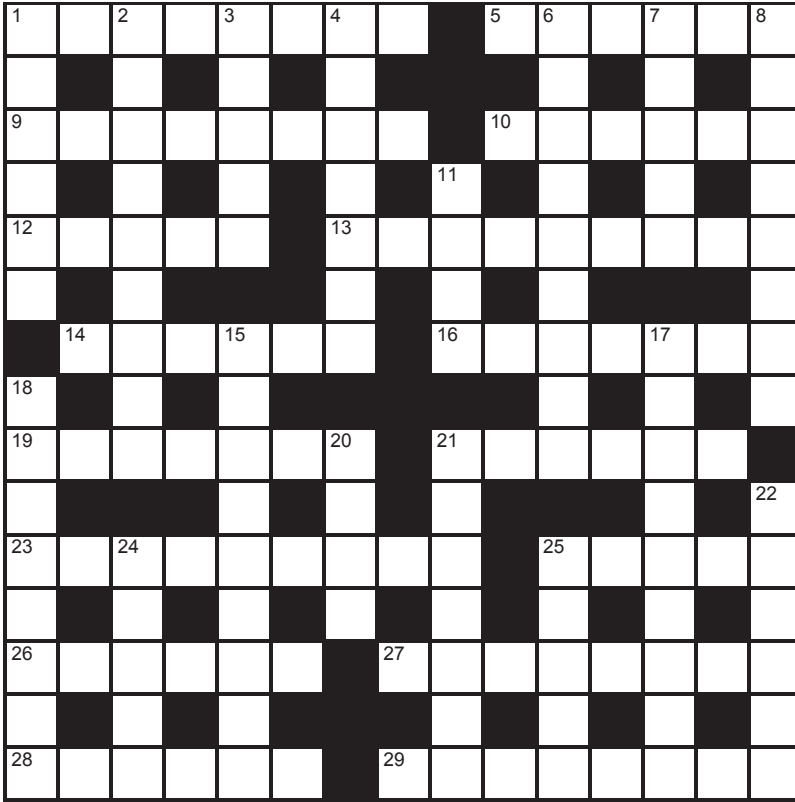


CROSSWORD

No 16,724 Set by GOZO



All the across clues and 20 down lack a thematic definition, which another down solution reveals

ACROSS

- 1 It's quartz, to a degree (8)
- 5 Honour a lease (6)
- 9 Changed in 1000 years (8)
- 10 Writer crosses street (6)
- 12 Cases with drop of bubbly, fashionable (5)
- 13 Crawls out, stunned (3,6)
- 14 Small county with appeal (3-3)
- 16 Chocolate kid loses last drop of energy (4-3)
- 19 Nicer in Kensington? Just a bit (3,4)
- 21 Hospital not quite secure, one admitted (6)
- 23 Top-quality crumble and pastry rejected (9)
- 25 Daughter seen in theatre box (5)
- 26 Tea ladies initially accept leaders of *Private Eye* (6)
- 27 Had a nice trip (8)
- 28 Modest accommodation for worker (6)
- 29 Daughter appearing in H E Bates novel (8)

DOWN

- 1 Graduates in charge point to brass tacks (6)
- 2 Note book in suburban home always turns up (9)
- 3 Brand new bedclothes? (8)
- 4 Sorceress tailed hired band (7)
- 6 Orthodox Greek masses (3,6)
- 7 Not yet? Dead right (5)
- 8 Bags a pair? (8)
- 11 Bits of salami were in Mexican dip (4)
- 15 Most deceitful fetishist wriggling (9)
- 17 They're put up around Dublin and Sligo. Look out! (9)
- 18 Small nails on shade spoilt cask (3,5)
- 20 Douglas King having trouble (4)
- 21 Cary Grant film poster within reach perhaps (7)
- 22 State limits of New Hampshire, Virginia and Dakota (6)
- 24 Part of Iraq: a battle-zone port (5)
- 25 A part of Edinburgh Castle, I think – only a part (5)

JOTTER PAD

Solution 16,723

