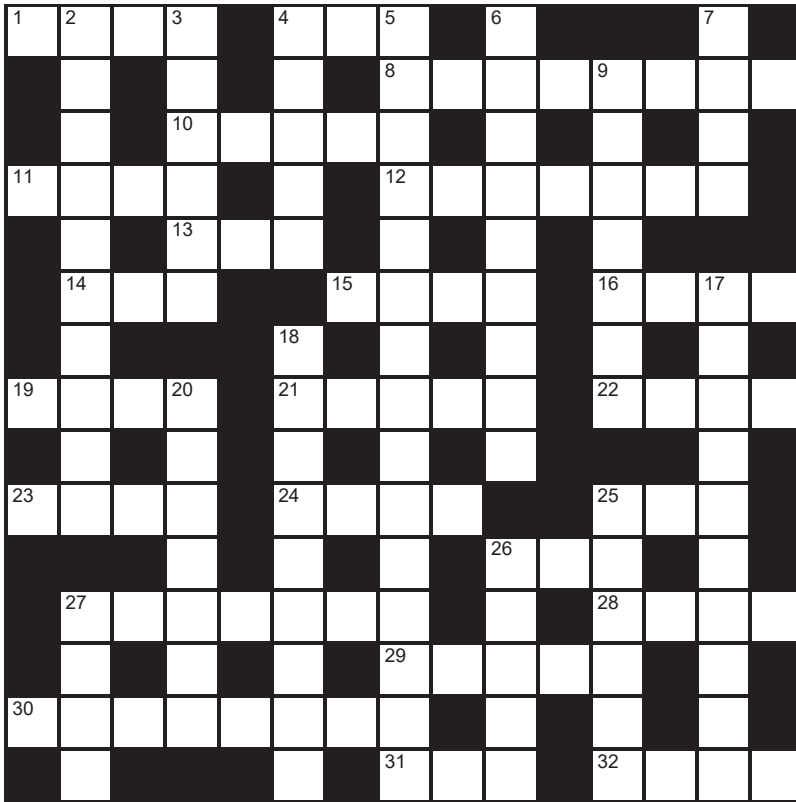


CROSSWORD

No 16,979 Set by IO



ACROSS

- 1 *Feeble people, crossword compilers – take Stormgorm for starters (4)
- 4 Something stimulating to chew over cheers 007's gadget-man (3)
- 8 Man working hard to insulate empty 13 measured energy (4,4)
- 10 Loyal English one stops posh girl retreating (5)
- 11 *Heard lecture on grass (4)
- 12 One flies round circuit to clinch first of golds (7)
- 13 Uniform associated with British Navy vessel (3)
- 14 *Pharmacies allegedly stocking this compound (3)
- 15 The New York Gents, say, 24 for one (4)
- 16 *Oil buttocks, ignoring edges (4)
- 19 *Did drink to forget 22 (4)
- 21 Through 5, she's appropriately found themes (5)
- 22 *In Spain, a city in title only (4)
- 23 *Dance to the Scottish drum (4)
- 24 Where one may see or do bird (4)
- 25 *Of course, I should have got that note! (3)
- 26 Tea shops under the same ownership no longer fashionable (3)
- 27 Feverishly ill with content of new hypo readily dispersed (7)
- 28 *Event where racers may be qualified (4)
- 29 Expert close to claiming degree record (5)
- 30 Shavings undoubtedly to be found in great quantity (8)
- 31 *Knowledge of eg Texas? (3)
- 32 *Ruler 21 20 in part (4)

DOWN

- 2 Brother Lewis loses 60% invested in Scottish rivers (10)
- 3 Morse noticed address written in answer below! (6)
- 4 Originators of well-known rhapsody, a piece with much power (5)
- 5 Hint: egg up the wall maintaining manner that's superior to girl (3,7-5)
- 6 Cross the threshold after fish and chips (9)
- 7 The family dog missing her party piece (4)
- 9 Is this mythical being making hasty incursion? (7)
- 17 Battler, he agreed: pretty awful muddle! (10)
- 18 It's mad, what protesters do live outside hotel (5,4)
- 20 Nothing interrupts basic education in timeless film theme (7)
- 25 Talk about deserting someone doing business in Luton? (6)
- 26 Stopping exec, he's sabotaged board meeting (5)
- 27 Ladbaby's first chart-topper – rising celebrity! (4)

Celebrating a 150th anniversary, each of the six down answers in the left side of the grid may be paired with one of the six down answers in the right side. The eleven asterisked across answers (where eleven might as well be nine) should be entered thematically. 5 down is clued by wordplay only.

Solution 16,977

