a walk (5)
64 The Times obtained from meerkats regularly (4)

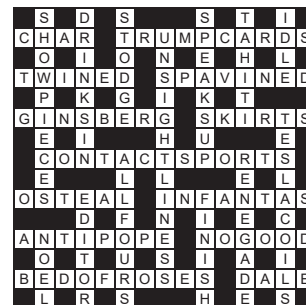
DOWN

- 2** Those who first pass out here? (10)
4 Bird also heard by prison (6)
5 *Life on Mars* singer is around end of concert, with DJ (3,3)
6, 62 Single-stemmed fruit tree with flex attached (6)
7 Collapse of society girl. A non-U clue (7)
8 First bird seen in winter nest (4)
14 Possible scene of Dr Black's murder where sweeper guards everything (8)
18 Tea-growing state providing a service, on reflection (5)
21 T20 batsman and his snack lunch? (7)
24 Popular school for cricket, say (6)
25 Name of sister without ring (4)
27 Funny business with claim being falsified (7)
28 Famous bowler gets a duck – of sorts! (5)
30 Quickly run through angler's problem? (4,3)
36 Could be danger from garden? (7)
37 Believers in just one supreme god represented on the thesis (11)
40 Would horsemen order animals initially, thus? (4)
43 Signs of sorrow – but no time for medication (8)
45 Hugs from the bard at castle windows (10)



- 46** Room – special one (5)
47 Infant's pet project with paper (4,5)
51 Key to a large chop is veal, say (8)
52 Drink bitter from start to finish – just stories (7)
54 Hamburger mascot otherwise named Wesker or Rat? (6)
56 Whispers "When?" "About eleven" (6)
57 Author having tea with cake outside (6)
59 Book I inscribed for myself? (4)
62 See 6

Solution 16,966



The FT's compilers and crossword editor send solvers their best wishes for Christmas and the new year.

ACROSS

- 11** What no man is, but I am! (4)
12 Not off topic, letter which lists courses (2,3,4)
15 Scots girl's saving scheme with pound invested (4)