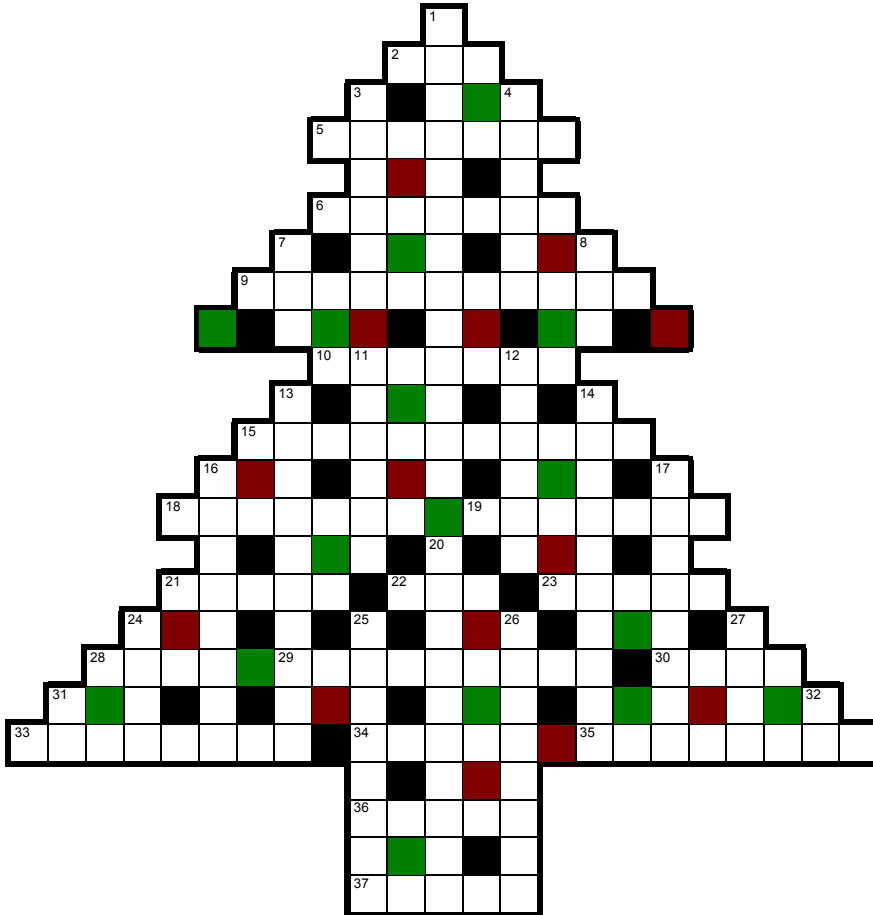


## Christmas Cryptic 2008

*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)