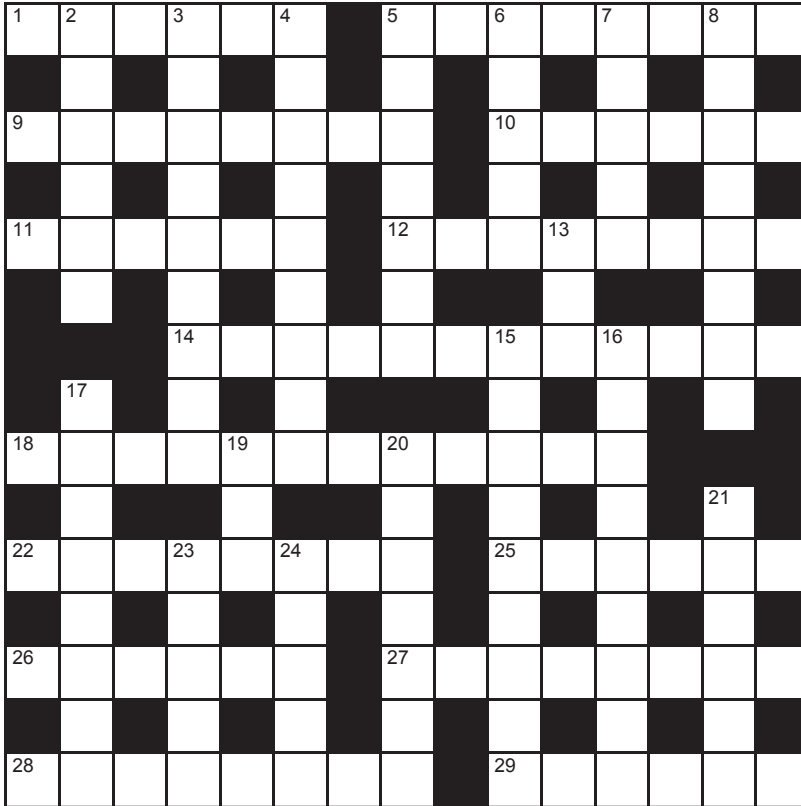


CROSSWORD

No 16,758 Set by SLEUTH



ACROSS

- 1 Talk earnestly and quietly about a church (6)
- 5 Shoddy place for exercise, we're told, with narrow opening (8)
- 9 College friend recalled source of this type of music as rubbish (8)
- 10 Ruffle lot sure right away to be agitated (6)
- 11 Light touch shown by popular Australian getting sheen (6)
- 12 Aspect of language that might deceive Sean Bean, perhaps (3,5)
- 14 Retained item for broadcast of middling quality (12)
- 18 Merchant once foolishly making intrusive entry (12)
- 22 Turn for old chap carrying a hat to leave a place under siege? (3,5)
- 25 Composer keeps score with no end of pride (6)
- 26 Unionist stifled by a market in retreat gets deep shock (6)
- 27 Current bass about to join tenor among varied lot as part of an opera? (8)
- 28 Tim and Ned with day gone working as a partnership? (2,6)
- 29 English colleague spending money rarely discontented in restaurant (6)

DOWN

- 2 Again charge group falling short in study (6)
- 3 A politician, one inside defending current speaker (9)
- 4 Basil, maybe, on a meadow grabs time for refreshing drink (6,3)
- 5 Variable pay when stuck in outfit in period before college? (3,4)
- 6 Some permit required for coverage of a primate? (5)
- 7 Picked up band of feathers that's uneven (5)
- 8 Pal in a stir? (8)
- 13 Arnold at intervals gets stick (3)
- 15 Late celeb represented like a persuasive politician? (9)
- 16 Terry in a familiar way retained by fancy client for brainpower (9)
- 17 Number put up hunter in disguise, avoiding arrest? (2,3,3)
- 19 Hooter in large sports arena first off (3)
- 20 Gangster in front of US car, almost portly figure (7)
- 21 German person with a restricted intake? (6)
- 23 A problem facing area in Caribbean island (5)
- 24 A place dealing with complaints gets prize (5)

JOTTER PAD

Solution 16,757

