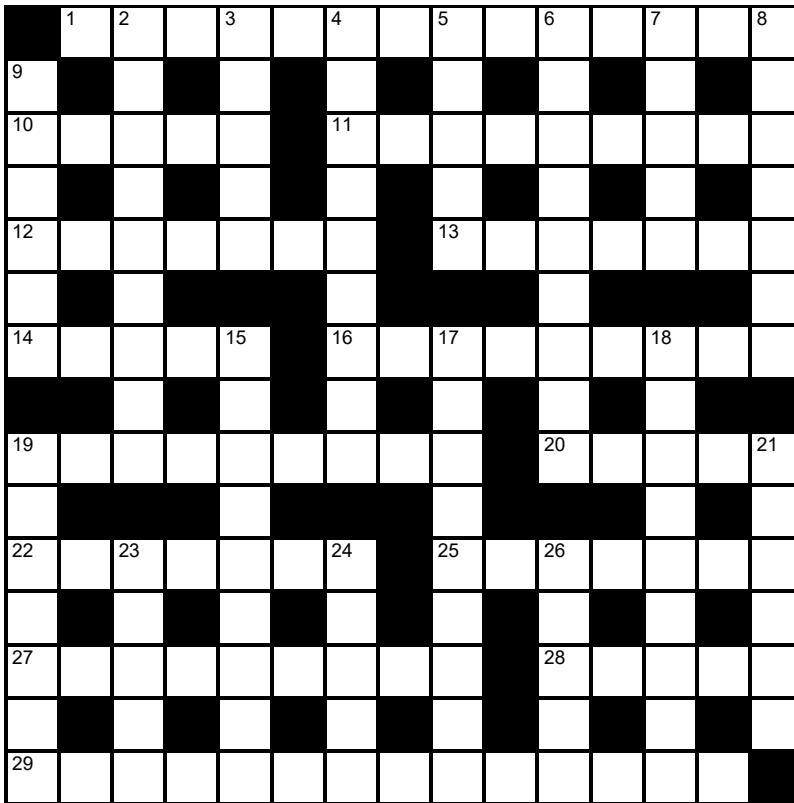


CROSSWORD No 17,770 by PHSSTHPOK



Solution 17,768



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

ACROSS

- Real wilderness — or not? (8,6)
- Remove water from outside tip of spicy herb (5)
- Uninhibited boy nearly does lap dance (4,5)
- Both act weirdly in conversation with this AI (7)
- Landmass formed from India and US area (7)
- Picked up perhaps small or medium pants (5)
- Sweet little computer programme graphics (5,4)
- Connect core of batteries inside bug (9)
- Rumoured that paella has this poison (5)
- Wearing apron, knocked back house drinks (7)
- Dull throbbing part of ear (7)
- Wrapped around ligament like an octopus (9)
- Come to lecture after it starts (5)
- CPUs for weather forecasting? (14)

DOWN

- Offensive joke stopped regarding religious person (9)
- Star of Bethlehem initially follows church line East (5)
- Foreign worker angry after losing right to lecture (9)
- Follow directions to handle uranium (5)
- Clothes submerged in river (9)
- Mocks soldier — not quite elite (5)
- Refined carbohydrate finally left agent dizzy (7)
- One adds up account for boarding a double-decker (6)
- It's not easy to stand on committee after slave is caught (9)
- Reconciled postman with revolutionary political party (7,2)
- Establish as inevitable (9)
- Stupid phrase failed to stop jerk (7)
- Quiet hymns composed for spirits (6)
- Prohibition on Joseph's instrument (5)
- At Oval, bizarrely start to serve and volley (5)
- Worth me slowing down (5)

JOTTER PAD