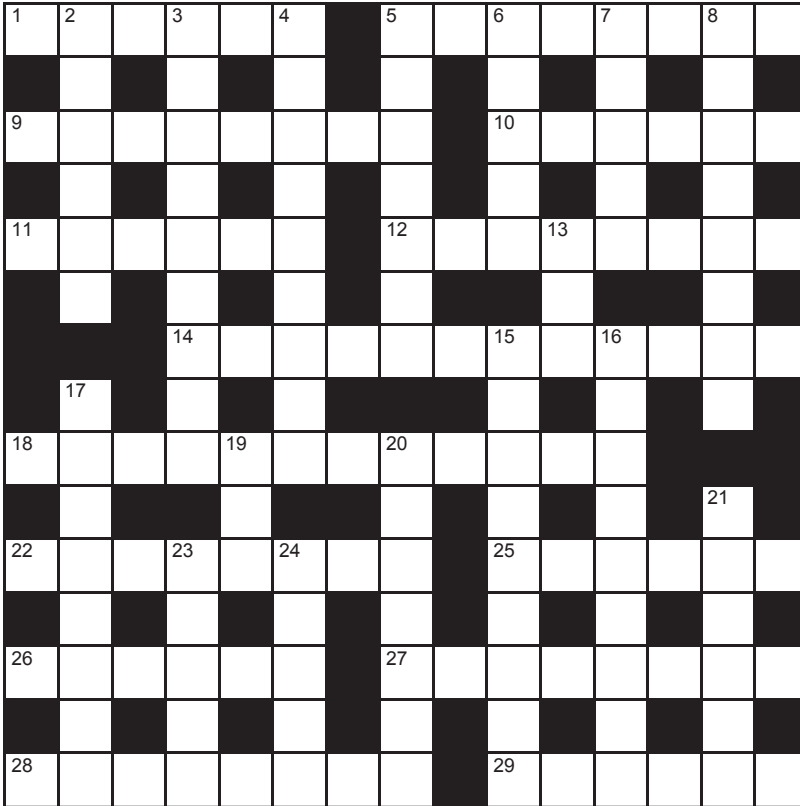


CROSSWORD

No 16,897 Set by AARDVARK



ACROSS

- 1 Latest group of cubs brought back fungus (3-3)
- 5 Force of soldiers, number unknown, encapsulated by sad war poem (8)
- 9 Oddly unrestrained, squire clipped garment of Scot and Yankee (8)
- 10 Ogress's hosting private course in Edinburgh? (6)
- 11 European replaces first line in French language (6)
- 12 Underwater explorer cooked tuna on a wharf briefly (8)
- 14 Specialist detailed one ridiculous trial (12)
- 18 Fabled thief's paintings reportedly filled vehicle of US Republican (6,6)
- 22 Hard to believe declining councillor's not suitable for corporation? (8)
- 25 Stuff thrown out, disheartening Jane, collected by city volunteers (6)
- 26 Jack provided following list of prices (6)
- 27 Basil and others are kept in this cubicle on special reserve (5,3)
- 28 Husband having advantage quarrelling? It's thorny stuff (8)
- 29 Synthetic debris regularly seen at mouth of Zambesi (6)

DOWN

- 2 Sweetie united during raunchy Tango (6)
- 3 Wow! Gangster free after fiddling offshore bank system? (5,4)
- 4 Pair in element about promoted film's leading actor? (9)
- 5 London area's springtime exhibition (7)
- 6 Personnel intercepting new German leader in Asia once (5)
- 7 Banana grower partly boosted skin maybe (5)
- 8 Recording personal details, Laura shortly arranged anaesthetic (8)
- 13 Dined at first in eatery (3)
- 15 Make attractive journal on Web that is engaging society (9)
- 16 Slack lever twisted entering headland (9)
- 17 Shorten ladder Charlie put in gallery (8)
- 19 Place to read a Corsican newspaper (3)
- 20 Managed six deliveries with son per week (7)
- 21 Cash machine supported by cockney entertainer Max (2,4)
- 23 Spinning daughter initially nauseous in folk dance (5)
- 24 British and Yankee airmen travelling skywards easily (2,3)

JOTTER PAD

Solution 16,896

