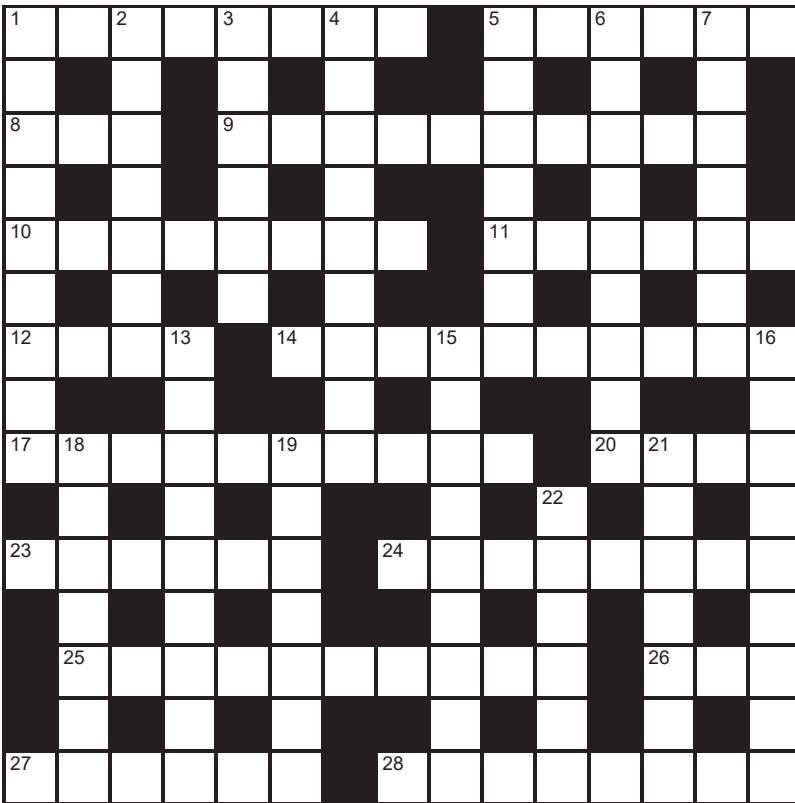


CROSSWORD No 17,678 by GURNEY



Solution 17,677



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ACROSS

- 1 Quiet star backing expert, one of a pair (8)
- 5 Go gracefully as large meal left abandoned (3,3)
- 8 Fitting carpet on regular basis (3)
- 9 Introduction of variable charge I've seen as far from friendly (10)
- 10 Cake urge, mine, that's silly (8)
- 11 Unexpected tale about place's requirement for some on move (1-5)
- 12 Flipping temper leading to ruin! (4)
- 14 Radio stint for shake-up — they've been around for a while (10)
- 17 In obstinate way, unfortunately, no clarity about resistance (10)
- 20 Went by road, dropping off Republican flier (4)
- 23 Each year, duty to provide conditional release (6)
- 24 Artist needing help on return to atelier finally getting warmer (8)
- 25 Home computing, one built-in minus first drive (10)
- 26 United forward, English (3)
- 27 Born unusually early? Not quite (6)
- 28 Not said to be a global body figure by media boss (8)

DOWN

- 1 Compass I'd renovated in brief spells (9)
- 2 Province supported by group of three, welcoming article (7)
- 3 About six, Heather still around? (6)
- 4 Victor, lively crooner, entertaining queen (9)
- 5 Graduate on Channel Islands, not well on way up — are these to blame? (7)
- 6 Like some romances, initially with hopes involving real love, move in twisty way (9)
- 7 Uniform, tidy, in from France but not taken in? (7)
- 13 Flying object, remote possibly — it has energy (9)
- 15 Croatian animal at front of doghouse, exercising (9)
- 16 Leader unhappy about fruit fellow (9)
- 18 Firm's upcoming song about new musical instrument (7)
- 19 Island housing blokes at start of year in pleasant facility (7)
- 21 Issued letters for border settlement (7)
- 22 Archaeological excavation in Paris is featured in summary (6)

JOTTER PAD