

2771: Steps
by Eumolpus

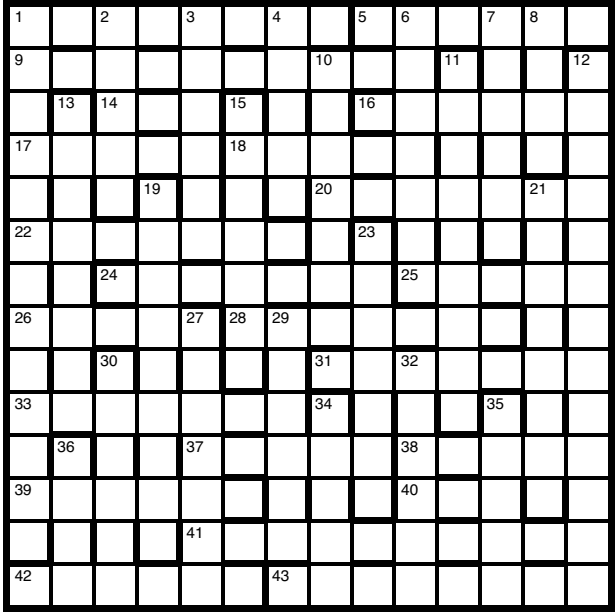
4D 37A are the first and last words in a word ladder. Six unclued lights are synonyms of the intermediate steps and one more defines the pair and must be shaded.

Across

- 1 Good-looker going about clear of towelling thing? (8)
- 5 Early spy group whenever near hostel harden (6)
- 9 I know line in rocky coast – one that smashes stuff up (10)
- 14 Little 'un to try these first three steps (3)
- 16 Check unedifying bedroom first (6)
- 18 Revolting tribe? One unusually nice (5)
- 22 Classifies associated fragments (7)
- 25 Eg, Nero, person in twisted city (7)
- 25 Here! Fly United (5)
- 26 Back of Scot's coal yard, say, that is spooky (5)
- 28 Reservation about fan causes checks (7)
- 31 Amend if incorrect Latin at the end (2,5)
- 33 Most aim for popular number? (7)
- 38 Consent to lose strangeness from plan (5)
- 39 Necklace is cloudy ahead of tests (6)
- 40 Expression of regret from lecturer leaving Leven, say (3)
- 41 A German garden is transformed to make greater (10)
- 42 Slaps son with more than one seaweed (6)

Down

- 1 New bride with Aga to make pleasant fruity dressing (8,5)



- 2 Adds up completely (5)
- 3 Rogue such as Del Boy wasting tons (6)
- 6 Like Tigger's lair – with a mighty whiff inside (7)
- 7 Indian river rising? Yes (6)
- 10 Fury as a college reader gets cut short (6)
- 11 Duke is for appropriate loss no longer (9)
- 12 Sine qua non of doctors outside of accepting day fashion (7,6)
- 13 Grotesque satire's about good cattle bosses (8)
- 21 Crop up again? Renewing mere impulse, as it's said (2-6)
- 23 Peer full of coarse stuffiness (7)
- 27 Lug fine friend around being bit of a deerstalker, perhaps (7)
- 29 Breeding no longer makes sense if short of money (6)
- 30 Box on old-fashioned bar (6)
- 32 For shame! Trusting dog with name close to pathetic (2,4)
- 34 Pollsters getting round a foreign language (5)

- 35 Greeting Liberal after turning up wearing nothing (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 12 October. 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 2771, The Spectator, 22 Old Queen Street, London SW1H 9HP. Please allow six weeks for prize delivery.

Name

Address

.....

.....

Email