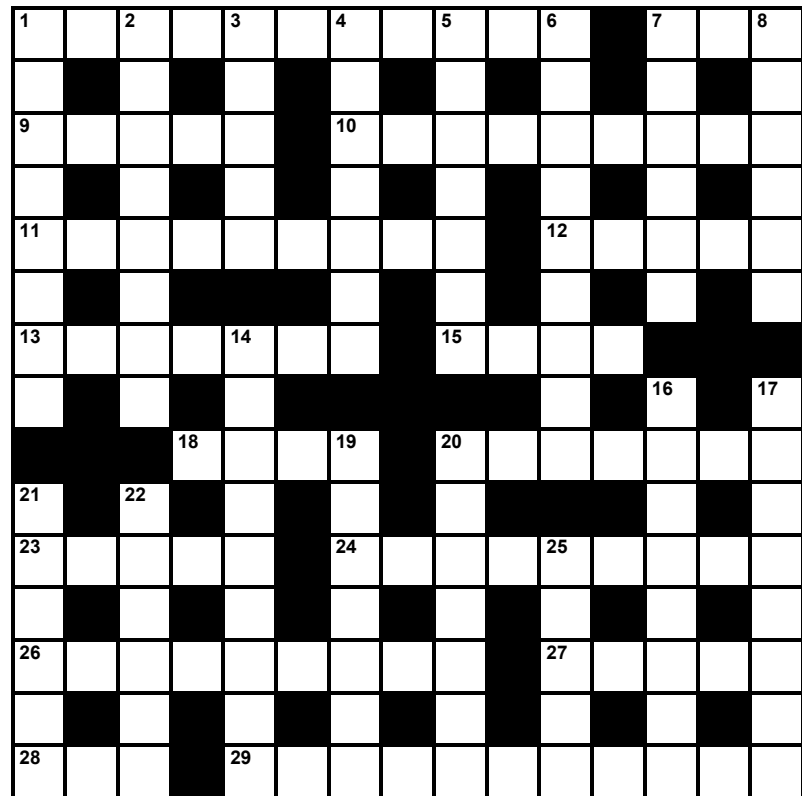


Missing Numbers by Alchemi

Numbers appear in the solutions to eight clues but are not referred to in wordplay as a result of the 118 find-a-number services making a pathetic attempt to drum up business. It may be of interest that the sum of the eight numbers is a perfect square.

Across

- 1** Item I will enter later today (4,7)
- 7/28** Mechanic's aid somehow essential, ironically, for rebuilding (6)
- 9** Test, say, in which bishop includes "Five Lose Their Head" (5)
- 10** Subsequent to denials flying back and forth post-lunch (9)
- 11** Burdening aerofoil (9)
- 12** Sort of fool to be sick about voting system (5)
- 13** Squash time to find out what happens next (5,2)
- 15** Trick about to cover 19 (4)
- 18** Knock a drink back in Italy (4)
- 20** Child carrying sample of drugs arrives at New York before most people (7)
- 23** Trial of Trident somewhat up in the air (5)
- 24** Rake is dissolute, getting to bond with composer (4,5)
- 26** Almost stir Norfolk resort when Queen leaves wearing setter's very short skirt (9)
- 27** Look into President's returning infection (5)
- 28** See 7



29 50's gear, black with tacky lining inside, on gorilla with PhD, perhaps (5,6)

Down

- 1** Getting up conscious, restrained by three times as much power (8)
- 2** Gives expression to support for popular Bills (8)
- 3** What about pictures of planet? (5)
- 4** Raise a hullabaloo to camouflage Virginia's escape (7)
- 5** A number say to bury outside (7)
- 6** Undercover Nazi putting harmful organism on wilted pansy (6,3)
- 7** Map-makers belonging to us (2,4)
- 8** Friend discards top, feeling isolated (6)
- 14** Fighting did for nocturnal opera impresario (9)
- 16** Where Mindy's friend came from is a historic battle site in Canada (4,4)
- 17** Assigned, as per usual, to cook pasty etc (8)
- 19** Some gossamer I carry abroad (7)
- 20** When one is very stupid (7)
- 21** Spooner could damage nail on this surface (6)
- 22** Bird sounds one cannot but ... (6)
- 25** ... initially sing about shipping line (5)