2024 Christmas crossword

by Tennisbat and Kazoo

# Cryptic grid

|  | 1 |  | 2 |  | 3 |  | 4 |  | 5 |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 6 |  |  |  |  |  |  | 7 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | 8 | 9 |  |  |  |  |
| 10 |  | 11 |  | 12 |  | 13 |  | 14 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | 15 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 16 | 17 |  | 18 |  |  | 19 | 20 |  | 21 |  |
|  |  |  | 22 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 24 |  |  |  |  | 25 |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

# **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

**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 grid

|  | 1 |  | 2 |  | 3 |  | 4 |  | 5 |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 6 |  |  |  |  |  |  | 7 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | 8 | 9 |  |  |  |  |
| 10 |  | 11 |  | 12 |  | 13 |  | 14 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | 15 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 16 | 17 |  | 18 |  |  | 19 | 20 |  | 21 |  |
|  |  |  | 22 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 24 |  |  |  |  | 25 |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

# 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

**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*   
stuffier cellar*=containment fodder*

**7A** **APEX**   
A*=a*   
quiet*=p [piano]*   
old*=ex*   
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*   
before*=placement indicator*   
funny*=anagram indicator*   
ache*=anagram fodder*

**13A** **ALARM**   
Resistance*=r [physics]*   
may*=M [month]*   
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]*   
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*   
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 cam- era*=definition*   
regarding*=re*   
copyright*=c*

**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*