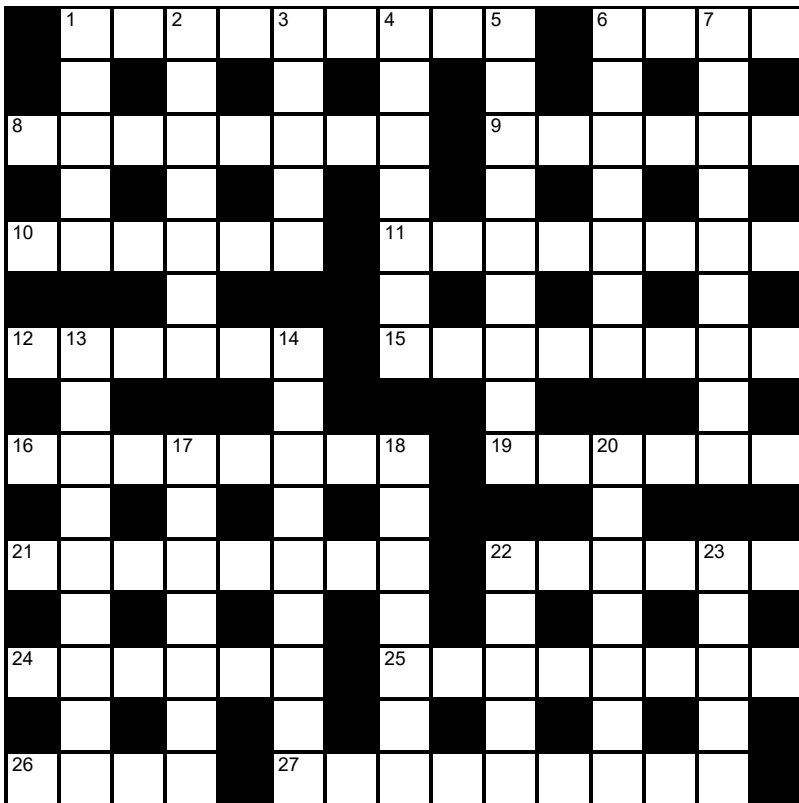


CROSSWORD No 17,850 by STEERPIKE



ACROSS

- 1 Bellicose sort of Roman grew agitated (9)
- 6 Steerpike's taken aback by fine fellow's anger (4)
- 8 Line crossed by those leaving gratuities in boozers (8)
- 9 Places Earl in custody of beautiful woman (6)
- 10 Pizzeria essentially has a good deal for fanatic (6)
- 11 Skilfully conceals confusion about convention (8)
- 12 Mad heretic clutches stick (6)
- 15 Sultry soprano regularly avoided staid affair (8)
- 16 Ogre's cat made mincemeat of French delicacy (8)
- 19 Unsophisticated cowboy ignoring old flame's last letter (6)
- 21 Exemplary knight concludes message with startling cry (8)
- 22 Judge checks places for crossing narrow inlets (6)
- 24 Old landowners initially overlooked piles of paper (6)
- 25 Innovative, independent spirit displayed in test (8)
- 26 Suggestive of Old Welsh upon reflection (4)
- 27 Courtesy of French queen held in stockade (9)

Solution 17,849



JOTTER PAD

DOWN

- 1 Drink, it's said, leads to unpleasant-sounding complaint (5)
- 2 Great revolutionary rings Liberal before English revolt (7)
- 3 Public deprivation laid bare (5)
- 4 Spooner's fishy jokes? They go on and on! (7)
- 5 Stunning piece of jewelry incorporates dancing Shiva (9)
- 6 Tiniest creatures discovered south of Michigan (7)
- 7 Cheerful drunk receives noon meal on the house (4,5)
- 13 Debate about the origins of Ruth Ellis's infamy (9)
- 14 In finale, vulgar European gets engaged (9)
- 17 Turned out broadcast entertains models (7)
- 18 Mock the Wright brothers' initial achievement? (4,3)
- 20 Universal issue almost overwhelms an idealist (7)
- 22 Oddly farcical end of elder brother (5)
- 23 Pirate is Devon's foremost libertine (5)



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