

2669: Partners

in crime

by Fire

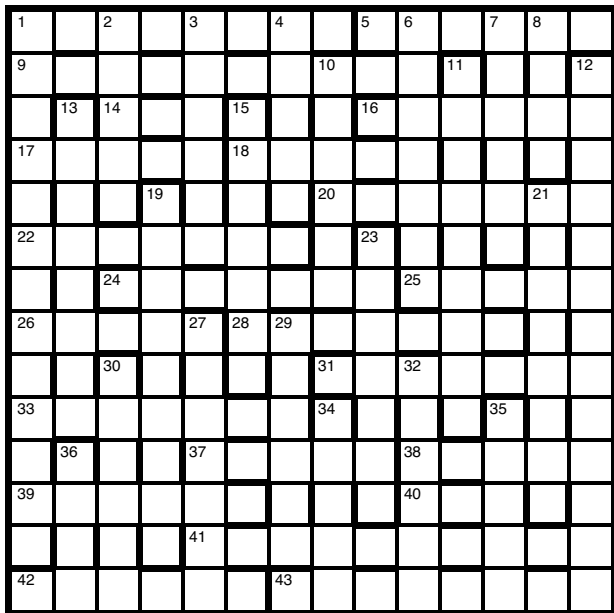
Four pairs of unclued lights are all similarly linked.

Across

- 5 Mark sample of class essays (6)
- 9 I'm beginning to like hot chap's twinkling of an eye (10)
- 14 Beginning of oxidation on iron container? (3)
- 17 One who chooses mixed ramen (5)
- 18 Of sound mind, regularly returns wearing gold ring (5)
- 20 Followers regret taking European money (7)
- 22 Half of Earth's journey round Sun used for retaining heat ... (7)
- 24 ... is lacking energy in orbit (7)
- 25 Direct lines to the centre of Leningrad I installed (5)
- 26 Biting cold and dry outside (5)
- 28 Frank doffs cap to old money (7)
- 31 Shooting *Night Hunter* in Crosby? (7)
- 33 Go over old misfortune (7)
- 37 People like you pay elevated energy rates suspiciously at first (5)
- 39 Jug broken? A farce! (6)
- 40 Drop backchat (3)
- 41 He's cruel, despicable, heartless, wild. Pick a different date! (10)
- 43 Remarkably fine (4, 4)

Down

- 1 Table-thumping? (7-6)
- 2 Diamond ring tucked into case of roguish doctor (5)



- 3 He raps about help getting to the top (6)
- 4 Food transporter cycles mile around university (5)
- 6 Muppet's mode of transport (7)
- 7 Make a mistake with commission (6)
- 8 Every now and then poodles rolled in mud (4)
- 10 New dramas in old city (6)
- 11 Ray's ill, I'm upset too (9)
- 12 Navigation aid where Nile gets windy (8,5)
- 13 Tightrope walker's pole gets cut in the middle (8)
- 21 Suffering ennui, so I get organised (8)
- 23 Regret concerning inspector (7)
- 27 Cook with fat ocean fish (4,3)
- 30 Ban on large amount of ale (6)
- 34 Steady couple (5)
- 35 Row of popular guests (5)
- 36 Use wind power? South Africa replaces a third of fossil fuel (4)

A first prize of £30 and two runners-up prizes of £20 for the first correct solutions opened on 16 September. 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 2669, The Spectator, 22 Old Queen Street, London SW1H 9HP. Please allow six weeks for prize delivery. The dictionary prize is not available at present.

Doc writes: This week we welcome Fire to the Spectator compiling team.

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