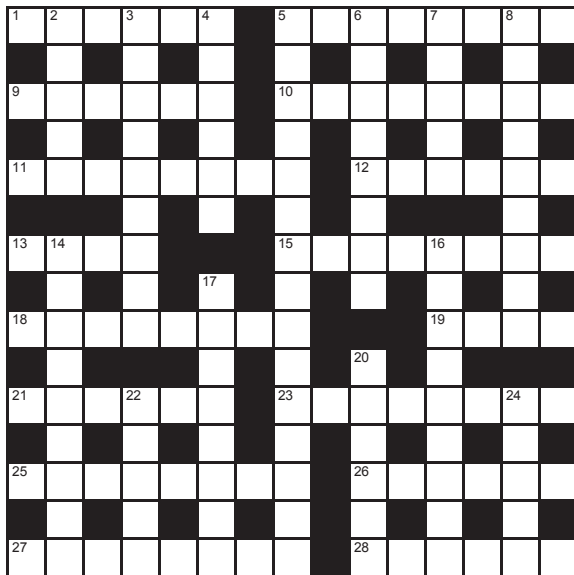


CROSSWORD

No. 16,503 Set by ZAMORCA



JOTTER PAD

ACROSS

- 1** Uproar when spirit drink's knocked back (6)
- 5** Quiet diplomacy protecting international vessel (8)
- 9** Question a new function for non-governmental body (6)
- 10** Fencing's poor following river south (8)
- 11** Dentist's request to have extra work space going ahead (4,4)
- 12** The old bishop's found inside, near to the final farewell (3-3)
- 13** You once hid in boathouse (4)
- 15** Took in food and papers collecting confused gent's key (8)
- 18** Huge performance taking on worker in charge (8)
- 19** With nothing I make celebrity status (4)
- 21** Goods in jade sculpted with sharp edges (6)
- 23** Playful comedy sketch about West End is hard to follow (8)
- 25** French president's importing top grade Italian pasta (8)
- 26** Dash to get publicity round hotel by noon (6)
- 27** Pub landlady cooked nice eels (8)
- 28** Stream series available at last in the Netherlands (6)

DOWN

- 2** Union raise matter about manager behind take over (5)
- 3** Writer in Australia retired acquiring long strip of land out to sea (9)
- 4** Son informed about his heart is showing no emotion (6)
- 5** Lounge seating for trio's musical sequence (5-5,5)
- 6** Game to tease boy in lock-up (8)
- 7** Part of fork's secured with gardening string (5)
- 8** Take extraordinary umbrage about unknown trainee starting in Wasps, say (5,4)
- 14** Call cab in wintry weather on stretch in Great North Road (4,1,4)
- 16** Peter has tiny carved 'P' inside napkin holder (6,3)
- 17** Keen on learning in workshop with American (8)
- 20** Shrink uses humour on woman (6)
- 22** Fit windows in government lounge (5)
- 24** Strain when part of reprieve is held up (5)