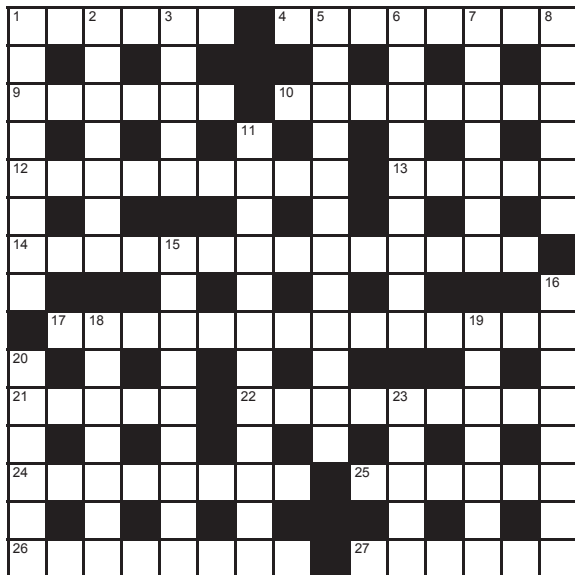


# CROSSWORD

## No. 16,397 Set by GURNEY



JOTTER PAD

### ACROSS

- 1 Lines from number, virtually completed, something catchy? (6)
- 4 Talk idly seeing school matron at first – escape slowly (8)
- 9 Shrewd like teacher taking English for men (6)
- 10 Sounds like wet weather, love, as they come for Christmas? (8)
- 12 Unexpected noise, dirt, cause one to lose sense of direction (9)
- 13 Criticise cut, severe ultimately (5)
- 14 Silly southern jazz fan finishing off session drops into crash site (7-7)
- 17 Road manoeuvre – NEW performance? (5-5,4)
- 21 High point – regularly visiting aunt, dressy? (5)
- 22 Irreproachable girl, chess player (4-5)
- 24 Good to reside in foreign country? Do this? (8)
- 25 Exile from French coastal town (6)
- 26 Have case of beer with store's label (3,5)
- 27 Cash singer picked up (6)

### DOWN

- 1 Upsetting husband, disconsolate friend's careless (4-4)
- 2 Seen at a shack sheltering girl (7)
- 3 Book Henry's missing in this compound (5)
- 5 After Reformation heretics fled town (12)

- 6 Note Northern Ireland border that leaves much uncovered (9)
- 7 Previously pitiable mite noticed turning up exhibits (3-4)
- 8 Source of income of student? Not primarily (6)
- 11 Urban tale with moon trip involved? (12)
- 15 After time, back welcoming reliable financial official (9)
- 16 Singer's one popular opening opera routine, just starting (8)
- 18 Emperor, experienced, managed to keep grip on Italy (7)
- 19 Squad not entirely associated with sentimental stuff and imaginary animal (7)
- 20 Manage in end – arrive in time for party (4,2)
- 23 In the place our group entertained the woman (5)

Solution 16,396

