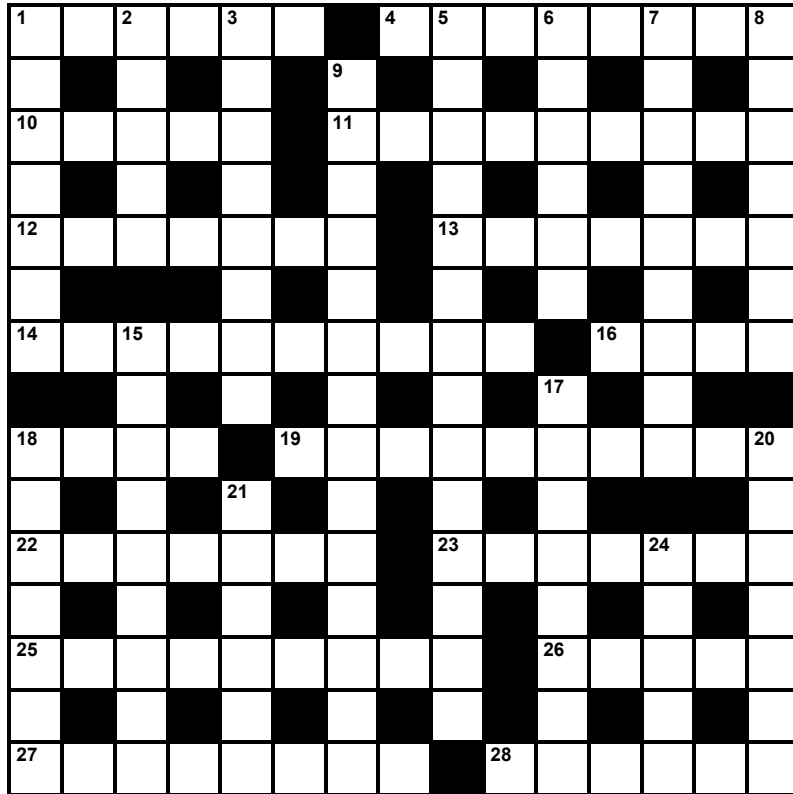


Alchemi 190 by Alchemi

In places, most of the down clues lack definition



Across

- 1** Second useful drink (6)
4 Choose to block fear which is all-encompassing (8)
10 Elite force drink in the morning (1,4)
11 Different member of Ernie's family? (9)
12 Cat Iris tortured, showing human folly (7)
13 Abnormally large cutback after finally ending lemons? (7)
14 They get letters from Bill, form lines and look around (10)
16 Old man is in Italian town (4)

- 18** Companion goes outside when ready (4)
19 Sort of guitar exercise holds back Noddy's group and a slippery customer (5,5)
22 Game one getting intelligence at huge expense (7)
23 Occupy old, very English bishop with peace organisation (7)
25 Simon's upset at first child turning over, unable to sleep (9)
26 Rhythms of decadent empires (5)

- 27** Big cat puts one back in charge, somehow beginning to give grave offence more than once (8)
28 Bionic woman gets short little dog by coming back inside (6)

Down

- 1** It contains short, confusing answer (7)
2 One Man Bond? (5)
3 Nearly silent chips (8)
5 Has beaten boys regularly, the fourth with uncommon zeal - it hurts (5-2-2-5)
6 Upside-down propeller rotates contents (6)

- 7** I throw in hackneyed fossil (9)
8 Drink about 11 (7)
9 Bird soaring over higgledly-piggledy trees with quiet anger (14)
15 Firing, detectives fail to see almost everything (9)
17 Sailor you and I shot after 24's successor (8)
18 King or queen provided following (7)
20 It's no good having a quick look (7)
21 Smell old money with it (6)
24 Setter in a jumper-r (5)