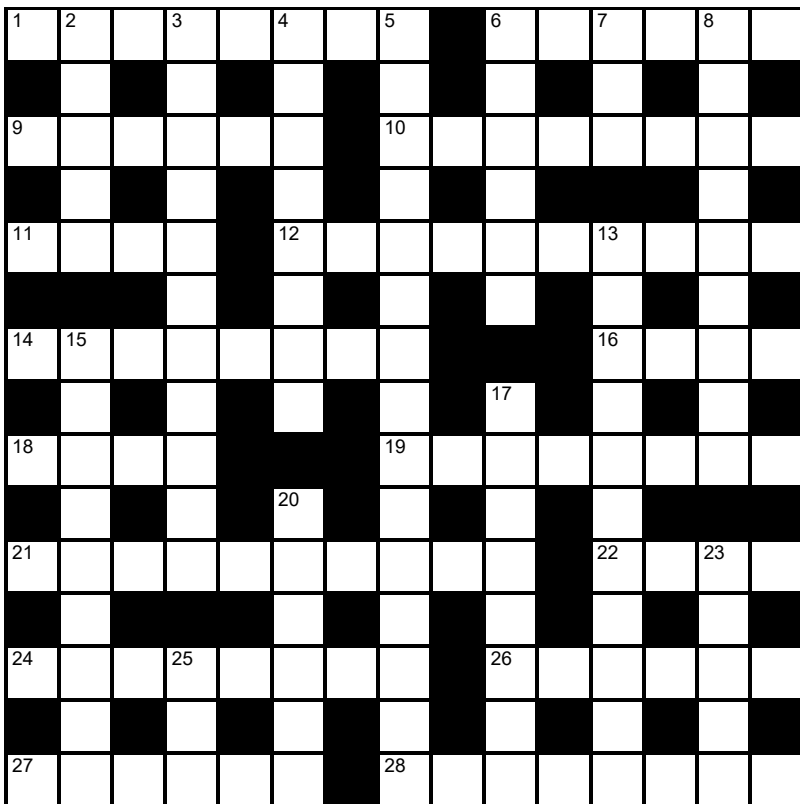


CROSSWORD

No 17,410 Set by STEERPIKE



ACROSS

- 1 Poet is artfully employing extremely elemental variations? (8)
- 6 Artist nursing sickly daughter in country (6)
- 9 Taunt sicario about defending bigot (6)
- 10 Picture of Geneva is distorted (8)
- 11 Investigator admits felon essentially scarpered (4)
- 12 Lauding union is initially tolerated within reason (10)
- 14 Ritual fulfilled by priest taking bishop's arm, say (8)
- 16 Run into writer returning copy (4)
- 18 Ace aviators circling in the distance (4)
- 19 An attorney hounding a prisoner is cold-blooded type (8)
- 21 One by one, say, chaps finally left detention (10)
- 22 Starts to order raw brains and sheep's eyeballs (4)
- 24 Phone line getting twisted around mike is common complaint (8)
- 26 Setter is crushed by pedantic brute (6)
- 27 Tightens braces (6)
- 28 It provides a relative advantage (8)

DOWN

- 2 Slight Samoan lilt regularly concealed (5)
- 3 Burns from grilling? (5-6)
- 4 Pitiful old news presenter has twitch (8)
- 5 Secretary sporting an umbrella's sheltering a retired clergyman (6,9)
- 6 Harry deserted Vanessa in middle of storm (6)
- 7 Topless young men providing promotional material (3)
- 8 Passed around distilled gin? Steerpike originally felt honoured! (9)
- 13 Student of humanity is cool about nothing having meaning (11)
- 15 Kill one in seven involved in campaign (9)
- 17 Desperate girl detailed conclusion of fight over 25 pence (4-4)
- 20 Party in Scotland's gatecrashed by two old busybodies (6)
- 23 Vessels 19's family filled with tea, say (5)
- 25 Hoisted flag in wind (3)

JOTTER PAD

Solution 17,409



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