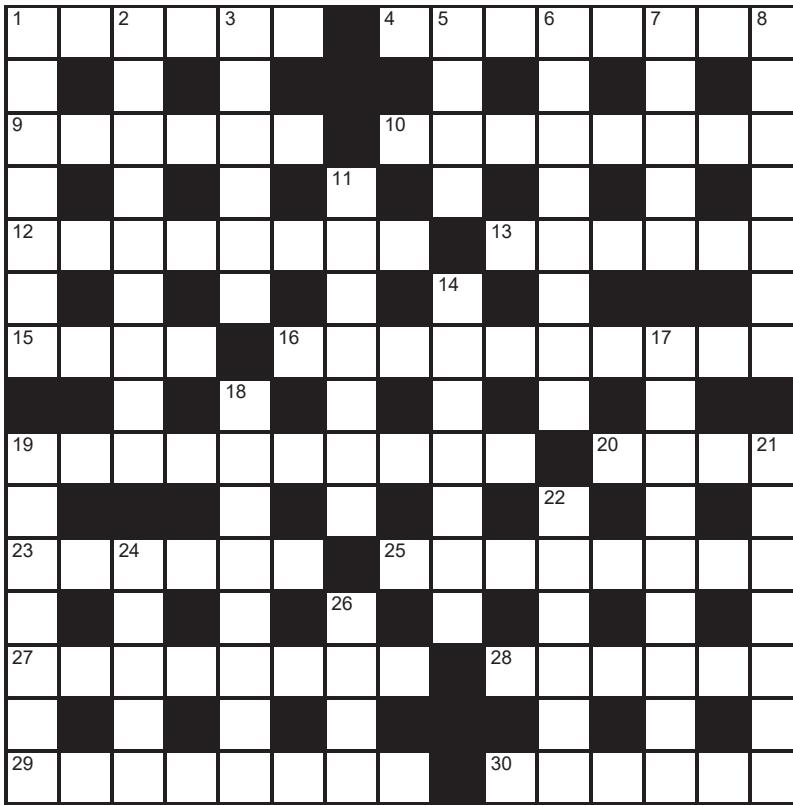


## CROSSWORD No 18,271 by GAFF



## Solution 18,269



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## An 80th birthday puzzle

## ACROSS

- 1 Starter cheers athletes, nearly all passing early leaders (6)
- 4 Servant bound to be set back for country's balance (5,3)
- 9 Judge fashionable new leader of realm (6)
- 10 Bottle emptied before party becomes thrash (8)
- 12 Working pony went cheap (8)
- 13 Consider odd boot protection in the garden (6)
- 15 Key to university (4)
- 16 4.51 shift (4-2-4)
- 19 Speechless at fair caricature (4,6)
- 20 Pickle mix (4)
- 23 Order member's home to be covered with rubbish (6)
- 25 Old drivers lost in conflicts (8)
- 27 Unlucky to be poorly celebrated on the radio (3-5)
- 28 Woman hit by 24 (6)
- 29 Pitch after openers' foundation (8)
- 30/7 Sunscreen award? (6,5)**

## DOWN

- 1 Tony Curtis' half confused state (7)
- 2 You're welcome to express pleasure holding investigation about Michael Foot (2,7)
- 3 Drink carrier (6)
- 5 Fancy-free hazard (4)
- 6 Compass provides spacemen with last gasp help to return (8)
- 7 See 30 Across
- 8 A lot included in cut down first instalment (4,3)
- 11 Cutting bone with zinc is ordinarily involved (7)
- 14 Stony cold roast (7)
- 17 First tie handle in a knot (2,3,4)
- 18 Many misplay tuba and horn finale (8)
- 19 Report man in crane (7)
- 21 Not oriental spaghetti perhaps (7)
- 22 Gaudy, strong-hearted clown (6)
- 24 Toy truck (5)
- 26 Principal dancer enjoys all-new overtures (4)