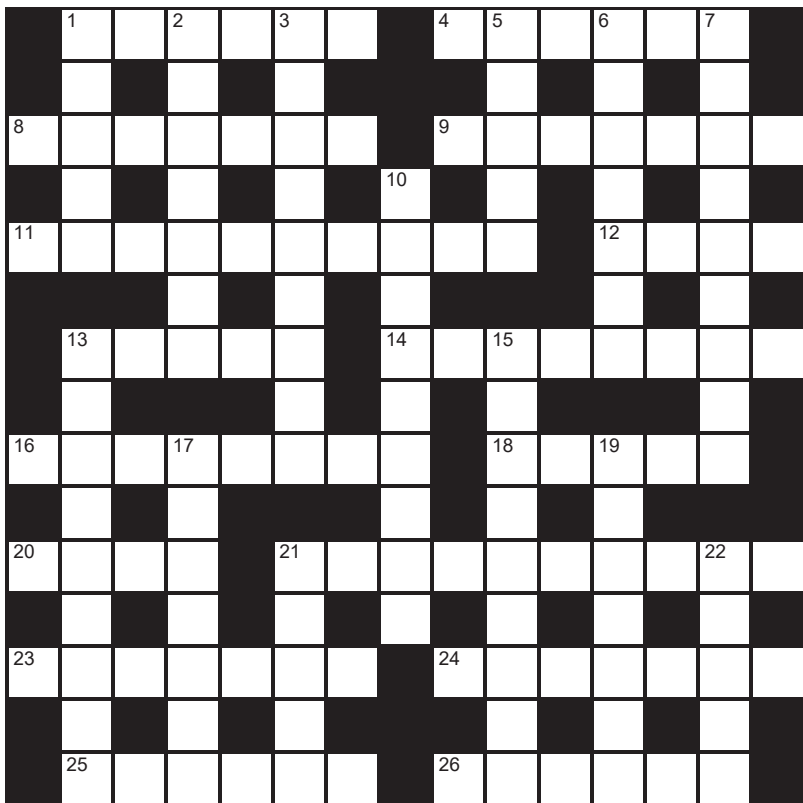


CROSSWORD

No 16,977 Set by TRUNK



ACROSS

- 1 Tramp's flat disgusting externally/ internally (6)
- 4 Monk once wanting sex after that woman married (6)
- 8 Unintroduced demo currently playing out of large record store (7)
- 9 Heal completely, nearly getting out of bed (5,2)
- 11 One holding a flush, clubs and one ace being put in order (10)
- 12 Bum – there! – someone's smells (4)
- 13 Muslim leader out to lunch eating hot starter from Indian (5)
- 14 With runners, ride horse over on soggy ground to opening (8)
- 16 Stray American replacing uniform in conflict (8)
- 18 Defamation, I'll be damned (5)
- 20 Young fish dash across river (4)
- 21 Is he almost past being this unhealthy? (3,2,5)
- 23 Uncertain against a let (7)
- 24 Head briefly around salt lake, for one (7)
- 25 On the right-hand side and a little lower (6)
- 26 Trace with a ruler – it's more reliable (6)

DOWN

- 1 Reduce strain on cause of pain in parts of foot (5)
- 2 Release a local jerk (7)
- 3 Controlling last third of active service in progress (9)
- 5 *Catch-22* author uncovered name – one MacArthur (5)
- 6 Mass map makers on one type of the other broken ground in Glencoe? (4-3)
- 7 Brief hint – album is corrupted (9)
- 10 Fail to embrace anything pleasurable, as abuser does (9)
- 13 Lovely Rita, setting an example, tailed woman penning note (5,4)
- 15 Billed one male – female concerned with children (9)
- 17 Case for admission, chest not over deadly disease (7)
- 19 Not after compassion off Pat (2,5)
- 21 Force losing black cat (5)
- 22 Former prince covering up endless debauchery (5)

JOTTER PAD

Solution 16,976

W	O	R	K	E	R	J	A	B	B	E	R	E	D
E	E	Y	S	C	L	E	A						
A	N	C	I	E	N	T	T	E	A	C	H	E	R
R	O	D	E	U	C	A	T						
S	U	M	O	R	E	M	A	R	K	A	B	L	E
O	M	I	P	L	B								
U	N	E	A	S	Y	B	L	O	O	M	E	R	
T	N	L	E	Y	A	Q	I						
A	D	V	E	R	S	E	G	R	O	U	N	D	
E		O	P	P	D	I	O						
F	R	E	E	F	O	R	A	L	L	O	P	A	L
F	X	D	E	U	H	M	A						
E	M	P	L	O	Y	S	C	O	O	L	E	S	T
C	E	G	S	K	W	N	R						
T	A	L	K	S	H	O	P	G	L	I	T	Z	Y

Solution on December 29

The FT Christmas crosswords by Gozo are in Weekend FT today