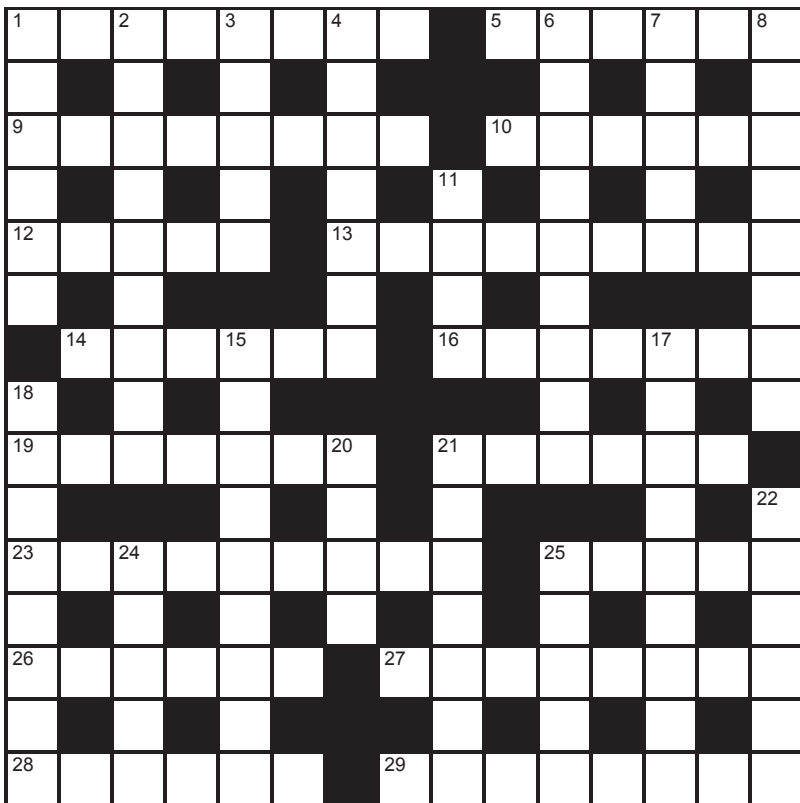


CROSSWORD

No 17,001 Set by LEONIDAS



ACROSS

- 1 Sky is sometimes so crowded with actors? (8)
- 5 Unit returning series of Venice's Raphaels (6)
- 9 Poorer clue for "sower" (5,3)
- 10 Setter regularly on old equipment playing music (6)
- 12 Veggies in shelter originally knitted sweaters (5)
- 13 Fine twisted tale not to be mentioned (9)
- 14 Studs may be glimpsed in this firm (6)
- 16 Sting perhaps after a large drink (7)
- 19 Challenging work piecing together July's sessions (7)
- 21 Super-spreader's attempt to join small craft without husband (6)
- 23 Something that's hit eldest struggling with booze (5,4)
- 25 Animal in river ultimately displaced by duck (5)
- 26 Element of satellite noise linked to central shields (6)
- 27 Most of meat from Skippy maybe son gets on the street (8)
- 28 Vulgar and fish-like? (6)
- 29 Praise greasy meal that includes beverage (8)

DOWN

- 1 Brown's insiders rambling on telly exposed Blair? (6)
- 2 Attention: roost on edges of locality in a serious way (9)
- 3 Musical *Rudolf* having caught on (5)
- 4 Do pack jewellery when time is short (7)
- 6 It helps to get sharp 8s from two cars (9)
- 7 Clean area of arid land (5)
- 8 Shots of sole cooked in vessels (5-3)
- 11 Ecofriendly consumer nearly becoming a star (4)
- 15 Court limits reporting of McCartney's contributions (9)
- 17 Clipped hedge conceals one on stage right (9)
- 18 Traitor in Paris who stands atop catapult (8)
- 20 *Island Special* on boat for couples (4)
- 21 Paste starts to irritate little spot in mouth (7)
- 22 Cardinal's certainly base on reflection (6)
- 24 The German at the foot of the Spanish tree (5)
- 25 New interior finally for the naff Thai market (5)

JOTTER PAD

Solution 17,000

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