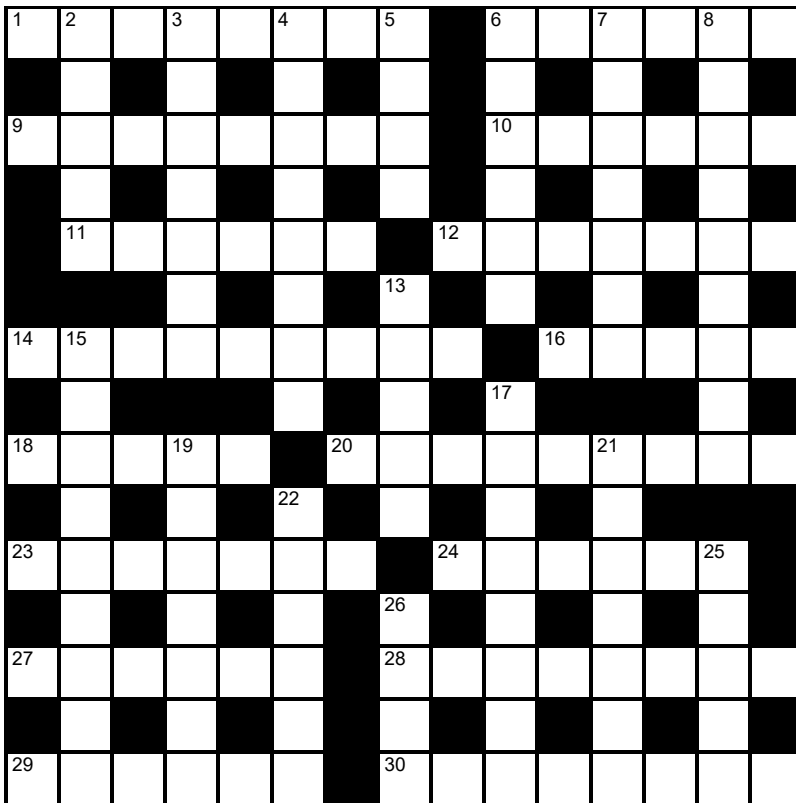


CROSSWORD No 17,930 by IO



ACROSS

- 1 Lover of *Strictly's* music, Spooner says she'll impress but not win (5,3)
 6 Some breakfast to start Christmas Eve? That's (spoiler) unlike Santa (6)
 9 Time zone limits merry cycling campaign (3,5)
 10 Say sergeant may come in before bonus at carol concert? (6)
 11 Taking bribe, squiffy Eric's swigging VSOP by the neck (6)
 12 Sparkly tinsel gracing the launch of auspicious occasions (7)
 14 Goldilocks perhaps beginning to charmingly flatter bears (9)
 16 Meaningful expression drives Man (5)
 18 Lifted with sheltered women that excitedly unwrap presents (5)
 20 Action coordinators in clubs knocking back beer are revolting (9)
 23 Messages etc sadly incomplete — PIN forgotten (7)
 24 At night following route from Orient with others ... (2,4)
 27 ... whence they come in worship and aspiration (6)
 28 Opening chocolate selection, say 'Let's do it!' (4,4)
 29 One drummer drumming, confrontationally (6)
 30 I act on impulse, awed reverential air dissipating (8)

JOTTER PAD

DOWN

- 2 Decant more wine, do you hear, as required (2,3)
 3 Something entertaining about bishop introducing uplifting times (7)
 4 New gathering of fireside worshippers (8)
 5 The point where cries from the stable are audible (4)
 6 Vocal, as waiter may be during break at table? (6)
 7 One of three kings free to take tea (7)
 8 A bit of rustic stuffing can turn around a seasonal turkey? Hardly (5,4)
 13 These days you'll feast at regular intervals (5)
 15 Ruin plans for stewed pear and prune (9)
 17 Exhausted reindeer refuelled by shop selling online tonic? (8)
 19 Correct — it *never* happened at midnight! (7)
 21 It's poetic, Ebenezer's first reminder about past record (7)
 22 Fairy folk assigned to uncompromising stable proprietor (6)
 25 Stand with time-honoured festival decorating tree (5)
 26 White layer at a special time (4)



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