

Fourteen unclued lights comprise seven pairs.

Across

- 7 Looked for nothing when leader makes a U-turn? (6)
- 12 Medical instruments deal with something breaking old cast (9)
- 13 Maybe Queen’s speech is without purpose, on reflection (5)
- 15 Shot bird left, eaten by parasite (9)
- 16 Twins, perhaps extremely amoral, notable (6)
- 21 European dictionary contains chestnut for ‘imitated’ (6)
- 22 Wasted new mortgage in Scotland (6)
- 24 Coterie didn’t regularly boast duke (2-5)
- 27 Cut shaft, losing line (3)
- 28 Bird’s bone uncovered (3)
- 32 Think ancient Persian priests will stop in east (7)
- 33 Times introducing trendy revolutionary snack (6)
- 34 Port that is red (6)
- 38 Press release before opening of enormous great structure (6)
- 41 More than one cocktail is a quid, surprisingly, around Ireland (9)
- 42 Exhaust unserviceable, emissions primarily amiss (3,2)
- 43 Hard test crushes son, at sea, way behind the rest (9)

Down

- 2 Just this splits bare metals (7)
- 3 Aussie idiot’s no good around legside (4)
- 4 Acetone almost corrupted sulphur compounds (7)

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- 5 Foot, mine being bathed in English ceremony (8)
- 6 Pier having a black appearance? (5)
- 10 Catch broadcast of what golfer may have done (4)
- 14 Formerly not employed, aunties worried about it (9)
- 17 Chef’s beginning to chop up meatballs (6)
- 18 Those maintaining form in Oxford and Balmoral, say (9)
- 23 Bound to include papers put in order (6)
- 26 Youngsters lost fancy neckwear clips (8)
- 30 Where one may go awry in alert (7)
- 31 Alcoholic residue somehow vanishes when dehydrogenated (7)
- 35 Woolworths embraces value (5)
- 36 Mum starts to serve up salmon (4)
- 37 Old man holds aloft pre-adult peacock? (4)
- 39 Hawk emerging from lake covered in mist (4)

A first prize of £30 and two runners-up prizes of £20 for the first correct solutions opened on 28 April. 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 2698, The Spectator, 22 Old Queen Street, London SW1H 9HP. Please allow six weeks for prize delivery.

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