Polymath 948 Set by Aardvark

ACROSS
1 Innermost ossicle of the middle ear (6)
5 Asian evergreen tree which yields an essential oil (5,5)
10 Legendary sixth-century Danish king (8)
11 Irish trout with a thickened muscular stomach (8)
12 Italian city on the coast of Emilia-Romagna (6)
13 In botany, having three leaves or leaflets (10)
14 North American canine, the coyote (7,4)
15 Old French gold coin (5)
17 Green variety of beryl, highly valued as a gemstone (7)
19 Indian city formerly called Madras (7)
22 Rural land covered with bushes or low trees (5)
23 Sealed, evacuated duct used to observe electric discharges (7,4)
26 Theatre in Oxford designed by Christopher Wren (10)
27 Structural small block in a series, projecting like teeth (6)
28 Member of an ancient Jewish sect, opposed to Pharisees (8)
29 Pop group featuring the brothers Ray and Dave Davies (3,5)
30 Australian tennis player, winner of 28 Grand Slam titles (3,7)
31 Language used by the Travelling People in Britain and Ireland (6)

DOWN
2 East Indian, nocturnal, arboreal monkey (7)
3 Actress who played the sitcom character Hyacinth Bucket (7)
4 Lively, triple-time, Spanish tune and dance (10)
5 1862 siege during the American Civil War (10)
6 Sharp, needle-shaped peak of rock (8)
7 The fastest pace of a horse (6)
8 Knighted Trinidadian all-round cricketer (6,11)
9 Small iridescently coloured Amazonian fish (4,5)
16 A collective noun for a group of apes (10)
18 Espresso coffee literally stained with foamed milk (9)
20 Female priest among the ancient Celts (8)
21 Typeface used in London Underground signs (8)
24 Meat from the breast of an animal (7)
25 Acknowledgment of a hit in fencing (6)

The first correct entry drawn on Wednesday December 27 wins a copy of The Chambers Dictionary. Entries should be addressed to Polymath No 948, Weekend FT, One Southwark Bridge, London SE1 9HL. The solution and winner's name will be published on December 30.

The 13th edition (2014) retains the much-loved features of The Chambers Dictionary, including the unique quirky definitions for certain words. There are more than 1,000 new words and meanings, and there is also a new Word Lover's Ramble, showing how English words and definitions have changed over the history of the dictionary.