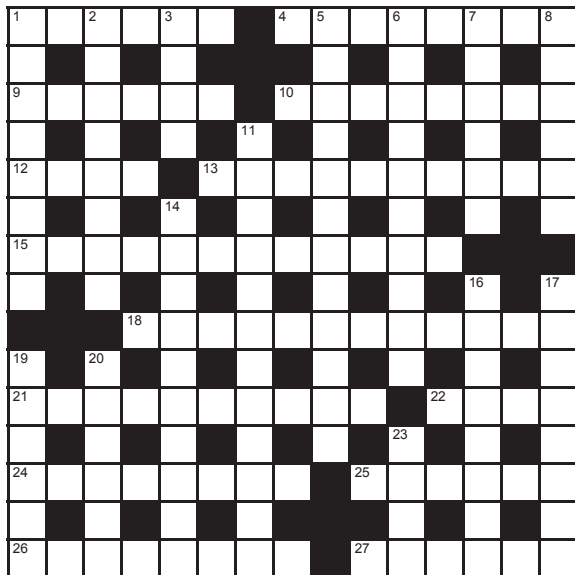


CROSSWORD

No. 16,456 Set by GURNEY



JOTTER PAD

ACROSS

- 1 Last to come to the fore, is obsequious – that's hard to make out (6)
- 4 Was equal of wine in exotic villa? Quite the opposite (8)
- 9 Need to conceal knife outside as weapon (6)
- 10 Absolutely reliable cold wine initially ready, or not? (4-4)
- 12 Bolt's smooth progress on return (4)
- 13 Don't expect action to follow this cheek at religious event (3,7)
- 15 Giant sail – can't moor unfortunately (12)
- 18 Anecdote about cars, churches, entertaining knight (12)
- 21 Scorning girl, immoral, after lawyer intervenes (10)
- 22 Trial game (4)
- 24 City's aim, after review, to accommodate Republican leader (8)
- 25 Very wet turf where animal lives (6)
- 26 Newly housing female, eye rent payment (5,3)
- 27 Capital parking – argue slight change needed (6)

DOWN

- 1 Rather poor show, tame (8)
- 2 Determined work on footwear, extremely urgent, inside (8)
- 3 How mobile phone network ultimately gives period of time (4)

- 5 Unlucky, questionable, as leader is replaced – popular previously (12)
- 6 Aren't clean at work? Regular change needed (10)
- 7 Writer playing a prank? Not entirely (6)
- 8 Daughter and German seen ignoring outsiders in port (6)
- 11 As jet leg might see tradition upset (12)
- 14 Politician, changing sides, absorbing the French tirade patiently (10)
- 16 No drudge at work – little fellow (8)
- 17 Punishment? "Offenders will be fined" maybe (8)
- 19 Glad war ends bringing ideas for spending? (6)
- 20 Liveliness of sense regularly associated with pair, Italian (6)
- 23 Party men creating opening (4)

Solution 16,455

