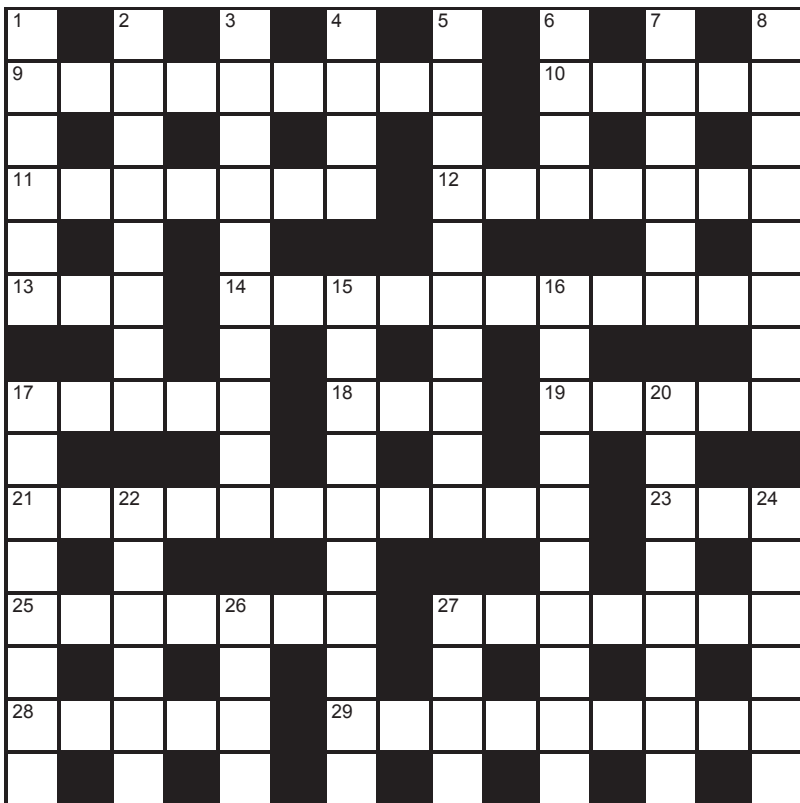


CROSSWORD

No 16,895 Set by SLEUTH



ACROSS

- 9 A country in Africa with a large poster backed religious leader (5,4)
- 10 Suffer terrible ruin admitting first of crises (5)
- 11 Titled Germans once making right time for lavish outings (7)
- 12 Confiscate liquid in dump containing oxygen (7)
- 13 Something often following a spelling competition (3)
- 14 Popular royal tours heart of big place basically (2,9)
- 17 Time to probe simple way of classifying verse (5)
- 18 Something indulgent about to be removed for trashy stuff (3)
- 19 Crawler taken in photograph identified (5)
- 21 Sound judgment shown in public hearing, maybe (6,5)
- 23 Attendant abruptly recalled for opening (3)
- 25 Salesperson gets pay hike for another spell of action (7)
- 27 What mountaineers often do caught by one tending sheep (7)
- 28 Long period after work for staged production (5)
- 29 Naive Greek character defending dope trapped by debts (9)

DOWN

- 1 Peculiar assignment for villainous henchman (6)
- 2 Intended method by civilised chap for ringing (8)
- 3 Produce first signs of growth in very embryonic group in port (4,4,2)
- 4 Starting point on radio for singer (4)
- 5 Appreciated judge, one replacing old man in one Asian country or another (10)
- 6 Impediment to communication in school is publicised (4)
- 7 Take apples in pack quietly (6)
- 8 Game supported by Northern director in Welsh town (8)
- 15 A priest is excited by front of elaborate outlet for cakes? (10)
- 16 Detest line adopted by actor for woman running a household (10)
- 17 A piece of chocolate is put in strand in small cake (8)
- 20 Intellectual extremely bold when rejecting traditional argument (8)
- 22 Fool increased pressure to cut some police (6)
- 24 Area with a council transformed this part's interior (6)
- 26 Small measure to restrain a religious official (4)
- 27 Go round begging losing heart in confined space (4)

JOTTER PAD