

Christmas Crossword No 17,286 Set by GOZO

The 26 alphabet clues lead to two sets of thirteen solutions: one set consists of two-word names or phrases, each of which begins with the letter indicated (eg Harry Houdini). The other set leads to solutions which are two-syllable words with each syllable starting with the letter indicated (eg Hogshead). These solutions have to be entered into the grid, wherever they will fit.

A Bandmaster Louis as TV quiz host (9,9)

B Dancing Girl's line in Sussex (8)

C Transport taking fifty people up? (5,3)

D Bonnie city's cake (6)

E Segregate bubbly and chocolate gift (6,3)

F Paw that's 48 inches long, we hear (8)

G Bogart, shaking with rage, with lonesome US actress (5,5)

H This chap will sink his putt in the pit (8)

I Calligraphy requisite in kind, in a novel (6,3)

J Callow stammerer's thirty days (6)

K Chocolate bar could be a Club (3,3)

L Lecturer would somehow get drunk in Shropshire town (6)

M Space not affected after planetary battle (7,4)

N Material from Indian gown regularly removed (5)

O Ten lovely nuts for sailor's girl-friend (5,3)

P Drive priest by car (6)

Q Caesar's V-sign? (7)

R Venue for fire-drill? (5,5)

S Fish-slice? (6,5)

T French head drinking English wine wavered (8)

U Trimble, say, in overcoat, supported by TU member (6,8)

V Victor in rocky ravine finding medicinal plant (7)

W Songbird or bat next to wide broken barrel (6,7)

X Half a dozen with king in ancient Rome turned up for Darius' successor (6)

Y One plaything or two playthings sent back without their lids (2-2)

Z Wigan playing with two unknowns score in Munich (7)

ACROSS

6 Transferring office documents is drudgery, holding nothing back (6)

15 70s' fad, using old lorries across Cuba (6,5)

17 Many times decimally (5)

21 Stupid baronet in river (6)

24 Litter in American saloon (5)

31 Contest woman's opinion (4)

34 PC's part in detective's fraud campaign (4,5)

38 Money on counter for pocket calculator (5,8)

42 Sketchy sky clearing, so eat out (4)

43 Honorary secretary in university departs (6)

45 Driving technique that may get man with antelope to Spain (4,3,3)

51 High liver from the heart of Tibet? Wrong (4)

52 Woodland god posed on your right, for starters (5)

53 Peers sign? (6)

57 Stumbling - a result of taking LSD? (8)

60 Dog at gym - family facility, we're told (8)

64 Waiters for the movies (6,5)

67 Yank following focus on plane used in missile practice (6,3)

DOWN

2 Zeal shown by new eastern head (11)

3 Player, amateur, caught by Lock (7)

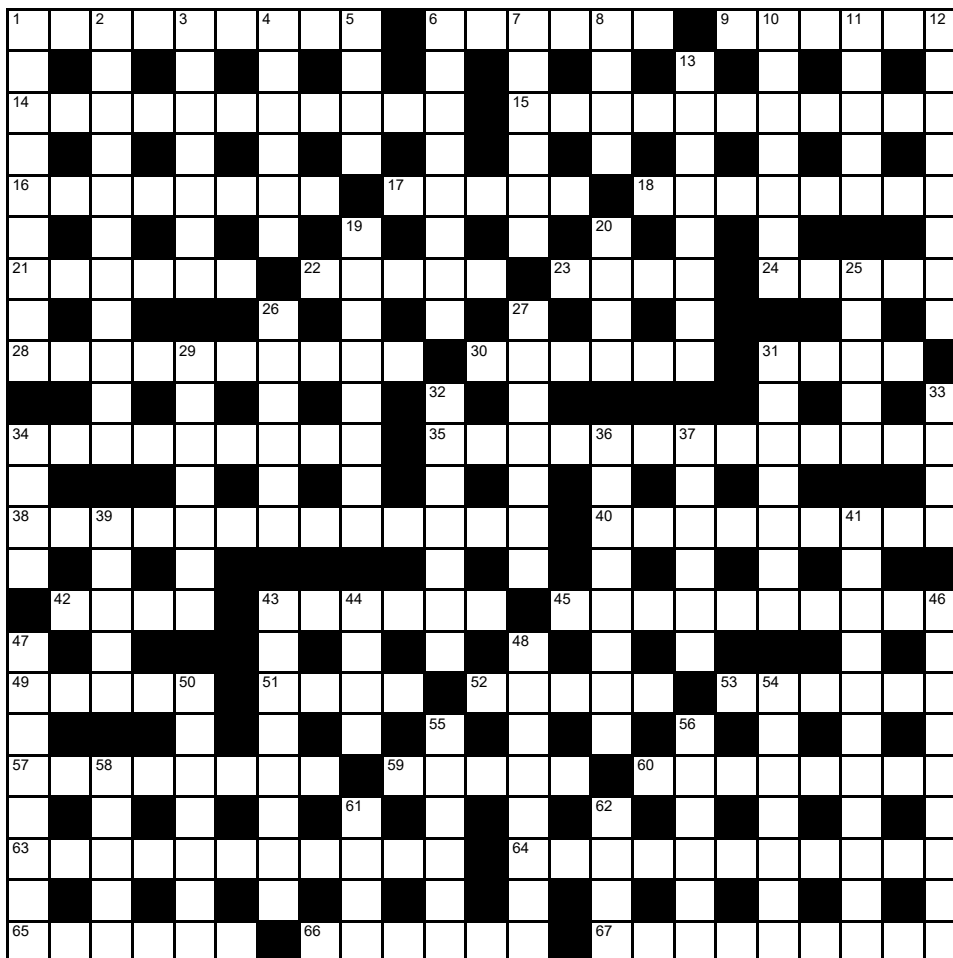
5 Speaker's blunt and cross (4)

8 Duck on eastern river (4)

10 Peel off topless summer clothing (7)

11 Cotton thread one's placed in heart of galleon (5)

12 Download dodgy undeveloped site (8)



19 Chance of stardom potting many balls? (3,5)

20 Improper noun, not socially acceptable (3-1)

25 Live and prosper, losing nothing (5)

26 Soldier - one buried during WW1 battle (6)

27 Those lumberjack chaps! (7)

29 Why clad in tatters in theatre? (7)

33 Hike three kilometres in Italy (4)

34 Oil is somewhat undervalued (4)

37 Whisky and beer-drinking daughters walk unsteadily (6)

39 Do something about London district (5)

41 Tenth native turning out. Should it happen? (2,4,5)

44 Not half charming claim (4)

47 Records in detail, but enters this solution incorrectly? (6,2)

50 Go off with PC in river (7)

56 Conductor Norman in Californian beach town (3,3)

58 John takes one grand home (5)

61 Cosmetic treatment in IOM town (4)

62 Wader's granny? (4)

Solution 17,280



Polymath 1,210 Set by FALCON

ACROSS

1 Musical instrument resembling the cello (5,2,5)

7 Omar, actor who played Dr Eric Foreman in the medical drama series *House* (4)

11 Sir Jackie, Scottish racing driver (7)

12 Having or involving three colours (9)

13 Play written by Jessica Goldberg (6)

14 Song written for the soundtrack of the 1978 animated film *Watership Down* (6,4)

16 Black or red Australian insect with a vicious sting (7,3)

17 Earl, American jazz pianist and bandleader (5)

19 German shepherd (8)

20 46th President of the United States (3,5)

23 Stage name of the French pop-soul artist Nadia Mladjao (5)

25 Raised reservoir of water maintaining pressure in a plumbing system (6,4)

27 1847 battle of the Mexican-American War (5,5)

28 Surname of the Scottish singer-songwriter Donovan (6)

30 Breed of horse, originally from America, typically having a spotted rump (9)

31 In the Old Testament (II Samuel), the third son of David (7)

32 Single by Prince and the Revolution, from their *Parade* album (4)

33 Stephen Sondheim musical (4,3,5)

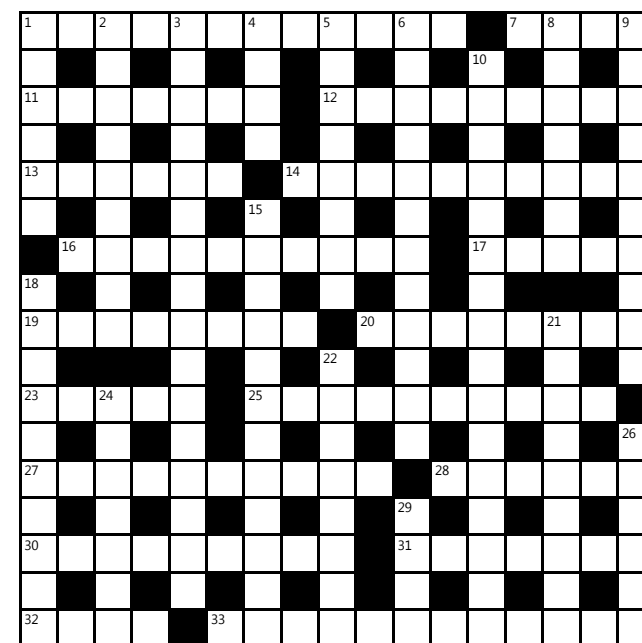
DOWN

1 Giorgio, Italian artist and art historian (1511-74) (6)

2 Pulitzer Prize-winning novel by Willa Cather (3,2,4)

3 1990 film directed by Jane Campion (2,5,2,5)

4 Type of US mortgage with interest rates determined by credit risk (3-1)



5 Genus of sea stars (8)

6 Romantic comedy film series based on novels by Helen Fielding (7,5)

8 Brightest star in Canis Minor (7)

9 Album by Rick Roberts, released in 1973 (3,2,1,4)

10 Farce written by Joe Orton (4,3,6,3)

15 1946 film starring Olivia de Havilland (2,4,3,3)

18 Johnny Cash album, released in 1971 (3,2,5)

21 Florentine sculptor (1386-1466) (9)

22 Capital of Chile (8)

24 See 26

26/24 German Augustinian monk, author of *The Imitation of Christ* (6,1,6)

29 Barbara, actress who played Anya Amasova in the Bond film *The Spy Who Loved Me* (4)

Although the FT is not printed on December 26 and 27, new crosswords will appear on those days on the app - ft.com/crosswordapp

Solution 1,209

