

AFR Cryptic (Christmas AJ 2020) Solution

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Q | | A | | K | | | | B | | O | | H | |
| P | U | D | D | I | N | G | | Z | I | L | L | I | O | N |
| | I | | V | | O | | M | | O | | D | | L | |
| G | R | E | E | N | T | E | A | | L | O | S | E | I | T |
| | E | | N | | | | G | | O | | T | | D | |
| | | S | T | O | C | K | I | N | G | | Y | E | A | R |
| | U | | | | O | | S | | I | | L | | Y | |
| | N | A | T | I | V | I | T | Y | S | C | E | N | E | |
| | I | | O | | E | | R | | T | | | | D | |
| X | M | A | S | | R | O | A | D | S | I | D | E | | |
| | P | | S | | D | | T | | | | E | | J | |
| V | E | S | P | E | R | | E | M | I | S | S | I | O | N |
| | D | | O | | I | | S | | D | | E | | L | |
| F | E | S | T | I | V | E | | W | E | I | R | D | L | Y |
| | D | | S | | E | | | | A | | T | | Y | |

| Answer | Clue | Explanation |
|----------------|--|--------------------------------|
| ADVENT | Commercial made by outlet is coming (6) | AD + VENT |
| BIOLOGISTS | Old part of tree is cut into bits for life scientists (10) | (O + LOG + IS) inside BITS |
| COVER DRIVE | Offside play by one positioned in the centre? (5,5) | Cryptic definition |
| DESERT | Leave high and dry wasteland (6) | Double Definition |
| EMISSION | Pass over one featured in extensive Time issue (8) | (MISS + I) inside EON |
| FESTIVE | It's about Victor being in charge and happy (7) | (ITS reversed + V) inside FEE |
| GREEN TEA | Drunken teenager leaves drink (5,3) | Anagram of TEENAGER |
| HOLIDAYED | Brick carrier taking cover certainly had a break (9) | HOD outside (LID + AYE) |
| IDEA | I Pick out nucleus of neat plan (4) | ID + EA |
| JOLLY | Ecstasy plugged by all except a drunk to some degree (5) | JOY outside (ALL minus A) |
| KNOT | Boss's number replacing one in kit (4) | K(i)T replaced by NO |
| LOSE IT | Blow up centre of enclosed site in a state of disrepair (4,2) | enc(LO)sed + anagram of SITE |
| MAGISTRATES. | Gift-givers, right, restricted by governments and judges? (11) | MAGI + R inside STATES |
| NATIVITY SCENE | Events in a city disrupted Yuletide display (8,5) | Anagram of EVENTS IN A CITY |
| OLD STYLE | Set oddly replaced with type from the past (3,5) | Anagram of SET ODDLY |
| PUDDING | Sweet thing turned up damaged at the front by accident (7) | UP reversed + (D)amaged + DING |

| | | |
|-----------|--|-------------------------------------|
| QUIRE | Group of carollers, say, vocalised part of book (5) | Sounds like CHOIR |
| ROADSIDE | Promotion is not going forward in travelled area, by the way (8) | [AD + (IS reversed)] inside RODE |
| STOCKING | Gift collection from St Nick got greatly distributed (8) | Anagram of (ST NICK GO)t |
| TOSSPOTS | They take alcohol regularly to small locations (8) | TO + S + SPOTS |
| UNIMPEDED | Open university attended by politician and senior journalists? (9) | UNI + MP + ED + ED |
| VESPER | Unravelling of verse inspired by quiet prayer (6) | Anagram of VERSE outside P |
| WEIRDLY | Some of us idly moved across river in an odd way (7) | WE + (IDLY outside R) |
| XMAS | Crazy Mexicans giving up nice holiday (4) | Anagram of MEXICANS minus NICE |
| YEAR | Period pieces collected by wealthy earl (4) | wealthY EARl |
| ZILLION | A great number suffering in holy land (7) | ILL inside ZION |
| | | |