

Crossword No. 270

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British Mensa SEMantics April 2013

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Across

- 1 Show awards academy sternwards at sea. (5)
- 4 Ill-composed article in concert. (7)
- 8 One of 2 searching haphazardly for (vocal) seraphim? (5,2,6)
- 9 Letter piles on mixture of uses: hurricane, car, islands ... (7)
- 10 Heifer next to railway finds sea snail. (5)
- 11 Rare ones with valued oxides, for art, she mixed. (6)
- 13 Never take coal up, anyhow, into such an ornamental dome. (6)
- 16 Joker on the proverbial temperance programme. (5)
- 17 It's her lost, damaged pistol case. (7)
- 19 Doll flees prep frantically, travelling under her own steam.(13)
- 22 Deanery in chaos on 31 December. (4,3)
- 23 Slight suggestion of colour involving two metallic elements. (5)

Down

- 1 Species of tree native to Ohio. (7)
- 2 Those who rush in this month? (5)
- 3,6 Men are ... like springtime during courtship, said Rosalind — a whiter, phoney owl after a storm. (5,4,4,3)
- 4 Give the money back, and pay the bills again. (6)
- 5 Reason to decide against a swindle. (3)
- 6 see 3
- 7 Full of health? Yes, after passionate desire! (5)
- 10 Cult leers nastily at Eliot describing this month. (9)
- 12 Emblems fit for ... a sovereign, among other things, initially. (7)
- 14 Reduce the length of a river viaduct. (7)
- 15 Winding sheet or mast support. (6)
- 16 Slender and flexible — like an undercover agent at the Women's Institute. (5)
- 18 Claw at a ton of aluminium. (5)
- 20 Bird meat baked in pastry. (3)