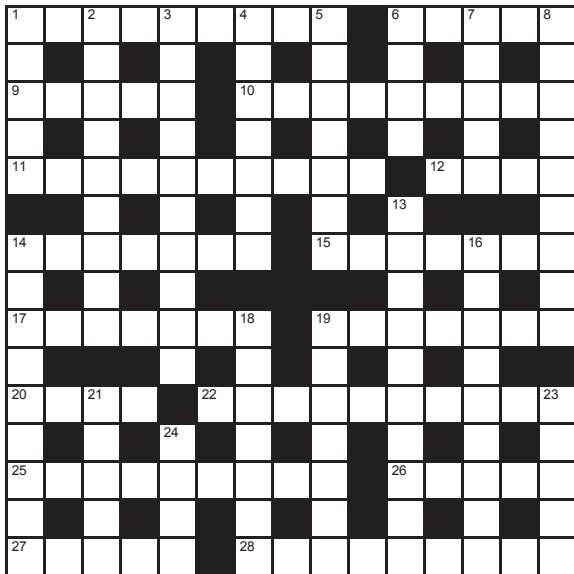


CROSSWORD

No. 15,983 Set by CRUX



JOTTER PAD

ACROSS

- 1 I must talk freely – hard to do for a man? (9)
- 6 Placebo heals like tea, to some extent (5)
- 9 Londoner spurns new party and becomes Independent (5)
- 10 Hard biscuit for Rufus? (9)
- 11, 12 Where to find goods in badly planned store (3,4,3,4)
- 14 Regressive tax near ruined the foreign bar (7)
- 15 Gave support for double parking on outskirts of Enfield (7)
- 17 Rather slow, also surprisingly neat (7)
- 19 They typify the female – nothing changes! (7)
- 20 Humour about death (4)
- 22 Patter made by a US drummer, perhaps (5,5)
- 25 National Trust property eg, giving hospitality to all (4,5)
- 26 Goblin runs around ring? On the contrary (5)
- 27 Suffering with disease, origin unknown (5)
- 28 Duty payable on a larger car? (6,3)

DOWN

- 1 Island whisky, last seen on Jura (5)
- 2 Ending hunger upset Dickens (4-5)
- 3 Rude Irish clergyman doesn't finish on time (10)
- 4 Outlaw in Albania ousted by German of another country (7)
- 5 Inks mixed with it could be blood (7)
- 6 Brewers regularly may set the standard for industry (4)
- 7 Suspicion borne by Richard of York? (5)
- 8 Does it pan out where diggers are found (9)
- 13 Words for those starting course in French (3,7)
- 14 Sort of predators not credible among crocodiles (9)
- 16 Indicates trouble ahead for Railtrack (6,3)
- 18 Period of history bound for wipe-out (7)
- 19 Sweat, yet not hot? Take too much and . . . (7)
- 21 this is what you'll become! (5)
- 23 He needs hammers, say, and a corkscrew (5)
- 24 Question asked about English milk production (4)