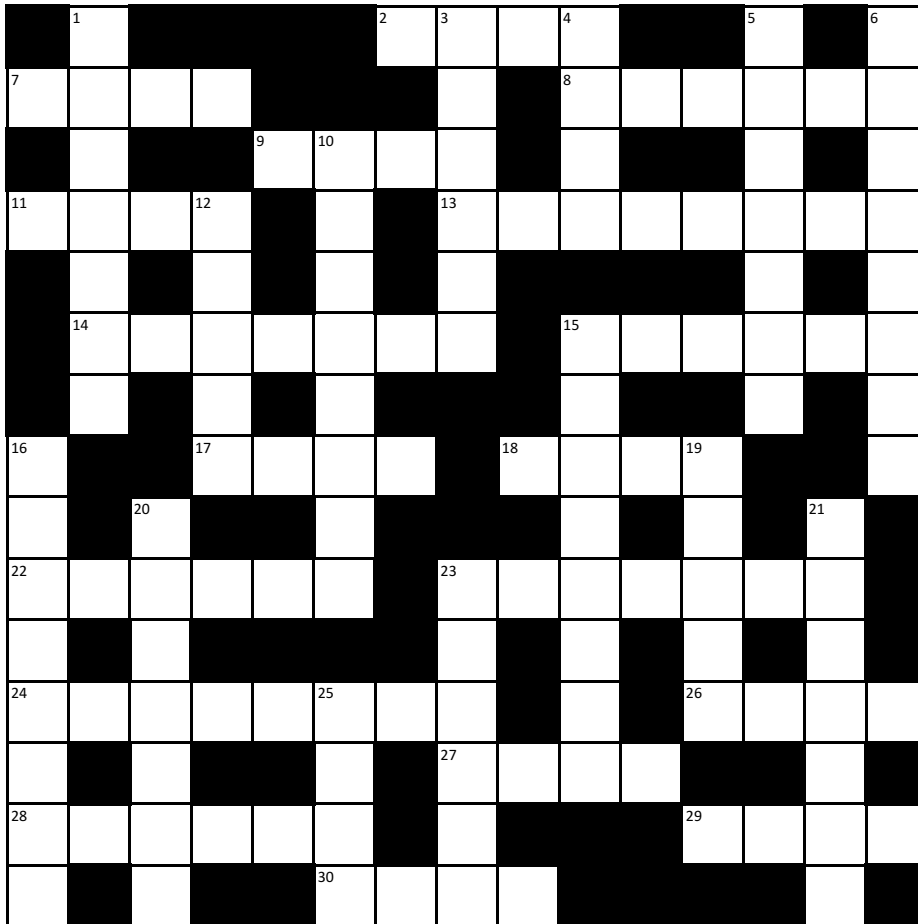


Shh! All Down clues contain a twist, as suggested by an Across answer which illustrates the theme. All across clues are normal.



ACROSS:

- 2, 29a Leading light reinterpreted past role (4,4)
- 7, 9a Smack public figure (8)
- 8 Canary of the sea-blue cage: unrestrained, free! (6)
- 9 See 7-across
- 11 Overheard in Pakistan: 'You and you, guard the road!' (4)
- 13 Dreary, oppressive, lifeless - interior of a coffee palace, perhaps? (3,5)
- 14 Rally cars may get lost, especially in the US (7)
- 15 Go wrong with assignment (6)
- 17 Let out a cry of pain in cowardly shriek (4)
- 18 It's seen now and then in our ocean (4)
- 22 Pretty bored, but outside chance of game (6)
- 23 Criminal pushes drug before church in N.T. (7)
- 24 Russian-American we first saw in non-aligned state (4-4)
- 26 Monster recall of lite white yoghurt (4)
- 27 Echoing liftshafts (4)
- 28 Jack captivated by song from holy land? (7)
- 29 See 2-across
- 30 Timeless plaything that comes back repeatedly! (2-2)

DOWN:

- 1 Lie on top of partner? (7)
- 3 Acceptable, but not just yet (6/3,3)
- 4 Live for an opportunity to window shop (4)
- 5 Official thinking is to fill this with fish (7)
- 6 Start before usual time, at great personal cost (5,3/8)
- 10 Place too much reliance on member of congregation (or flock) (8)
- 12 Withdraw remark of 29-across (5)
- 15 Lack opportunity to ride my bicycle to work? (8/5,3)
- 16 Old fruit's celebration in UK provides a spot of colour (5,3/8)
- 19 Have a go at the idiot! (5)
- 20 Last longer than tough (7)
- 21 Refuse help when putting out small fire (7)
- 23 Take five wandering animals away from their owner legally (6)
- 25 Both of us plan to pay some on-road costs (1-3,4)