

The Stickler Weekly 254 Solution

1	M	E	2	G	A	3	S	T	4	A	R		5	F	6	A	T	7	H	O	8	M
	E		R		P		S							F		I						O
9	S	P	A	R	E		10	C	O	11	M	M	A	N	D	E	R					
	S		N		C		E		O		R		E									A
12	I	N	I	T	I	A	T	I	O	N		13	B	O	I	L						
	A		T		A		I		N		14	A		U		L						
15	16	H	E	A	D	L	O	C	K		17	I	L	L	S	18	A	Y				
		Y			I		S		19	A		L										D
20	C	E	21	R	I	S	E		22	F	I	R	E	W	23	O	O	24	D			
	A		E		T		25	S		R		V		R								I
26	T	E	A	T		27	I	N	D	E	C	I	S	I	O	N						
	C		D		28	G		A		D		A		G								E
29	A	P	O	C	R	Y	P	H	A		30	T	R	A	I	T						
	L		U		I					L		E		M								T
31	L	I	T	A	N	Y		32	H	E	A	D	L	I	C	E						

Across	Clue	Explanation
1 MEGASTAR	Big celebrity game excited retired whistle-blowers (8)	Anagram of GAME + (RATS reversed)
5 FATHOM	Get to the bottom of large dwelling not quite finished (6)	FAT + (HOM)E
9 SPARE	Inclusions offered by ISP aren't free (5)	iSP AREnt
10 COMMANDER	A person in charge mostly, as well as the Queen? (9)	(COMM)A + AND + ER
12 INITIATION	Debut, it is cut short in one race (10)	(ITI)S inside (I + NATION)
13 BOIL	See red, inflamed swelling (4)	Double Definition
15 HEADLOCK	Hold moulding of lead with white coating (8)	Anagram of LEAD inside HOCK
17 ILL SAY	Medical problems? Any not connected to heart? Yes, indeed! (3,3)	ILLS + A(n)Y
20 CERISE	Red ace played, ignoring a financial reward (6)	(ACE minus A) + RISE
22 FIREWOOD	Food containing broken pieces of wire - it should be burnt (8)	FOOD outside anagram of WIRE
26 TEAT	Milky substance usually obtained by opening of the nipple (4)	TEA + (T)HE
27 INDECISION	Hesitancy duet oddly displayed during opening (10)	(D)U(E)T inside INCISION
29 APOCRYPHA	A Father, about to weep, has not finished religious books (9)	(A + POP) outside CRY + (HA)S
30 TRAIT	Narrow channel with no original feature (5)	S(TRAIT)
31 LITANY	Long recital fired up some (6)	LIT + ANY
32 HEAD LICE	Treat very cold water containing 5 parasitic bugs (4,4)	(HEAL + ICE) outside D

Down	Clue	Explanation
1 MESSIAH	Expected deliverer is set up by one operating in network (7)	[(IS reversed) + A] inside MESH
2 GRANITA	Coarse sand mixed with an aggregate, primarily, and broken ice (7)	GRIT outside AN + (A)GGREGATE
3 SPECIALIST	Moulded plastic is probed by energy expert (10)	Anagram of PLASTIC IS outside E
4 ASCETICS	Reformed caste is infiltrated by leader of Christian monks, say (8)	Anagram of CASTE + [IS outside (C)HRISTIAN]
6 AFAR	A passenger who pays to travel mostly from a great distance (4)	A + (FAR)E
7 HIDEOUS	Monstrous shelter built by occupants of house? (7)	HIDE + h(OUS)e
8 MORALLY	Fairly short time to recover (7)	MO + RALLY
11 MOON	Growth of hair on bare behind? (4)	MO + ON
14 ALLEVIATED	Everyone fed in sleazy place turned up relieved (10)	ALL + [ATE inside (DIVE reversed)]
16 EYE	Part of a needle, yes? (3)	needIE YE ^s
18 ADO	Trouble caused by a gathering (3)	A + DO
19 AIREDALE	Dog publicised beer (8)	AIRE ^D + ALE
20 CATCALL	Something designed to deal with anything except hard criticism (7)	CATCHALL minus H
21 READ-OUT	Information retrieved by each detective in hiding (4-3)	(EA + D) inside ROUT
23 ORIGAMI	Styling of paper - Times - not accepted by distracted mitigator? (7)	Anagram of MITIGATOR minus (T + T)
24 DINETTE	Unruly characters in detention missing out on a place to eat (7)	Anagram of DETENTION minus ON
25 SNAP	Follows an object with a camera, coming back with photograph (4)	PANS reversed
28 GRIN	Mill shortened beam (4)	(GRIN)D