

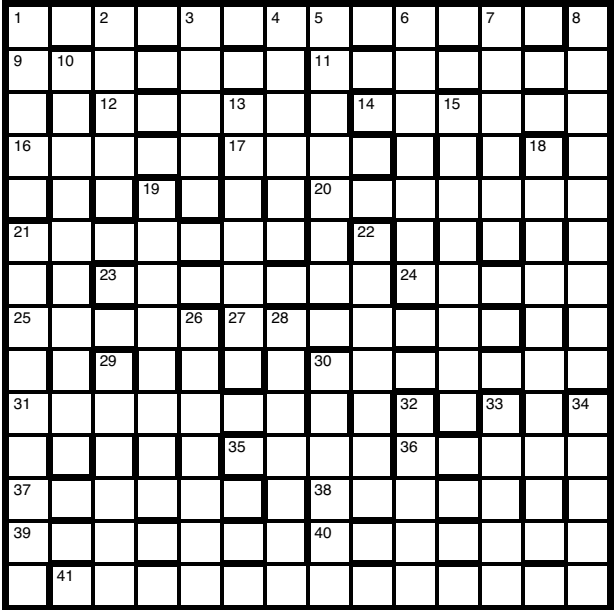
Crossword

2763: Set in London by Fire

Unclued lights, across single or double entries, one entry used twice, follow a theme which is also thus represented.

- Across**
- 1 Western Lake District rambling is not approved by the Union (7,6)
- 9 Rio's crime writer, Romeo, going round in circles (7)
- 11 A faith leader disregarding bishop about drink (7)
- 16 Uninitiated outsiders getting rights to property (5)
- 17 Australian officer accepting off and on fear of flying (4)
- 20 'A flipping cat eats uniform' by hot dramatist (7)
- 21 Self-absorbed people like Oscar getting firsts (7)
- 23 Playing 'Pairs' in the empty pad (7)
- 24 Mr Speaker's gutted to host regressive individual (5)
- 25 Close vacant factory storing footwear (5)
- 31 Without Victoria, sadly can't ever perform again (7)
- 37 Harangue artist in retrospective review (6)
- 38 Dance backwards, embracing grand old swindler (5)
- 39 Make up for almost never returning from home (4,3)
- 40 A close friend beginning to mock POTUS? (7)
- 41 Disparaging reference to models of dryers (13)

- Down**
- 2 Hybrid car engine giving Ferrari feel finally when reversing (5)



- 3 Go in neutral jacket featuring sequins at the front... (5)
- 4 ... to premiere of *The End of Love* with Mississippi idols (6)
- 5 Governors and special forces taking part in uprising (7)
- 6 Spooner's choir is hoarse (7)
- 7 Start to work from home after strike (4,2)
- 8 Chairman wrongly accepted university place, many years ago (9)
- 10 They record fall of a US ageing Republican in turmoil (4,6)
- 13 Sprinkle stain extremely lightly with caustic spirit (7)
- 15 Fixed term contracts in EU end badly (8)
- 22 Playing table tennis isn't cleared or sustainable (7)
- 26 Start of 2027? Party time! (4,3)
- 28 Understanding amongst government enterprises (7)
- 29 Bird in gnarled tree by lake is under pressure (6)
- 30 Somewhat sought after clubhouses? (6)
- 32 Trouble when a horse starts to roll over (5)
- 33 Some animals have these hard or nodulous extremities (5)
- 34 Sends junk plans back; success in the end (5)

A first prize of a £30 John Lewis voucher and two runners-up prizes of £20 vouchers for the first correct solutions opened on 17 August. Please scan or photograph entries and email them (including the crossword number in the subject field) to crosswords@spectator.co.uk, or post to: Crossword 2763, The Spectator, 22 Old Queen Street, London SW1H 9HP.

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