

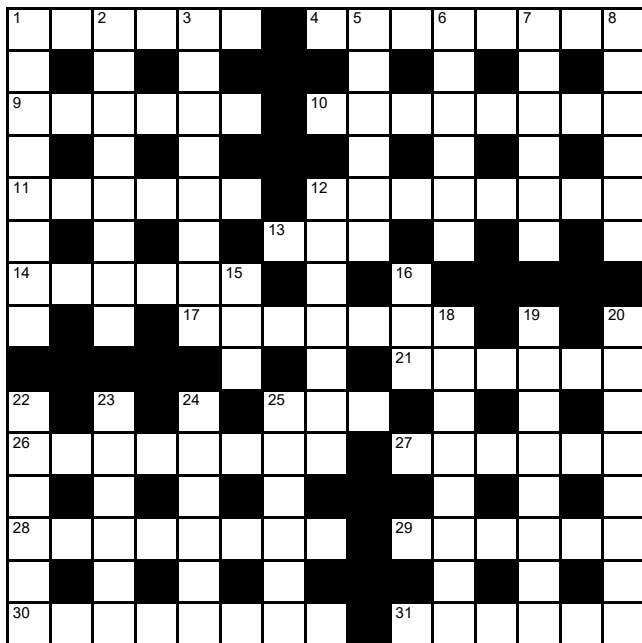
# Crossword 17,420 Set by JULIUS

## ACROSS

- 1** Bilge? Little hollow laugh (6)  
**4** Scratch game (8)  
**9** Mafia bigwig drops old lady's headgear (3,3)  
**10** Casually meet Oscar — first, scrounge a beer! (4,4)  
**11** Lounge lizard's first vote: zero returns (6)  
**12** Unlimited but also, sadly, ultimately expensive (8)  
**13** Cook starters for fiancé, really yummy! (3)  
**14** Young person carrying primitive soup bowl (6)  
**17** Refuse second-class book I submitted in hurry (7)  
**21** Julius is working, wearing knockout robe (6)  
**25** African resident hung around, wasting hour (3)  
**26** Put back together English couple embarrassed to go out (8)  
**27** Having retired, died without clothing in port city (6)  
**28** Confirmed having struggled to contain swirling blaze (8)  
**29** Doctor ingesting his personal drug, possibly a barbiturate (6)  
**30** Protestant university student goes back to Tehran, surprisingly (8)  
**31** Way to upset setter? (6)

## DOWN

- 1** Finish line? Strive to cross it (8)  
**2** Tripe and iced fruity drinks made with wine (8)  
**3** Leave pro to crack vault (4,4)  
**5** Overweight clubs, partner? (6)  
**6** Ace spin doctor featured in page ten (or thereabouts) (6)  
**7** 15 upset the King? Er, that's codswallop (6)  
**8** Former Officer Commanding Egypt discharged missile (6)  
**12** Captain might have one day to support gun embargo (7)  
**15** Lump of upside-down cake? (3)  
**16** Request time off work (3)  
**18** Spooner's order to look after publican right at the back (8)  
**19** Avignon's ensemble is filled with hot air (8)  
**20** Bull tattoo designed to cover both hands (5,3)  
**22** Gibberish instruction to US motorists visiting the UK? (6)  
**23** Tears up case of illicit liquor (6)  
**24** Garbage heap with leaves at its core (6)  
**25** 23 conventions originated here (6)



## Solution 17,414

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

## Jotter pad

On Sunday, May 21, try solving our monthly US puzzle, set by Reorder, on the FT crossword app at [ft.com/crosswordapp](https://ft.com/crosswordapp)