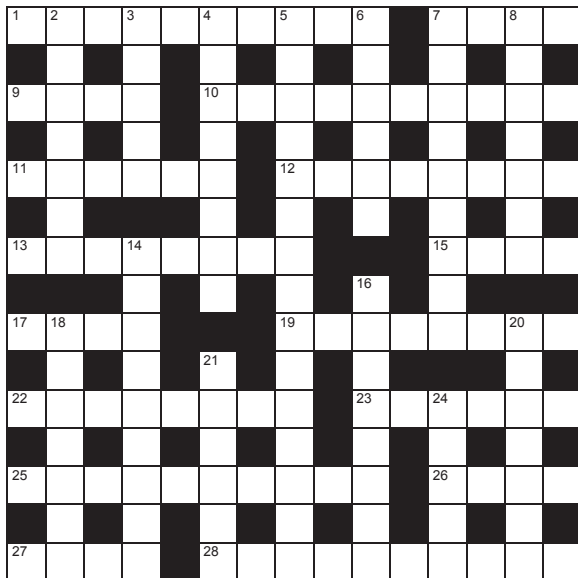


CROSSWORD

No. 14,196 Set by ARMONIE



JOTTER PAD

ACROSS

- 1 Tactless cretin dies horribly (10)
- 7 Peter's out of danger (4)
- 9 Animal threatened initially now in decline (4)
- 10 'Arry takes part in a scam? That's shocking! (10)
- 11 Guard noticed protecting crown (6)
- 12 Lunatic tore round island for sustenance (8)
- 13 Supply air to a snake that's very angry (8)
- 15 Tramp's caresses rejected (4)
- 17 Check retrograde tendency (4)
- 19 John to be trained at work (2,3,3)
- 22 Minister always in distress (8)
- 23 Stream of nine catches new infection (6)
- 25 It is sick to quote a dunce (10)
- 26 Contest wife's opinion (4)
- 27 Some poker tournament put back to March (4)
- 28 Voters prefer no local tax (10)

DOWN

- 2 A special section for advertisements (7)
- 3 One does not start a fire (5)
- 4 Bond noticed powered device (8)
- 5 Decline to enter a dubious agreement (7,8)
- 6 Faithful tenor's out of practice (6)
- 7 Susie dies foolishly for a matter of lesser importance (4,5)
- 8 Money intended to keep nationalist leader (7)
- 14 Batting record within reason? Very well! (2,3,4)
- 16 Unpleasantly rough walk by conservationists (8)
- 18 D-Dickensian denizen (7)
- 20 Work fast outside university to get rich (7)
- 21 Disconnect electricity? Initially that's dangerous! (6)
- 24 Fellow always in delirium (5)

Solution to the Christmas Crossword on Saturday January 5

Solution to yesterday's prize puzzle on Monday January 7

Crossword winners' names will be printed in Weekend FT on January 5