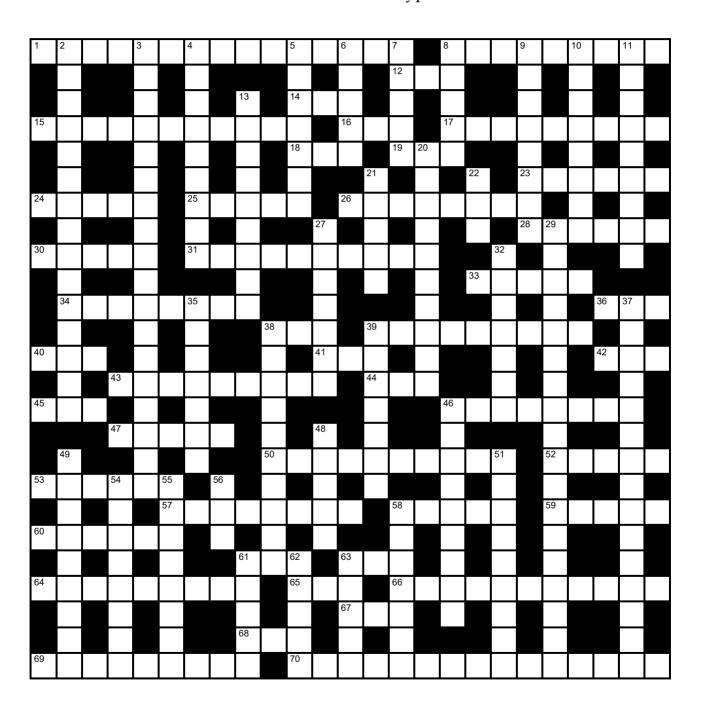
Seasonal Special 2017

A festive themed cryptic



Across

- **1** A 46d, 13, 26, 55, 43, 57, 41 60 (8,7)
- 8 A section, it's said, speak up for bringing an end to hostilities (5,4)
- 12 Brew ale in a field (3)
- **14** Curve found in star chart (3)
- **15** Hip scarcity makes one focus on the mind (11)
- **16** Best flyer held up sleeve (3)
- **17** It's complicated to give a speech after the Spanish tequila bomb chasers (9)
- 18 Half of this gift basket is meat! (3)
- **19** The title is within, as I recall (3)
- **23** Sorry to say that endless diary fad has returned (6)
- 24 Flowers for a girl, Marge (5)
- **25** Unimaginative gifts turn out to be hits (5)
- **26** Getting to grips with horse with nasty sprain internally (8)
- **28** Closeted blasphemer gets to come out (6)
- **30** Questioned being assigned a job without any time (5)
- **31** I put frocks through the wringer to provide support (5,2,3)
- **33** Bistro astounds by unveiling Sunday menu (5)
- 34 Go away, or lug Ann about (3,5)
- **36** For starters, all mince pies have currents (3)
- 38 That's an obsolete format, friend (3)
- **39** Dictatorship of crooked actuary holding company back (9)
- **40** I believe that we hear a farewell (3)
- 41 Formerly toiled every second (3)

Down

- **2** Continental capital begins to grow, served by Turkey (8,7)
- 3 I gain a light skimmed variety from the cowgirls they sing about (5,5,1-7)
- **4** Writers attempt lists without learning (9)
- 5 Stretching, arrives at far-off locations (7)
- 6 Inventor of razor goes nought to 200 in the morning (5)
- 7 Helpers having elevenses un-seen (5)
- 8 Take pics of her majesty for tabloid, e.g. (5)
- 9 Cot initially bought at great expense can entertain two or three who like pegging (and it comes with a box) (8)
- **10** Repeater can be fruitful in autumn (4,4)
- 11 Resident of number 10 sees four fifths of party gone at general election (9)
- 13 Songbird dynasty putting on a turn (9)
- **20** Missing cone reconstruction can teach us a thing or two (10)
- 21 Snow formation has every other dork in fits (5)
- **22** Tree sounds very cosy (3)
- **27** Broadcast of Brynner diary is a festive treat ... (4,3)
- 29 ... e.g. The King And I stuns, Rent I'm moved they make such wonderful sounds (7,11)
- **32** Food lover's uric acid retention enthralls foremost resident medical examiner (7)
- 35 Badly timed to get left out (7)

- **42** Famously irrational Eastern cuisine (3)
- **43** Taking hold of eggs with clipped wing (9)
- 44 Broken arm will leave a mark (3)
- 45 Wood has snapped (3)
- **46** Table places southeast (two-time leaders) ahead of Yorkshire marshland (8)
- **47** Six headless cattle handy when pulling a sleigh (5)
- **50** Make a living off 42 or 58a? (4,1,5)
- **52** Transport found in science fiction protects one's neck (5)
- **53** He wrote 70's book (6)
- 57 Company block America's green... (8)
- 58 ... money from macabre adverts (5)
- 59 Catholic taking the Anglican establishment out to wine and dine (5)
- **60** You deserve to be punished, knocking back Rennies without direction... (6)
- **61** ...it's not right to break wind at large (3)
- 63 Stock is a cross between two eggs (3)
- **64** Popular 22 jocks yearn for ... (5,4)
- 65 ... one of three French birds (3)
- 66 Someone who's had too many 2, perhaps, is useful when exposed to the elements (11)
- 67 Shining example of 8d ... (3)
- 68 ...who use chaos to get the girl... (3)
- 69 ... and are sold by modern South African chap (9)
- **70** Thatcherism's far from this red wealth redistributor (6,9)

- **37** "I'm mean", dramatise fake news outlets (10,5)
- 38 Spoil any used attic hat stripped of a red flower (10)
- **39** Naval officer will endlessly look favourably on Alabama (7)
- **46** Queen's zig zag, forcing a way through (9)
- **48** Singular charlatan loses nothing in contest (5)
- **49** An eccentric would serve it with cheese (9)
- 51 Double-Ds concealed loosely by a tree make a lovely, cuddly present (5,4)
- 54 Without American English, genius tenors would be right back where they came from (8)
- 55 Barely managing to dispose of unclothed kings (8)
- **56** One of two girls who hang around together these days (3)
- 58 Chocolate cake is like a drug heroin, that is! (7)
- 61 ...or quickly taking ecstasy at dinner(5)
- **62** It's criminal to have idly eaten figs initially... (5)
- 63 ...beginning with fruity stone (5)