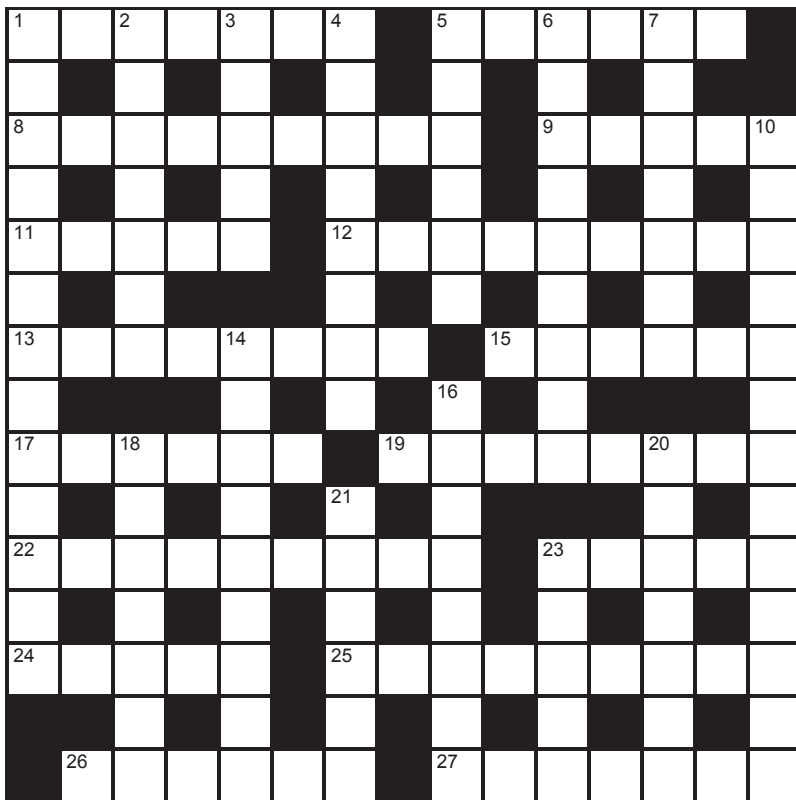


CROSSWORD

No 17,116 Set by JULIUS



ACROSS

- 1 Small Australian songbird crossing northern horizon (7)
- 5 Maybe Homer's gone out to chase one of his letters (6)
- 8 Julius invited to tea with Trotsky, a fickle person (9)
- 9 Caper 14 (ignoring fast bits) (5)
- 11 Group without access to the web (5)
- 12 Offering to swap cars in the event of slippery roads? (9)
- 13 Come up with a new word for "thin-sounding, slender" (8)
- 15 Writer Thomas Hardy's first impressions given gold covers (6)
- 17 Climb American Sierra a bit? (6)
- 19 Big name in Italian fashion left for a time to become a comedian (3,5)
- 22 Firmly established, as the boss of *Gardener's World* might describe himself? (9)
- 23 Fairy daughter of the south replaced by papa (5)
- 24 Massive soldiers? (5)
- 25 Old country pub, one I renovated by Langley? (9)
- 26 Alas, no catering on board winter transport (3-3)
- 27 Farewell item secured at the 10 did you say? (7)

DOWN

- 1 Bill might get this Home Counties Tory fearful (6,7)
- 2 Longed for money, finally obtained fair and square (7)
- 3 Find Perth essentially dead (5)
- 4 I must log out of game during, say, vespers (8)
- 5 In pieces regularly after dad loses it (6)
- 6 Appreciation of playing guitar with Ted (9)
- 7 Leave starter of most savoury layer of eggs (7)
- 10 Key to French Arsenal ace moving here for a bargain (9,4)
- 14 Aficionado beginning to taste Italian wine cold – wonderful! (9)
- 16 A kind of rush to build Donegal Hospital at the start (8)
- 18 Officer suitable to probe notorious murderer (7)
- 20 Vehicle temperature about 11C, starts to apply brakes (7)
- 21 Don't press top Italian trousers (4,2)
- 23 Slate opening of terrible old theatre piece (5)

JOTTER PAD

Solution 17,115

