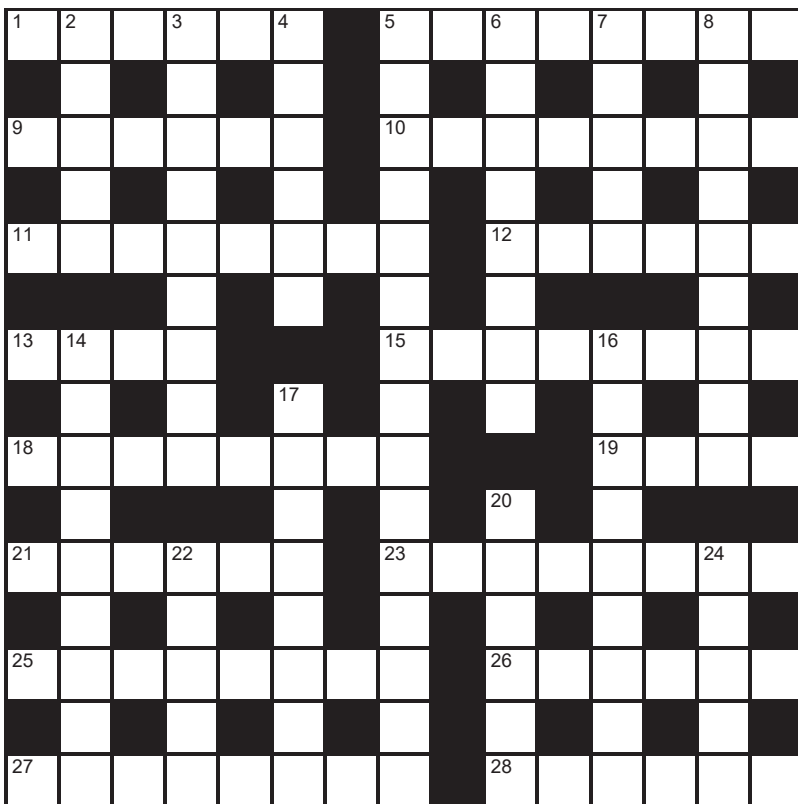


CROSSWORD No 17,972 by BOBCAT



Solution 17,971

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



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 Remove restaurant retrospectively charging uncapped fee (6)
- 5 Cut back relations with company controlling international minister? (8)
- 9 Divide prime bit of Camembert the French way (6)
- 10 Family haunting retired senior cause further provocation (8)
- 11 Trivial affair keeping Wellington away from the front? (8)
- 12 Graduates going head to head about shell of obscure creature (6)
- 13 Player from *Expresso Bongo* extremely withdrawn (4)
- 15 Inappropriate clue for 'demit'? It's just a reversal (3-5)
- 18 Read rude review inwardly showing spirit (3,2,3)
- 19 Nurse on flipping second warning (4)
- 21 Partially unmask a terrifying iceman (6)
- 23 Host entertains Charlie with attractive escort (3,5)
- 25 Visionary movement introduced by Marcus Aurelius? (8)
- 26 Scotsman going west notices divine females (6)
- 27 Poor Schopenhauer lacking cash supply at this stage (8)
- 28 Soprano in Germany? (6)

DOWN

- 2 Fine old cat hiding tail in folded paper (5)
- 3 Discrimination distorted hit parade (9)
- 4 'Throw up' (to quote author) with this medicine (6)
- 5 Jockey mostly prefers congenial fast mover (9,6)
- 6 Attractive characteristic of *The Third Man* elevating the finale (8)
- 7 Code for the Speaker's tea dance (5)
- 8 Alsace beer brewed without English vegetable (9)
- 14 Site of massive gathering from which there's no escape (5,4)
- 16 Start to interpret three notes about quarantine (9)
- 17 Naked lovers' rampant favourites go too far (8)
- 20 Approve detective sergeant's reforms (6)
- 22 Little sign of queen leaving balcony (5)
- 24 Odd bits of dagger located after party trick (5)