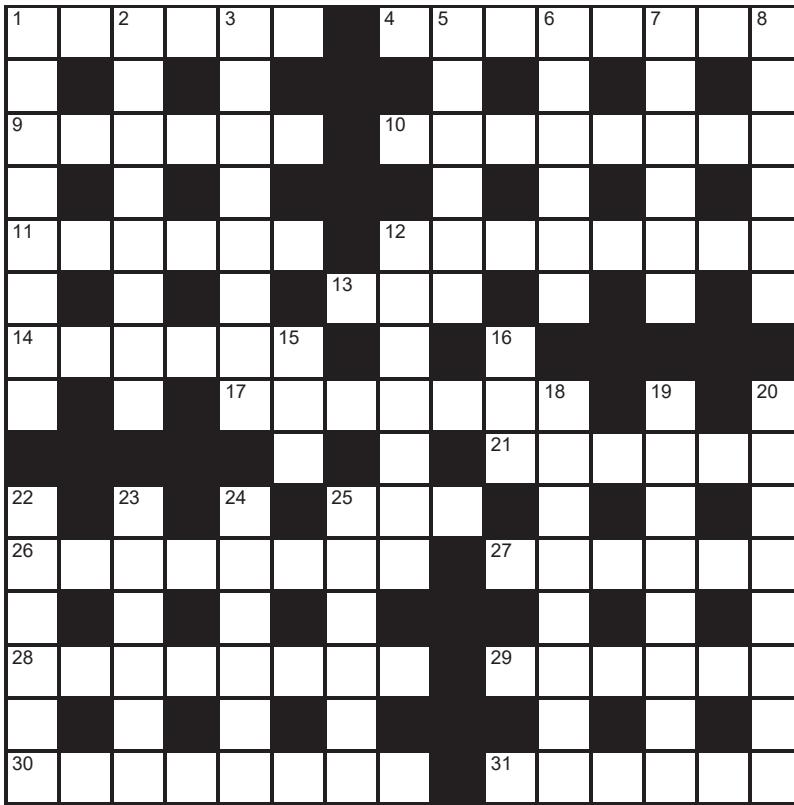
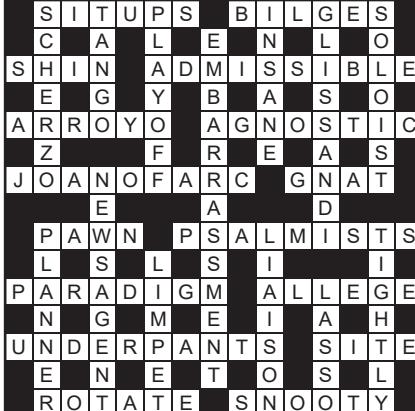


CROSSWORD No 17,619 by GUY



Solution 17,618



For all the FT's festive puzzles, including the news puzzle of the year, scan the QR code or go to ft.com/crosswordapp, where you can also access FT crosswords over the last 30 days — cryptic, Polymath, Weekend and Sunday puzzles



ACROSS

- Good attendant who's excessively effusive (6)
- I chip away at vanishing plutocrats in difficulty (8)
- Sugar's inside not outside this sweet (6)
- Black cat mostly subject to temple (8)
- Aviator, say, is French soul returning to trouble (6)
- A rep's upset, scoffed, and cut off (8)
- Conclusive difficulty (3)
- Style from chap dismissing last point of irritating fool (6)
- Right about don (7)
- And the rest His Eminence had eaten into (6)
- Guy drops a pen (3)
- English and US spies in equal decay (8)
- New cinema is certainly not ruddy short of spirit in US (6)
- A pound abandoned by elite soldiers, for example (8)
- Mourn unconvincing collection of books (6)
- Happily one rates boom (8)
- One's screwed in credit cut (6)

DOWN

- Info on woman embracing Romeo cop in Rouen (8)
- This wine if repackaged could be sure neat (8)
- Who tests whirling chopper and digger (8)
- County central to gutsy drink (6)
- Suffer little Henry being destructive (6)
- Eg, Sweeney Todd's unbridled wealth (3,3)
- Warden found in right huff (6)
- Screen release (7)
- King's Cross in support of sappers (3)
- Custom trick with no hint of roguery (3)
- Individual in theatre is prehistoric (5-3)
- Cold actor on a last drop of his drink (8)
- Orator interrupting rising discourteous teacher (8)
- What could stun you about eastern riddle? (6)
- Cold spuds (6)
- Dream is one playing under Victor (6)
- Saint covering, eg, elder's passage (6)

JOTTER PAD