CROSSWORD
No 17,181 Set by GOZO

The thematic definitions of 18 solutions (9 reading across and 9 downwards) are omitted. Three of these solutions are plural.

ACROSS
1 Nostalgic for conifer? (6)
4 Sullen international sportsman’s apple with caramel topping (8)
9 Head off influential figure (6)
10 Valley almost catching aquatic mammal (8)
11 Rode at front, backing aid to driver (3-3)
12 Favourite holds a roué (8)
13 See 25
14 Pest is left out in shade (6)
17 Arrived, during yesterday in France (7)
21 Relative from Tyneside, gasping? (6)
25, 13 The Divine Comedy? (6)
26 The length in question (8)
27 Attack, losing head in drinking-bout (6)
28 Patronage cut off, endlessly (8)
29 Put up with what is available and create party (4,2)
30 Brilliant fish (8)
31 1,000 sorts – out of sorts (6)

DOWN
1 Out of shape worker (8)
2 Late evening glass of beer (8)
3 Teachers’ union has to brood (8)
5 Scrutinise John and young Katherine, endlessly (4,2)
6 I left captain, tossing in sleep? (6)
7 Ringlet with two points (6)
8 Dish containing a relish (6)
12 Entertainer on jetty? Rubbish! (7)
15 Listener on this spot in the Old Kent Road (3)
16 Writer’s enclosure (3)
18 Resume once more around start of day (8)
19 Weather a storm (8)
20 Devon and Cornwall lets (8)
22 Regularly encountered in town in the US (6)
23 Volunteers touring Persia’s capital (6)
24 Educate artists and porpoises as a group! (6)
25 Knight upset silver hay-cart (6)

JOTTER PAD

Solution 17,180

C IDE RS TO AF AULT
RIE F AL R
ABR UPT D AL M A T IA
ME O P LT R D
MAC A R O N P L E A S E
ET TL D T I
RA IN D EL EG AT I O N
V T T R N
PREF E CT U R E M I R D
A G E R T A
N A T T E R S IDE KICK
A R T I LV AT
C L E MA T I C P I LL AR
H A T S E L E
E N T R E T A Y SWA Y Z E