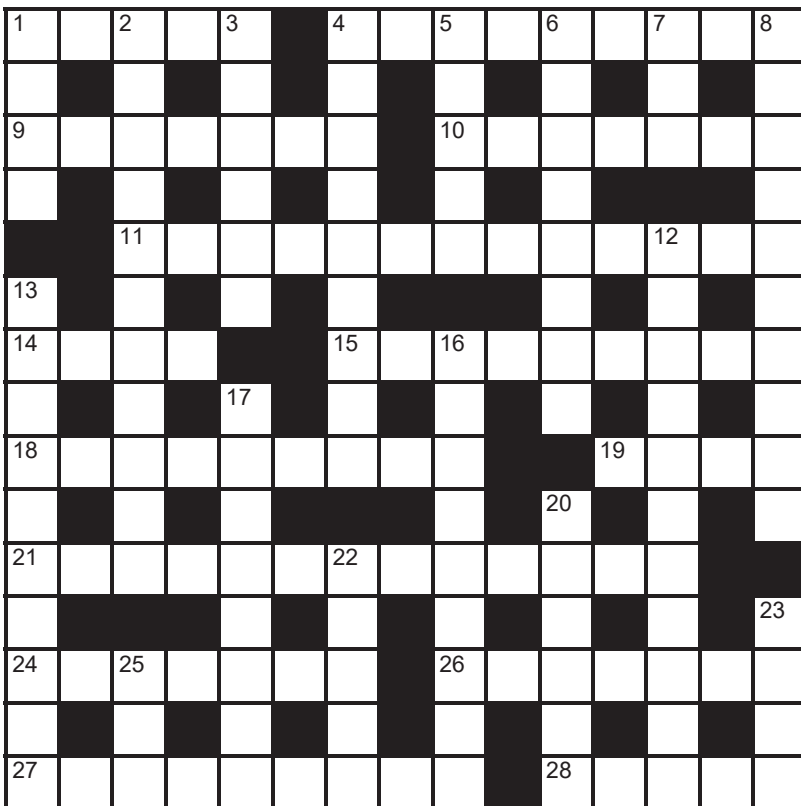


CROSSWORD No 17,623 by ARTEXLEN



Solution 17,621

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



Scan the QR code to access FT crosswords over the last 30 days — cryptic, Polymath, Weekend and Sunday puzzles — or go to ft.com/crosswordapp

JOTTER PAD

ACROSS

- 1 Opposed being retired — it's not stimulating (5)
- 4 Woozy feeling I would enjoy going round head (9)
- 9 Graduate doctor in first of operations is young one (7)
- 10 Meeting antisocial rogue, act casually withdrawing (7)
- 11 Down-to-earth broadcast probing replacement for school of thought (13)
- 14 A figure backing alliance (4)
- 15 Petty hiding sailor's navigational aid? (9)
- 18 Gamble gaining US farm, lake and section of wood (9)
- 19 Scandinavian flipper picked up (4)
- 21 Coffor of loot is secure with threats resolved (8,5)
- 24 Affirmative response to question you are texted shows sincerity (7)
- 26 Play (vacuous output) Lionel Richie song (7)
- 27 Lusts cool down after bagging man finally many moons ago (4,5)
- 28 Shelter beside church drain (5)

DOWN

- 1 Garden plot over time becoming liability (4)
- 2 Get across India on tractor possessed by collective group (11)
- 3 Weak fellow obsequiously servile with head down (6)
- 4 Partially hidden, going round selling weed (9)
- 5 Food outlet outside hospital in Asian city (5)
- 6 Name of many queens is a title used cyclically (8)
- 7 Minor unopened letter (3)
- 8 Only children admitted in play facilities, not wife (10)
- 12 Italian food consumed in French city after day in Germany (11)
- 13 Inflamed receiving account pop group's up for leave of absence (10)
- 16 Thicko: are bananas veg? (9)
- 17 Cutting implement as eclipses poorest that's regularly selected (8)
- 20 Enable AI computer to be deadly (6)
- 22 Repeated series of years in naval force (5)
- 23 My way to request silence (4)
- 25 Part of speech showing no love for sister (3)