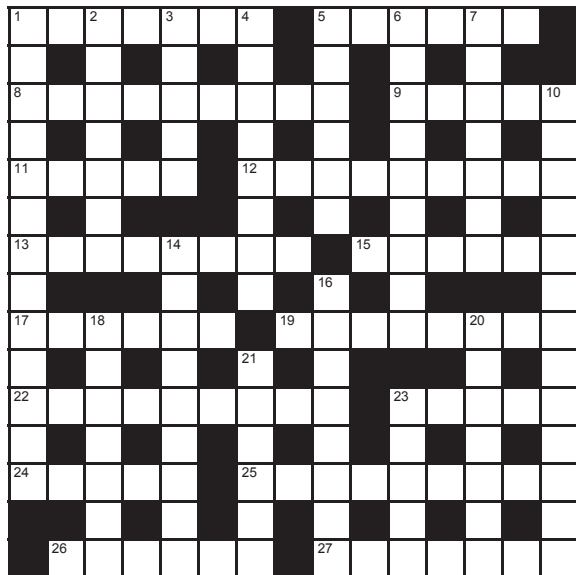


# CROSSWORD

## No. 16,156 Set by REDSHANK



JOTTER PAD

### ACROSS

- 1 Benefit of merger, say, shedding a work unit in New York (7)
- 5 Woman's first man in Middle East (6)
- 8 Exciting time, coming by river (9)
- 9 Dubliner tempted to incorporate still (5)
- 11 Swimming pool covers last bit of rear deck (5)
- 12 Six nap fitfully close to futon (4-5)
- 13 Caught monkey pinching old racket (8)
- 15 He's promised work in cafe (6)
- 17 Flat piece journalist's brought in (6)
- 19 Good getting on high-priority film (4,4)
- 22 Lost again at sea, longing for home (9)
- 23 Excellent posh weekends during every year (5)
- 24 Mariners start to inscribe bone collections (5)
- 25 Magazine writer's breaking reading deadline (4,5)
- 26 A sibling maintains pose unchanged (2,2,2)
- 27 Beer with no heart judged to have a head? (7)

### DOWN

- 1 How sad can it be, reshuffling opposition leaders (6,7)

- 2 Make short work of English lines collected by star (7)
- 3 Quickly make approach (3-2)
- 4 Boyish solver, thoughtful, ought to leave (8)
- 5 Light cloth mostly covering energy breakfast (6)
- 6 Wimp forgot his lines, hung up on other line (4-5)
- 7 Prayer leader regularly immured in cramping zones (7)
- 10 Kindly offered to accept card (13)
- 14 Distribute gratuities, ignoring European picker (9)
- 16 Stewed ox meat one answer for blood problem (8)
- 18 Abandons son leaving courses (7)
- 20 Blue Berets stayed guarding male in a mess (7)
- 21 A billionaire's gems (6)
- 23 Icy rivers protect city (5)

Solution 16,155

