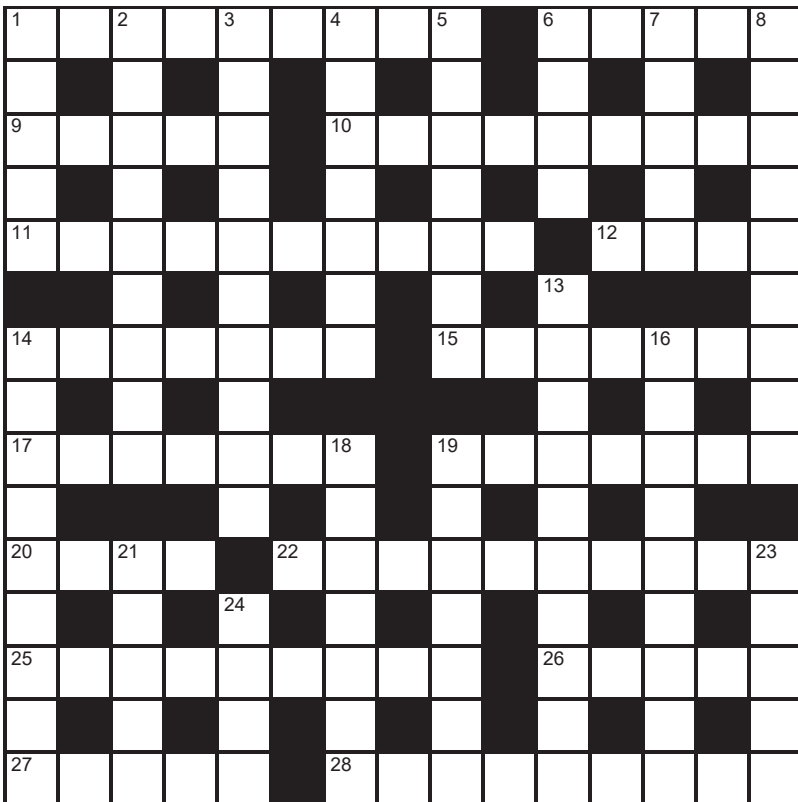


CROSSWORD No 17,657 by LEONIDAS



ACROSS

- 1 Male beast struggling in lead? (4,5)
- 6 Alternately choose each function (5)
- 9 Consort dropping book on one's toes (5)
- 10 Needed on location around Queen Island (9)
- 11 Wave on heads of teams in exciting decider (10)
- 12 Returned butcher's stock (4)
- 14 Excuse silver-plated car by yard (7)
- 15 River carrying artist back for light meal (7)
- 17 Headed off promise to meet Edward casually (7)
- 19 Sage's covering pressed by baby's mother (7)
- 20 Announced programs in recess (4)
- 22 Idiot dog working alongside nut (10)
- 25 Harsh tests of *Rice Club's* cooking (9)
- 26 Children exposed groups of cells (5)
- 27 Old letters capturing Oscar's spirit (5)
- 28 Funfair's '2x2' craft with politician aboard (5,4)

DOWN

- 1 Snake eviscerated scraggiest crow (5)
- 2 Jobs maybe suffice ultimately for wee docker (9)
- 3 Master heated rum: too hot! He should give it a rest (10)
- 4 Visibly upset about sailors in threes (7)
- 5 Left one brief line: run to get drink (7)
- 6 Picked up birch for shepherd's brother (4)
- 7 Grab Madame's 4 and 12 (5)
- 8 Pale actor played one mortally bitten (9)
- 13 Able to grasp middle of free layers in heap (10)
- 14 Significant slip from satnav Alan checked (9)
- 16 Coats bits of eel at Thames location (9)
- 18 Suspicion surrounds the Parisian garment (7)
- 19 Some retired females sit amorously for artist (7)
- 21 Order given to 3's husband loading most of rice cakes (5)
- 23 Rubbish diamonds wife nabbed from worn-out ship (5)
- 24 Pinches half of vegetables (4)

Solution 17,656

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

JOTTER PAD



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