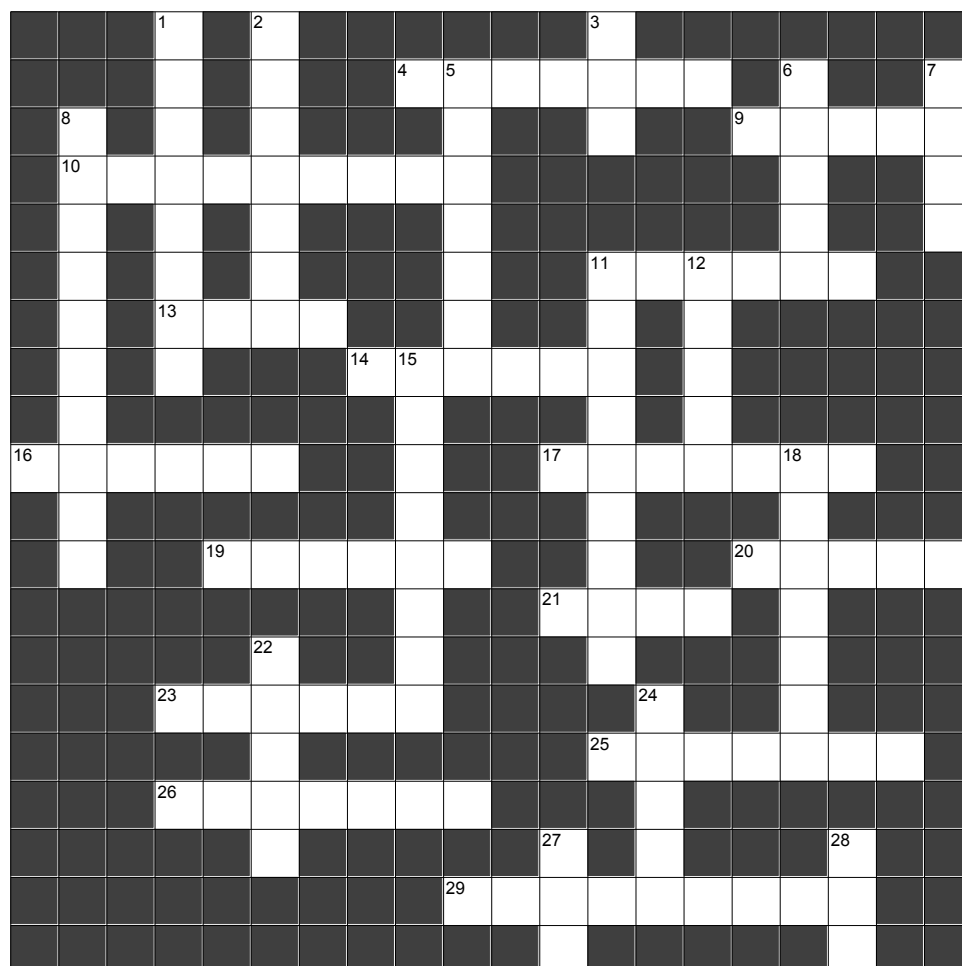


Christmas Article.

By

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To mark the festive season, this week's column is a 'lucky bag' containing a crossword puzzle, a few jokes and quotations and some miscellaneous remarks on Christmas.



Created with EclipseCrossword — www.eclipsecrossword.com

Across

4. He discovered penicillin.
9. A radioactive particle.
10. These move when electric current flows.
11. A close relative of humans.
13. Heart of nuclear reactor.
14. Basic component of light.
16. He is called the father of genetics.
17. He won Nobel Prizes for chemistry and for peace.
19. Nuclear process that provides energy in stars.
20. Ultimate building block of matter.
21. Mysterious matter.
23. Famous Irish priest-scientist.

25. Proposed theory of continental drift.
26. Greenhouse gas emitted by farting cattle.
29. It was re-named Sellafield.

Down

1. He proposed Gaia hypothesis.
2. He disproved spontaneous generation of life.
3. The AIDS virus.
5. Soviet geneticist promoted by Stalin.
6. An identical biological copy.
7. Light travels in this form.
8. Formulated Uncertainty Principle.
11. Project that developed first atomic bomb.
12. He invented dynamite.
15. The lightest element.
18. Neutral particle in atomic nucleus.
22. Outermost planet of solar system.
24. Second closest to sun.
27. Chemical nature of gene.
28. Where life began.

The common abbreviation Xmas for Christmas is derived from the Greek alphabet. X is the letter Chi, the first letter of Christ's name in the Greek alphabet.

Cromwell thought that Christmas should be a very solemn day so he banned Christmas Carols. The only celebration allowed was a sermon and a prayer service.

The Puritans in America tried to make Thanksgiving Day the most important annual festival instead of Christmas.

26th December, traditionally known here as St. Stephen's Day, is more commonly known as Boxing Day in England. This is because money was collected in alms-boxes placed in churches during the festive season. This money was distributed to the poor after Christmas.

Firing from the German trenches suddenly stopped at midnight on Christmas Eve 1914. A German brass band began playing Christmas carols. Early, Christmas morning, the German soldiers emerged from their trenches, approaching the allied lines, calling "Merry Christmas". At first the allied soldiers were suspicious, but they soon climbed out of their trenches and shook hands with the German soldiers. The truce lasted a few days, and the men exchanged gifts of cigarettes and plum pudding, sang carols and songs, and played a game of soccer.

Why did the chicken cross the road? Isaac Newton: "Chickens at rest tend to stay at rest, chickens in motion tend to cross roads."

Two atoms bump into each other. One says, "I think I lost an electron!" The other asks, "Are you sure?", to which the first replies, "I'm positive."

Rene Descartes walks into a bar and the bartender says "Sir can I get you a martini?" Descartes says, "I don't think ..." and he disappears.

Heisenberg is out for a drive when he is stopped by a traffic cop. The cop says, "Do you know how fast you were going?" Heisenberg says, "No, but I know where I am."

Quotations.

"We used to think that our fate was in our stars. Now we know that, in large measure, our fate is in our genes." By James D. Watson (1928-).

"All medicine discoveries may be summarised in the short formula: water, if moderately drunk, isn't harmful." By Mark Twain (1835-1910).

"The homeopathic physician is the humourist of the medical profession." By Ambrose Gwinnett Bierce (1842-1914).

"Anyone who conducts an argument by appealing to Authority is not using his intelligence, he is just using his memory." By Leonardo da Vinci (1452-1519).

"There is no higher or lower knowledge, but one only, flowing out of experimentation." By Leonardo da Vinci.

"In questions of science the authority of a thousand is not worth the humble reasoning of a single individual." By Galileo Galilei (1564-1642).

"Thus, the task is, not so much to see what no one has yet seen, but to think what nobody has yet thought, about that which everybody sees." By Erwin Schrodinger (1887-1961).

"We may define "faith" as a firm belief in something for which there is not evidence Where there is evidence, no one speaks of "faith. We only speak of faith when we wish to substitute emotion for evidence." By Bertrand Russell (1872-1970).

"Prediction is very difficult, especially about the future." Niels Bohr (1885-1962).

"I don't mind your thinking slowly: I mind your publishing faster than you think." Wolfgang Pauli (1900-1958).

Best wishes to all for a peaceful and happy Christmas.

SOLUTION TO CROSSWORD

6. **CLONE**—An identical biological copy.
7. **WAVE**—Light travels in this form.
8. **HEISENBERG**—Formulated Uncertainty Principle.
11. **MANHATTAN**—Project that developed first atomic bomb.
12. **NOBEL**—He invented dynamite.
15. **HYDROGEN**—The lightest element.
18. **NEUTRON**—Neutral particle in atomic nucleus.
22. **PLUTO**—Outermost planet of solar system.
24. **VENUS**—Second closest to sun.
27. **DNA**—Chemical nature of gene.
28. **SEA**—Where life began.

(This article first appeared in The Irish Times, December 18, 2003.)