

2742:

## The Hobbit

by CheeseCracker

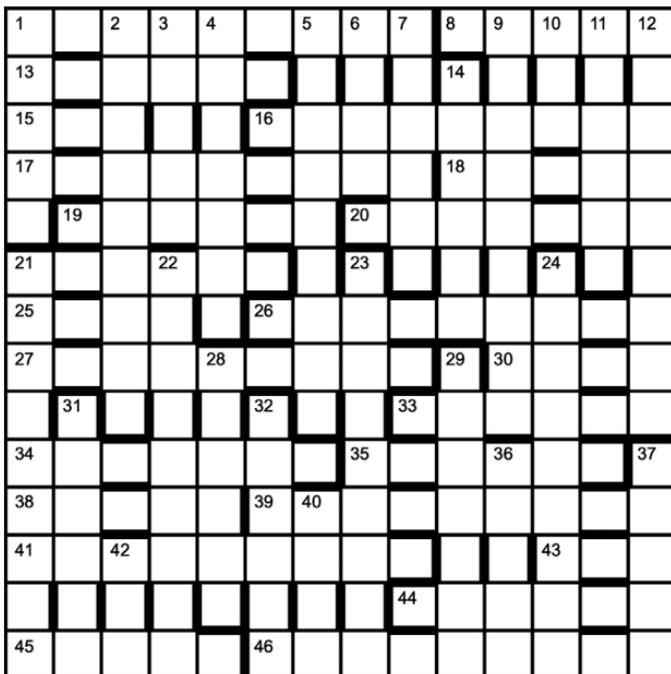
Eight unclued entries (three of two words) possess a property implied by the title's other title.

### Across

- 8 King stops silly plan (5)  
 13 Hindu retreat remains half-packed (6)  
 15 In favour of 60% spirit strength? (3)  
 16 Old committee in power demurs, failing India twice (9)  
 18 Elise rejected old vinegar (5)  
 19 Mostly annoyed by introduction of tacky casual wear (1-5)  
 20 Kind people from Ukraine first in discomfort (7)  
 21 Packs of big cats injured two thirds of 9D (6)  
 25 Regularly roughened curve (4)  
 26 Society promised new germinating cells (9)  
 27 Blockage in turbo sent for repair? (9)  
 30 Outcry initially enrages union officer intensely (4)  
 33 My baby, a legendary pianist (6)  
 34 Drink driver's first in *Corrie*, taking an age (4,3)  
 35 Formerly cooler, sent back honour in 91 (6)  
 38 Smart old Marxist?! (5)  
 41 Strong stimuli rouse Tess when dizzy? (9)  
 43 Independent Party's wide-reaching language (3)  
 44 No-hoper caught going round compound (6)  
 45 Part of Upper Dunsforth lost to view (5)

### Down

- 1 Starts off leg and arm exercises involving second slip (5)



- 2 Oscar amid eccentric stoics is hardest to please (9)  
 3 Essentially top former sniffer dog finds edible plant (5)  
 4 Runs after spy that is more irritable (7)  
 5 Engraved plates of wild osprey etc (9)  
 6 Help from half of A-Z (4)  
 7 Lower class is heard (6)  
 10 Boxer from Malibu (3)  
 11 Spoil delivered poultry completely (4,2)  
 14 Dean perhaps mainly stocks current decorated objects (6)  
 23 Temperate capacity to accommodate both sides in injunction (9)  
 24 Adherent of German culture sent out IT broadcast (9)  
 28 Statement overturning figure of speech, right (6)  
 29 Little mortar from English house in Cornwall (7)  
 31 Stick together company at this time (6)  
 32 Cheerful short Scotsman, German and ... that's it! (6)  
 36 Note to avoid almost all of unconventional black tea (5)  
 37 Small chilly shrew (5)  
 40 Key left in uncovered riser (4)  
 42 Gentleman skier, oddly (3)
- A first prize of a £30 John Lewis voucher and two runners-up prizes of £20 vouchers for the first correct solutions opened on 23 March. Please scan or photograph entries and email them (including the crossword number in the subject field) to [crosswords@spectator.co.uk](mailto:crosswords@spectator.co.uk), or post to: Crossword 2742, The Spectator, 22 Old Queen Street, London SW1H 9HP.
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