

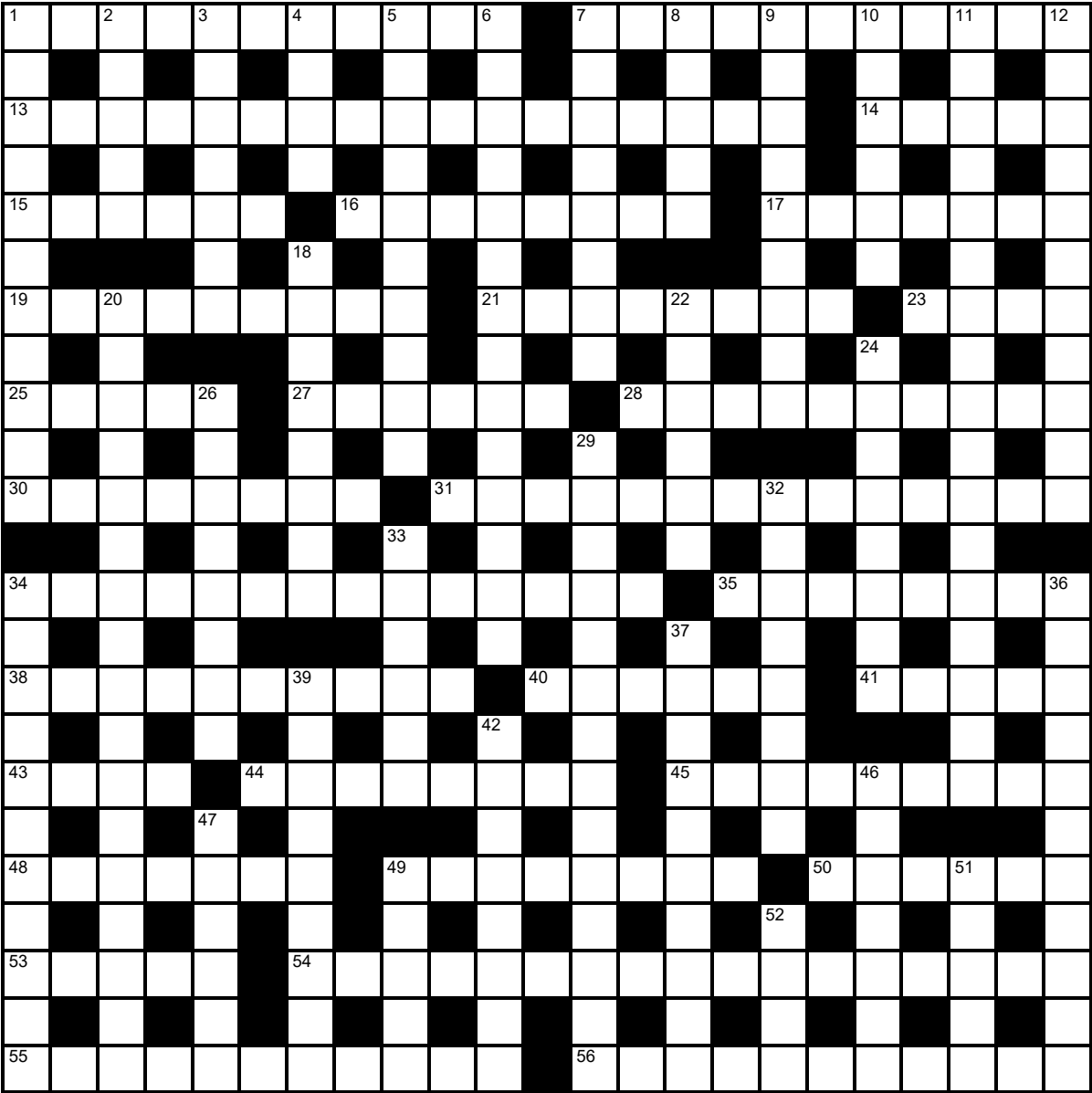
JUMBO CROSSWORD No 17,608 by JULIUS

ACROSS

- 1 Handy guide to the reign of Little King Tom? (4,2,5)
7 Kids absolutely love this (little squirts!) (5,6)
13 Making cross-stitch embroidered item for the present day (9,8)
14 Take care of diocese scriptures in retirement (3,2)
15 Being more hasty, it's likely to get panned in the morning (6)
16 Fellows invested in mostly fancily decorated trinket (8)
17 Generally speaking Laura's fluent with English (2,1,4)
19 Newspaper pack get this when clocking on (9)
21 Washing Usain Bolt roughly without a hint of soap? (8)
23 Something said to nag wife — husband starts to offer apology (4)
25 Boat bringing Special K to Switzerland? (5)
27 Exaggerate jams in Dover douane (6)
28 Seen her old scruffy togs for the Oktoberfest? (10)
30 Charlie and sis working in Iran sent round flowers (8)
31 Rely on ranch job flexibly to get country air (4,10)
34 Fresh linguine? It'll be impossible to pick up (14)
35 Aggravates Spanish woman negotiating Florida motorway (8)
38 Dressing in dungarees, I annoy a major (retd.) (10)
40 Key soldiers beginning to trouble armed guard (6)
41 Roman Catholic priest concealed remnant (5)
43 Chap armed with hammer nicking gold from writer (4)
44 Fit, like footballer Charlton perhaps? (8)
45 Chairman Mao finally playing a musical instrument (9)
48 Tackle a quiet, variable, boring time before going to uni? (3,4)
49 Write graffiti artist's signature over new building in Washington (8)
50 American actor Orlando carrying flowers (6)
53 Little chap tense — it could be caused by an allergy (5)
54 1 down: Cinderella — an animated film made in 1951 (5,2,10)
55 National treasure Haydn, almost broke (5,6)
56 Do call about West End musical and classic film (2,5,4)

DOWN

- 1 Gift voucher, best ever from Barbie? (6,5)
2 Soundly praises noble members here (5)
3 Natives which may be restless in bed? (7)



- 4 Gentle Oxfordshire town, I'm told (4)
5 Credit puns composed *ad lib* (10)
6 Flash Gordon used to summon this duo (6,3,5)
7 Caithness town editor discharged lady in an evil manner (8)
8 Oliver succeeded to punch idiot (5)
9 Set up embedded spy to cover a Russian leader's performance (9)
10 Download one of the 36 on line (6)
11 Ta so much Sheffield for adapting Webster's work! (3,7,2,5)
12 Volatile type's uncontrolled billiard shot (5,6)
18 *Fairground Attraction* song about exploitation (8)
20 Where plenty of bouncing deliveries are expected? (9,8)
22 For the head, this is a boring experience (6)
24 Saloon found somewhere between Pitlochry/S. Lerwick (8)
26 Raising temperature in Chinese sauce? Good (8)

- 29 Ditch ITV1? (7,7)
32 Enduring, like one of those German compound words? (4-4)
33 Preserves the Spanish stuff found near 13? (6)
34 Thorough peacekeepers with German I confined to barracks (11)
36 Criminally mislead CIA over hacking Twitter etc (6,5)
37 Site of the bonniest banks in Scotland? (4,6)
39 Fieldwork subsequent to American school subject (9)
42 Stone me... flipping seconds of school pud! (4,4)
46 Location of Brunei's cycling playwright? (7)
47 Partial to snipe? Ah, England's most beautiful bird (6)
49 A solid figure, Prime Minister Sunak enters without greeting (5)
51 Gulf citizen discovers SE European country (5)
52 Hero left after marriage vow (4)

Solution 17,602

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