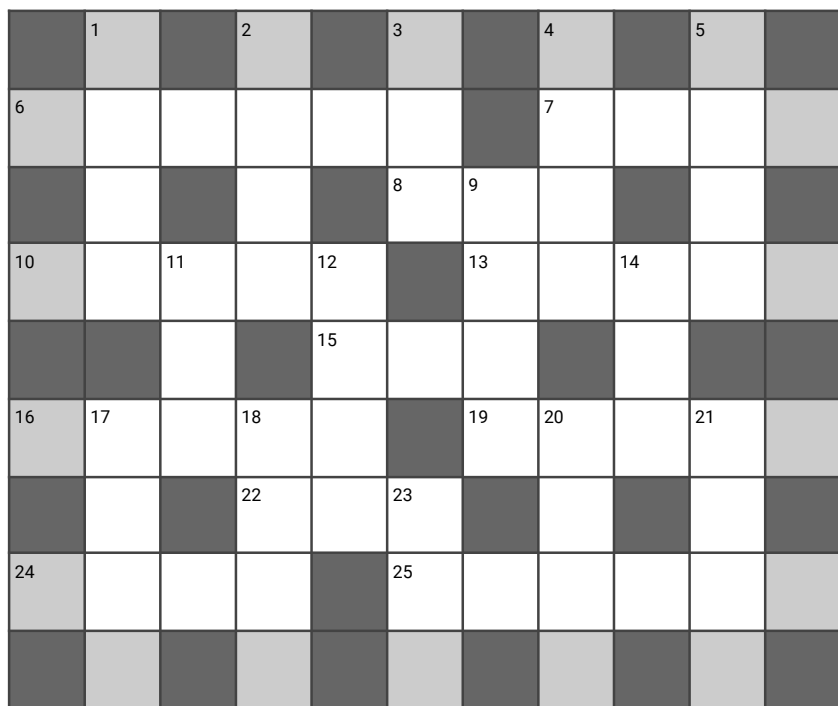


2024 Christmas crossword

by Tennisbat and Kazoo



Cryptic clues

ACROSS

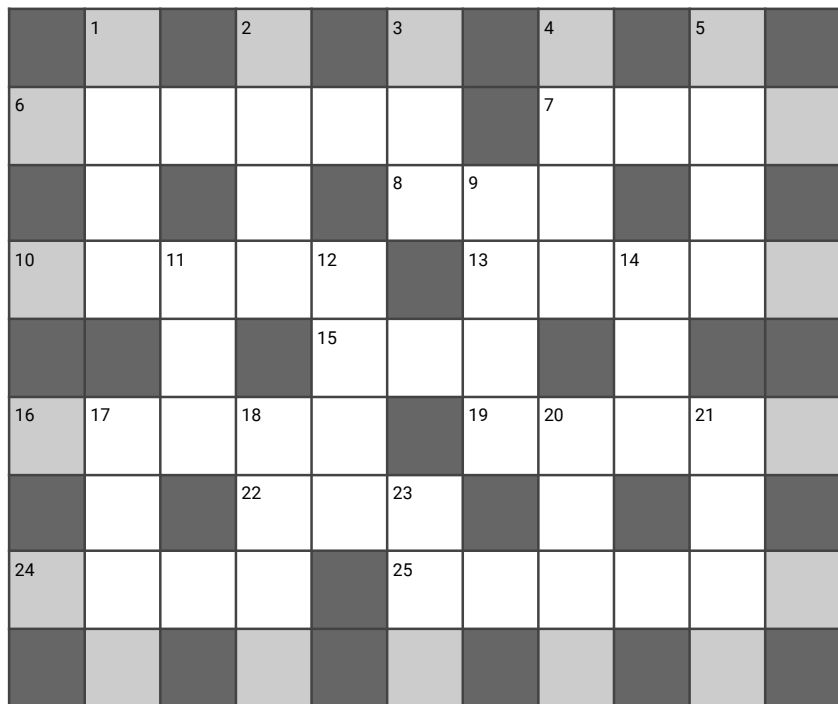
- 6** Raging in stuffier cellar (6)
7 A quiet old peak (4)
8 Post-production work leads to contractors getting involved (1.1.1.)
10 Stretch right before funny ache (5)
13 Resistance may follow in the style of French terror (5)
15 I make omelettes and routinely engage (3)
16 Wild swimmer totters endlessly (5)
19 Seasonal toy distributor is a saint in Spain (5)
22 Advantages for publicity (3)
24 Superlative copies taken from composites (4)
25 Makes changes before PM is finished (6)

DOWN

- 1** Performer: "Me? I'm baffled!" (4)
2 A man from America (4)
3 Pressed on camera regarding copyright (3.)
4 Berate scandalous liar (4)
5 Tidy earner holding for twelve months (4)
9 Jokes and chokes (4)
11 Even mascot is part of a play (3)
12 Drove the road, no tow-start needed (4)
14 Without measure, announce a lady's name (3)
17 Grand – what you used to be (4)
18 Points around at food (4)
20 Somehow wane all over again (4)
21 A list of faint odours (2-2)
23 Sedentary and posed for a portrait (3)

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Conventional clues

ACROSS

- 6** Raging (6)
- 7** Peak (4)
- 8** Post-production work, initialism (1.1.1.)
- 10** Stretch (5)
- 13** Terror (5)
- 15** Omelette ingredient (3)
- 16** Carnivorous animal (5)
- 19** Father Christmas (5)
- 22** Publicity (3)
- 24** Superlative (4)
- 25** Makes changes (6)

DOWN

- 1** Silent performer (4)
- 2** ___ Idle, *Monty Python* star (4)
- 3** Camera button, abbreviation (3.)
- 4** Berate (4)
- 5** Twelve months (4)
- 9** Chokes (4)
- 11** Part of a play (3)
- 12** Group of cattle (4)
- 14** ___ Widdecombe, politician and former *Strictly* star (3)
- 17** Old form of "you" (4)
- 18** Consumes (4)
- 20** Again (4)
- 21** Type of list (2-2)
- 23** Sedentary (3)

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Solutions

	M		E		R		R		Y	
F	I	E	R	C	E		A	P	E	X
	M		I		C	G	I		A	
R	E	A	C	H		A	L	A	R	M
		C		E	G	G		N		
O	T	T	E	R		S	A	N	T	A
	H		A	D	S		N		O	
M	O	S	T		A	M	E	N	D	S
	U		S		T		W		O	

6A FIERCE

Raging=definition

in=containment indicator

stuffer cellar=containment fodder

7A APEX

A=a

quiet=p ["piano", musical abbreviation]

old=ex [in the sense of "former"]

peak=definition

8A C.G.I.

Post-production work=definition

leads to=initial-letter indicator

contractors getting

involved=initial-letter fodder

10A REACH

Stretch=definition

right=r [compare "l" for left]

before=placement indicator

funny=anagram indicator

ache=anagram fodder

13A ALARM

Resistance=r [physics abbreviation]

may=M [calendar abbreviation]

follow=placement indicator

in the style of, French=à la

terror=definition

15A EGG

I make omelettes=definition

and=linkword

routinely=alternation indicator

engage=alternation fodder

16A OTTER

Wild swimmer=definition

totters=central-letter fodder

endlessly=central-letter indicator

19A SANTA

Seasonal toy distributor=definition

is=linkword

a saint in Spain=definition

22A ADS

Advantages=ADs [tennis abbreviation]

for=linkword

publicity=definition

24A MOST

Superlative=definition

copies=subtracted part

taken from=subtraction indicator

composites=subtraction fodder

25A AMENDS

Makes changes=definition

before PM=AM [morning before afternoon]

is finished=ends

1D MIME

Performer=definition

Me? I'm=anagram fodder

baffled=anagram indicator

2D ERIC

A man=definition

from=containment indicator

America=containment fodder

3D REC.

Pressed on camera=definition

regarding=re [in emails]

copyright=c [(C) symbol]

4D RAIL

Berate=definition

scandalous=anagram indicator

liar=anagram fodder

5D YEAR

Tidy earner=containment fodder

holding=containment indicator

for=linkword

twelve months=definition

9D GAGS

Jokes=definition

and=linkword

chokes=gags

11D ACT

Even=alternation indicator

mascot=alternation fodder

is=linkword

part of a play=definition

12D HERD

Drove=definition

the road=the rd=subtraction fodder

no [...] needed=subtraction indicator

tow-start=t=subtracted part

14D ANN

Without=subtraction indicator

measure=ounce=subtracted part

announce=subtraction fodder

a lady's name=definition

17D THOU

Grand=thou[sand]=definition

what "you" used to be=definition

18D EATS

Points=E,S [compass points]

around=placement indicator

at=at

food=definition

20D ANEW

Somehow=anagram indicator

wane=anagram fodder

all over again=definition

21D TO-DO

A list=definition

of=containment indicator

faint odours=containment fodder

23D SAT

Sedentary=definition

and=linkword

posed for a portrait=definition