

Parsing Notes for December Sounds. Dec 2021.

Clues usually consist of 'definitions' either at the start or end of the clue which I underline in these notes and 'wordplay' which I explain below the solution.

Though I would not describe this as a 'Christmas crossword', some solutions refer to the names of well known carols. These are marked with an asterisk.

Across

1 Display of respect for where you belong, involving silver

HOMAGE

Where you belong = HOME, Involving = containing, silver = AG (chemical symbol)

4 Gets by and forces action

MAKES DO

Forces = MAKES, DO = action

9 Satire, oddly, annoys outsiders

STRANGERS

Oddly = 1st 3rd and 5th letters of SaTiRe annoys - ANGERS

10 Near end of flight after dark *

NIGHT

Near = NIGH, end of flight *

11 Identification of unknown laurel, dug out of rural setting

IDYLL

Identification = ID, Unknown - Y, Laurel dugout = hollow so first and last letters only

12 Organised rare rests for police

ARRESTERS

Anagram, indicated by 'organised' of RARE RESTS

13 Distracted dreamer supplied weapons again

REARMED

Anagram, indicated by 'distracted' of DREAMER

15 Queen's partner overturns diplomacy, accepting short time

TOMCAT

Overturns = reverses, diplomacy = TACT around short time = MO. A queen being a female cat.

17 Verse from across Tanzania

STANZA

Hidden answer in across TANZAnia

19 Lecture location

ADDRESS

Double definition

22 Trendy greens work in data entry

INPUTTING

Trendy = IN, PUTTING = greens work in golf.

24 Inspire one thousand. Sad fifty left out

IMBUE

Roman numerals one = I, thousand = M. Sad = BLUE without (Left out) the letter L = 50 in Roman numerals again

26 Duck on the left that is turning tail

EIDER

On the left = RED, that is = IE reversed, turning tail

27 Share small piece of land

ALLOTMENT

Double definition

28 Demonstrators not in favour of those running trial

TESTERS

Demonstrators = proTESTERS, not in favour - leaving out pro

29 Brother from South gets around fair trader

BROKER

Brother from South - BRER, from Brer Rabbit in Uncle Remus stories.

Gets around - includes fair = OK

Down

1 More rushed experiences before row

HASTIER

Experiences = HAS before row = TIER

2 Lightly pickled in good spirit*

MERRY

Double definition. Lightly pickled in the sense of a bit drunk

3 Mild force provides relief

GENTLEMEN

Mild = GENTLE force = MEN.

4 American rodent essential around capsized vessel

MUSKRAT

Essensial = MUST, around vessel = ARK capsized - reversed

5 Rulers profit without thanks *

KINGS

Profit = taKINGS without thanks = TA

6 Separate shattered Easter egg

SEGREGATE

Anagram, indicated by 'shattered' of EASTER EGG

7 Heads of one big trade union seem especially slow on the uptake

OBTUSE

Initial letters (Heads of) One Big Trade Union Seem Especially

8 Oz city opening pair go to hospital to see announcer *

HERALD

Oz city = emERALD with opening pair of letters replaced by (go to) Hospital

14 Albanian outsiders end tributes 12000 miles away

ANTIPODES

AlbaniaN outsiders - first and last letters of, end = TIP, tributes = ODES

Definition in the technical sense of the opposite side of the world.

16 Timid wren hops around when it's cold *

MIDWINTER

Anagram, indicated by 'hops around' of TIMID WREN

18 Some homes' laminates upset pets

ANIMALS

Hidden answer, indicated by 'some' in homeS LAMINAtes. Upset = reversed

19 Beings with wings above and two wheels below? *

ANGELS

Cryptic definition, they have wings in heaven (above) but Hells (below) ANGELS have two wheels

20 Mix up lets her hide

SHELTER

Anagram, indicated by 'mix up' of LETS HER

21 Quiet heart of fens buried in silt *

SILENT

Heart of fENs buried in (surrounded by) SILT

23 Right in the middle of great crowd they say *

THREE

Right = R in THE, middle of grEat at the end. Definition as in the expression, 'Threes a crowd'

25 Second disclosure is grim *

BLEAK

Second = B as in B team, disclosure = LEAK.