Each of the 26 pairs of clues leads to solutions beginning with the letter indicated. In each pair one of the clues leads to a thematic solution, though no thematic definition is given. All 52 clues are presented in strict alphabetical order of their solutions. Solvers have to assign each of the 52 solutions to its correct position in the grid, jigsaw-fashion.

A The Granite City cut short importing French wine (10)
New Zealand to Maoris - a foreign area too! (8)
B Composer of Lulu, heartless harridan (8)

Volumes of support? On the contrary $(4,5)$
C Fungi around Loch and River
Fitzgerald (9)
Small bed with nothing in (4)
D American plunged to German canal, losing top of leg (7)
Go with haulier and tour port near Dublin $(3,9)$
E Heavenly body changing top (6)
She charmed the heart of Leander at oracle (5)
Open country food (9)
Sea-planes go by flats in ragged formation (6-5)
G Showed disapproval as flag finally came down (8)
Thematic solution eating partner's innards (9)
H More enthusiastic judge takes the floor (8)

Husband taking note during 365 days (10)

Team's outside - bowled (4)
One pundit's accepted game giving academic instructions (8)
Half the police would turn out in this old car (3)
Rejoice with psalm on third Sunday after Easter (8)
Bell-tent is OK representing
mathematical 4-D surfaces (5,7)
Aga town is suggested (10)
Resounding football defeat backfires (6)

Patriotic sentiments when Italy lose, maybe (9)

M Carnival day in Indian city holding king and soldier up $(5,4)$
Mother's view of the past. No thanks (5)

N Antelope badly ailing (6) Caesar's now not cold (3)
0 Six deliveries and a single remaining $(3,4)$
River in York and Leeds, initially (5)
P The Bard of Twickenham embracing prince and a king (9)
Devise theatre reconstruction for Attenborough's series $(6,5)$
Q Dodgy medic caught out with ecstasy will tremble (5)
Would become tranquilized with indri (7)

R NE racecourse favourite providing welcome for celebrities $(3,6)$ Note always abridged (5)
S Day gets in trouble making stable (9) Small flounder (7)
T His Excellency gets 100 poisha (6) Note sign on the rationale about the doctrine of final causes (10)
U "..., ... and away" for starters! (5) Posh covering at dockside, when queen leaves country (7)
V In France, dishes out Levi's - sale! (9) Half a dozen in verse overturned (5)
W New mallow mixed for one attending a health clinic (4-5)
Remains outside the Big Apple, backtracking (7)
$\mathbf{X}$ Ten colony members hiding dislike for salts (9)
Credit card returned (4)
Y Fairy and pixie going west (6) Heart of cypress at battle ground (5)
Z Huge number not poorly on hill in Jerusalem (4)
A couple of menageries (6)


Name
Address

A selection of A\&C Black reference books will be awarded to the senders of the first three correct entries opened on Wednesday January 2. Entries, using the form above and marked Christmas Crossword on the envelope, should be sent to Weekend FT, One Southwark Bridge,
 London SE1 9HL. Solution and winners will be printed on Saturday January 5.

Solution 14,193


Solution 14,182


