

Cryptic

- Across**
- 1 Fabulist rearranging a pose (5)
 - 4 Medic's oil treating dwellings (9)
 - 9 Drunken teens we appease (7)
 - 10 Surprisingly spare the Spanish fall from grace (7)
 - 11 Cross about our senate? Unnecessary! (10)
 - 12 Group left May in a pickle (4)
 - 14 Mob ranted about Obama's regular attacks (12)
 - 17, 26 Across Old peasant forging fancy piece of lab kit (12, 5)
 - 20 I left taint taken from tantalum salt (4)
 - 21 Ability to cope with cement perhaps (10)
 - 23 Learnt about final procedure - it's intestinal (7)
 - 24 Metal humidor refurbished (7)
 - 25 Opacity of dirty tub I ordered (9)
 - 26 See 17 Across

Down

- 1 A little Faust engages writer (6)
- 2 Perfumes with meaning by the sounds of it (6)
- 3 Greek philosopher turns potash gray (10)
- 4 Swiss physicist and mathematician led liberal union abroad (6, 9)
- 5 True eery epigram about this element discoverer (10, 5)
- 6 Battery room (4)
- 7 Photographic pioneer revised map in Poland unevenly (8)
- 8 Needless initial change of course to find grapes? (8)
- 13 Discharges same nation on arrangement (10)
- 15 Cad upsets Janet next door (8)
- 16 Excited about a bet? (8)
- 18 Some find I got colour (6)
- 19 Dutch physicist oddly ignored Penny around maze (6)
- 22 Sheep discovered in Palmyra ruins (4)

Quick

- Across**
- 1 Muscle (5)
 - 4 Physicist who studied the speed of light, and was the first US American to win the Nobel prize in a science (9)
 - 9 Functional group with the formula C_6H_5CO- (7)
 - 10 Toxic metalloid (7)
 - 11 Assessments (10)
 - 12 Standard markup language for web documents (acronym) (4)
 - 14 Experiencing a secondary sensory experience from stimulation of another (such as seeing sounds as colours) (12)
 - 17 English private school once attended by William Hyde Wollaston, discoverer of palladium and rhodium (12)
 - 20 Chelating agent (acronym) (4)
 - 21 Inerudite (10)
 - 23 Hg_2Cl_2 (7)
 - 24 Entrepreneur who helped bring photographic roll film into general use (7)
 - 25 Aspartame or saccharin, for example (9)
 - 26 Oliver _____, neurologist and author of many books, including *Uncle Tungsten: Memories of a Chemical Boyhood* (5)

Down

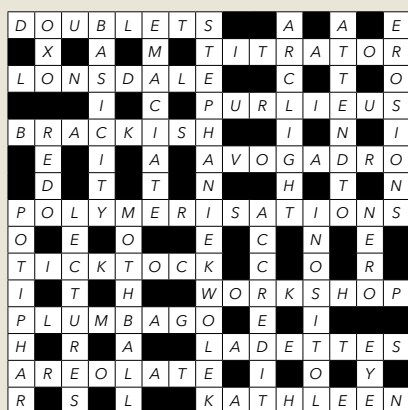
- 1 Red lynx (6)
- 2 Top of the forest (6)
- 3 Cellular organism that lacks a membrane-bound nucleus (10)
- 4 Experimental particle physicist who found some of the first evidence for the existence of the top quark (7, 8)
- 5 US American chemist who developed vulcanised rubber (7, 8)
- 6 Simple (4)
- 7 Disinfect (8)
- 8 Piece of jewellery (8)
- 13 People studying the nature of matter and energy (10)
- 15 Subjects such as chemistry, biology etc (8)
- 16 Fortress and prison in Paris, the storming of which was an important step in the French revolution (8)
- 18 Relating to the smallest particles of elements (6)
- 19 Youth of beauty (6)
- 22 Radiate (4)

January 2021 solutions and winners

Cryptic crossword



Quick crossword



Wordoku

The alkaloid poison was GELSEMINE

January winners

Science scramble
Abigail Collins
Coventry, UK

Science scramble

- 1 Ra
- 2 Mar
- 3 Harm
- 4 Marsh
- 5 Marshal
- 6 Helen Sharman

Wordoku
Laura Wilkins
Oxford, UK

Cryptic crossword
Derek Chadwick
Bromley, UK

Quick crossword
Peter Jelfs
Worcester, UK

Modern transformer oil sold today is free of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) - but as you have no idea if the oil is PCB-free or not, keep yourself and the dog away from the oil spill. If you can find a phone number on the entrance to the substation, note down the substation's name and serial number, and phone the electricity company. Otherwise, call the police and tell them that you have found a vandalised substation. It is important to stay well outside the substation due to the risk of electrical hazards. Look around, make sure to avoid touching metal objects in the vicinity and keep well away from any wires drooping close to or laying on the ground.

Mark Foreman works in the nuclear chemistry and industrial materials recycling section at Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden.

On the spot

Answer to On the spot

