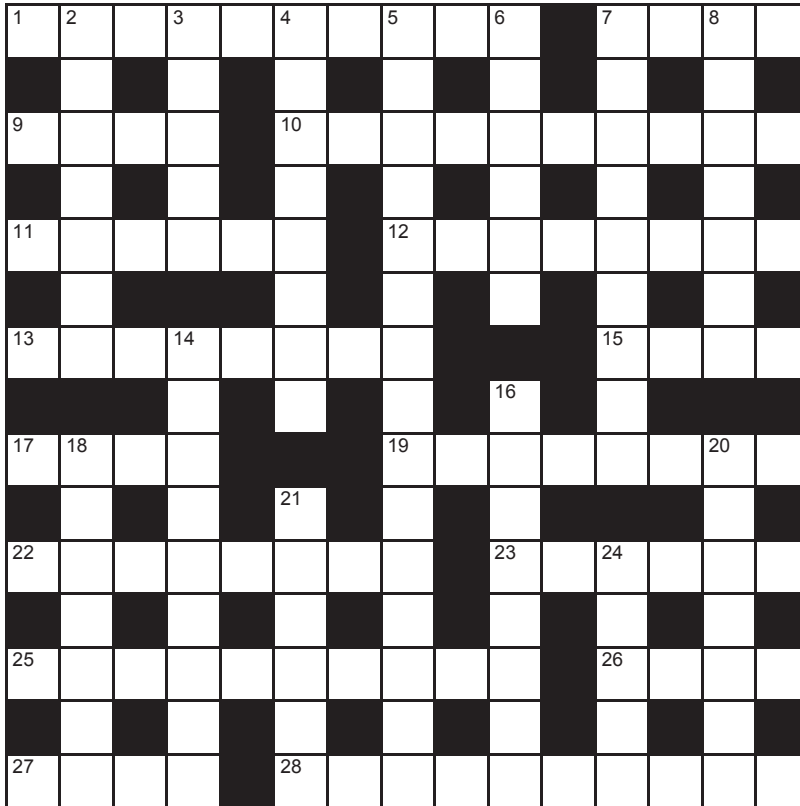


CROSSWORD

No 16,738 Set by ALBERICH



ACROSS

- 1 A day before stag night, finally finds accommodation (10)
- 7 Opening wine, left harbour (4)
- 9 Refuse to part with pound for old ruler (4)
- 10 Look, almost no-one read novel – this one? (5,5)
- 11 Could be grave misfortune I had avoided (6)
- 12 Town in Herts or maybe Balmoral area (8)
- 13 Small ducks found in river? Indeed (8)
- 15 Turf accountant's first to get drink (4)
- 17 Old ship's gone around river (4)
- 19 Rock star can't perform (8)
- 22 Jam sandwiches ordered? The opposite, being cut off (8)
- 23 Composer's comment showing approval of Simpson? (6)
- 25 Dressed in latex at end of disco for larks (10)
- 26 Contend with opinion (4)
- 27 Somewhat inebriated gymnast is irritable (4)
- 28 Wise folk given case of suspect to judge? Just one of them (10)

DOWN

- 2 Excellent performance on *Love Actually* (2,5)
- 3 Generation following American custom (5)
- 4 Oddly, they spilt the beans about hospital fund-raiser (8)
- 5 Of great consequence, this could get at her? (15)
- 6 Drinks to nurse achieving success, for starters? (6)
- 7 Skin complaint, sir, is treated with soap (9)
- 8 Irritated, was first to go after row (7)
- 14 One splits high cost with friend without complaining (9)
- 16 Was upset by jokes about British surgeon (8)
- 18 Not bothered by boring leader rambling (7)
- 20 Most tight finishes will get tense (7)
- 21 Old lady sadly returned greeting (6)
- 24 Spree perhaps in topless club (5)

JOTTER PAD

Solution 16,737

