Christmas Crossword Set by Gozo

Twenty-seven clues lack thematic definition, 13 on one theme, 14 on another. Most can be verified in Brewer.

**ACROSS**
1. Sick tabby starts to act like kittens – going gaga? (8)
2. Scrutinises creepy-crawlies consuming tip of proboscis (8)
3. Fraudster’s regular cunning plan (4)
4. Cobble together outfit at university (3,2)
5. Explorer Park with Jagger’s Hall, we’re told (11)
6. Mozart’s first opera (5)
7. Gouda’s served with herb filling for short-legged pet (7,3)
8. Sign of hesitation upsetting mutt during game (12)
9. Large castle with central section removed (4)
10. Government plan involving peevish and tailless harpy (5,5)
11. It demands a four-in-hand at the hangman’s party (7)
12. Mother’s dental problem (8)
13. Greeting that’s short on the boundaries of society (6)
14. Young lad’s theme (4)
15. Covered first of lyrics in period penned by poet (8)
16. Sort of farmland surrounding German university? That’s open to question (8)
17. The main fact about ecstasy (5)
18. Corn from monarch reigning from 1714 (5)
19. One red flag waving (8)
20. Weapon, badly lit, during fight (8)
21. From Ireland, a shillelagh (4)
22. Very small amount of time? (6)
23. Burning, doing menial work (8)
24. Housework remains on the nettle tree (4,3)
25. Discrimination quarrel (10)
26. Extra duck consumed (4)
27. Wrinkle problem spoken of (12)
28. The main fact about ecstasy (5)
29. Society ruler embracing almost sublime sport (4,6)
30. John seen from Lostwithiel to Newquay (5)
31. A selection of A&C Black reference books will be awarded to the senders of the first three correct entries opened on Wednesday January 3. Entries, using the form above and marked Christmas Crossword on the envelope, should be sent to Weekend FT, One Southwark Bridge, London SE1 9HL. Solution and winners’ names on Saturday January 6.

**DOWN**
1. Rabbie leaving, uses up his energy (5,3)
2. Lots of fluid inside (7)
3. Copper enters exactly (3,3)
4. Young animal on the new walk (7)
5. Time is up too! (4)
6. Taking it upon oneself – like before a fine meal, it seems (14)
7. Artistic director or metal assessor, reportedly (7)
8. Wimbledon favourite’s purse forms capital to set up a project (4,5)
9. Strange but heartless colloquial themeword (9)
10. Popstar’s trap to catch criminals (5)
11. Not fit to run – why bother? (8)
12. Hardly protection from the rain (7)
13. Saved torn drapes (6)
14. For king with glove on (3,6)
15. Disguise (7)
16. Suggesting both game or PM’s residential theme (9)
17. Wrinkles and furrowed brow – news summary (9)
18. L’Abîme – the new version (9)
19. Subsidiary office lacking central heating (4)
20. Top cyclist on motorbike (7)
21. Wandering goatherd lost rat (5)
22. Marine first leaving during brawls (2,12)
23. Drinks upset brings bad mood (5)
24. Special edition appearing in crowd scene (5)
25. Some imminent relegation is upsetting (6)
26. Newspaper office lacking central heating (4)
27. Hardly protection from the rain (7)
28. Not fit to run – why bother? (8)
29. A collection of boundaries boundary take over (8)
30. Cleaner turned up on top of deck (7)
31. Spooner’s lean prophet and girl (7)
32. Paperwork from French friend after social security cheque upset (7)
33. The scores are level, during game (6)
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**Solution 15,739**

**Solution 15,728**

Jotter pad