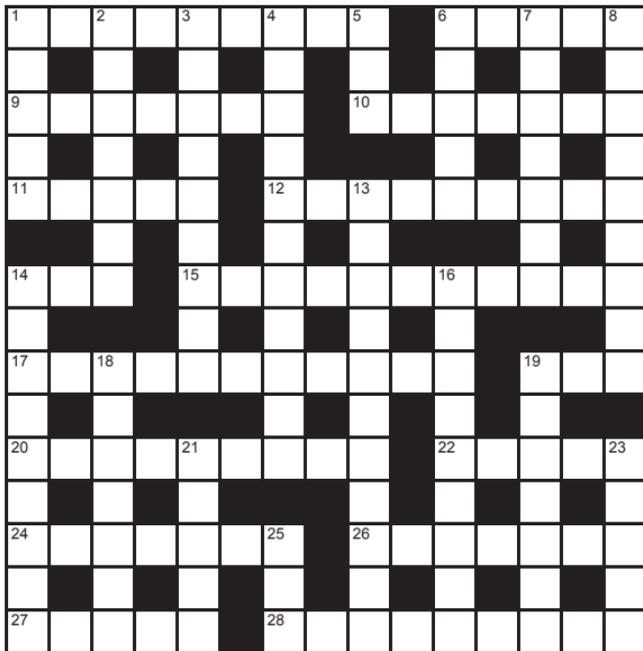


CROSSWORD

No. 15,386 Set by NEO



JOTTER PAD

ACROSS

- 1 Again join sappers company beginning to bore in excavation (9)
- 6 Contender's not entirely genuine politician (5)
- 9 To construct at higher level requires publicity (5-2)
- 10 For syrup say maple contains a centilitre (7)
- 11 Played by whole orchestra? Express annoyance about it! (5)
- 12 Selassie's artist getting time to stop hunting expedition (3,6)
- 14 Tail removed from fish in barrel (3)
- 15 Welshman with English, caught in row, makes slow disappearance (11)
- 17 Engaged in fraud as was Nero while Rome burned? (2,3,6)
- 19 Small creature takes Echo – newspaper we prefer! (3)
- 20 One clogs second best whisky at church (9)
- 22 Capital letters written in ink – a bulletin (5)
- 24 US Minuteman bisects two areas (7)
- 26 Old woman on island plumps for insects (7)
- 27 See 21
- 28 Oil trader? (3,6)

DOWN

- 1 Book covered by radical automaton (5)
- 2 Contender's criminal entertaining bits of fluff (7)
- 3 Angry Rene drowns one with litres in soup (9)
- 4 Little devil has timetable to imprison current despot (11)
- 5 Cheers up, supporting introduction to Edvard Munch (3)
- 6 In Sanskrit, he takes letter from Greek (5)
- 7 UN and China disposed to grant release (7)
- 8 Leader here embraces Independence Day for starters (9)
- 13 Extravagant NHS dept aggravated break in relations (11)
- 14 Chinese way is taken by every single Irish leader (9)
- 16 Utter defeat to confirm with ship's officer (9)
- 18 US writer's thunderous god over water in France (7)
- 19 Implicate brother in climbing tree (7)
- 21, 27 Welcome here for victor with excited eastern audience (5,5)
- 23 Failed contender more relaxed after relinquishing an Oscar (5)
- 25 Some drivers together around golf range (3)

Solution to Saturday's prize puzzle on Saturday November 12
Solution to yesterday's prize puzzle on Monday November 14
Winners' names will be printed in Weekend FT