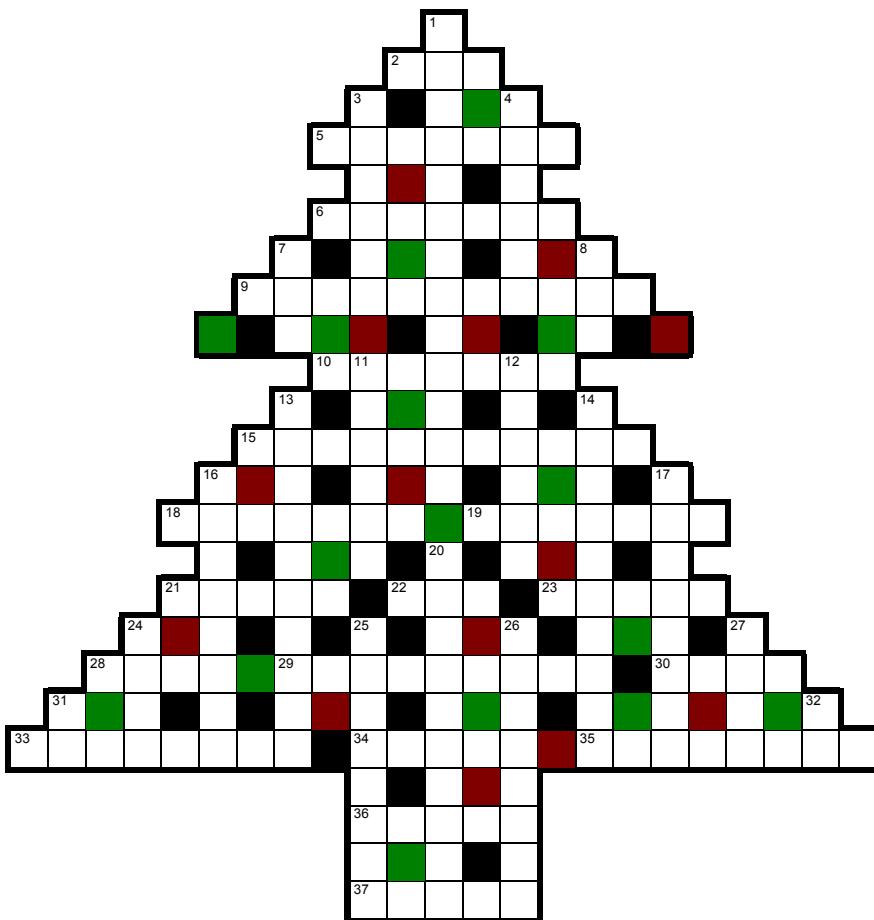


Christmas Cryptic 2008

For clues 31 and 32, the numbering should be 31,31 (2-2) and 32,32,32 (2,2,2) respectively.

Set by Qaos



Across

- 2 Amateur phony goes topless (3)
- 5 Dog sounding crazy? (7)
- 6 Battle leader's explosive delivery? (7)
- 9 He sells bling (trash, not new) that makes jingle, jingle sounds (6,5)
- 10 Using fire, try to scare someone (7)
- 15 Spooner's aggressive battles lead to decorations (5,6)
- 18 Deliver gift now! (7)
- 19 Presbyterian leader managed church right for festive 25 (7)
- 21/22/23 Delightfully quick drink with sugar (5,3,5)
- 28 Cheat edges away from writer (4)
- 29 Oldies lie about fuel (6,3)
- 30 Spoil 28's resident? (4)
- 33 Opera playing in a hotel? (8)
- 34 "Out of this world" travel agency starts to learn about the airways (5)
- 35 Examiner is sour and very angry (8)
- 36 Get out English opener for 6 (caught) (5)
- 37 Villain's make-up is a little bit twisted? (5)

Down

- 1/20 Carol's large ankles and thighs - her nightmare! (4,3,6,6,4)
- 3 A small farm pig regularly becomes seasoned meat (6)
- 4 Breath in to be healthy (6)
- 7 Moose hides in Selkirk (3)
- 8 Santa's little helper is somewhat selfish (3)
- 11 Stray and trip for a job (6)
- 12 Form of number (6)
- 13 Game played with string whips 28 (4,6)
- 14 Street, one with all small blocks (10)
- 16 Ban for Hello! piece (8)
- 17 Last month, a Geordie presenter was found in a fire? (8)
- 20 See 1
- 24 A whale returning in a cross mood (4)
- 25 "It's typical UK weather, darling!", said the beast (8)
- 26 Game that's a matter of life and death in Moscow (8)
- 27 Love Beethoven's 1st? Love a string instrument (4)
- 31 Toy for beginners - you're only young once (2-2)
- 32 Lots of gas mingled with much love leads to festive laughter (2,2,2)