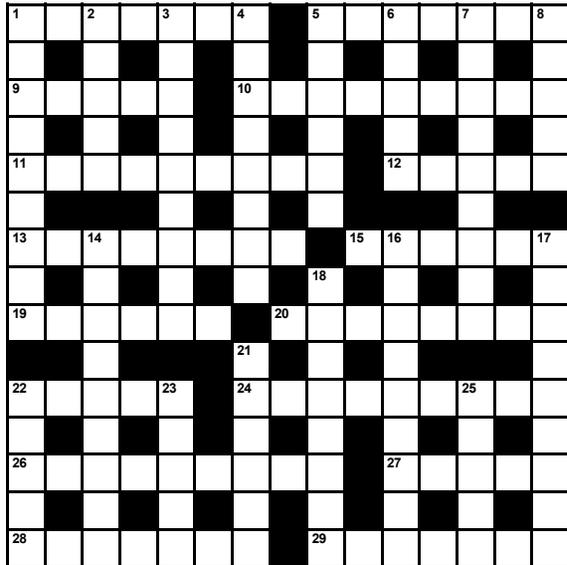


Alchemi 266 *by Alchemi*



Across

- 1 Doorman runs after black cat (7)
- 5 I am in Chartres to receive leader of transcendental religious group (7)
- 9 The bloke in charge was less polite, substituting two ponies for a monkey (5)
- 10 Holy man helping setter to get in the groove (9)
- 11 Runners sort out one unfinished game (9)
- 12 Pretend overseas gold has been stolen (5)
- 13 Italian paper's final article on excellent parliamentarian (2,6)
- 15 Insect male opposed to initiating sex (6)
- 19 Book that's about mapmakers being pointless (6)
- 20 Bank regularly sells appalling lines (8)
- 22 Savage predators eventually stopping to disembowel visitor (5)
- 24 International body against big research lab not being bothered (9)
- 26 Shakespearean initially never asked group to acquire much knowledge (5,1,3)
- 27 Beginning in the middle of sprint route (5)
- 28 Greeting poor grades displayed in secret place (4-3)
- 29 Second one giving bad review to tool (7)

Down

- 1 Google "rib" - surprisingly, you get the Pope (9)
- 2 Large military formation outside in the dark (5)
- 3 This person follows road through waterways to see birds (9)
- 4 Wines contain fashionable fruits (8)
- 5 Lawyer's project limiting most of the danger (6)
- 6 Cause permanent damage with loud neckwear (5)
- 7 Independent fool very good climbing hill for a beginner (9)
- 8/17 Alchemical symbol Poles pressure to advance in ruinous extravagance (3,2,9)
- 14 Ink spread around symbol of St Joseph (9)
- 16 Some avuncular gent in African country (9)
- 17 See 8
- 18 Refuses to buy child bed with repellent bulbous feet (8)
- 21 Shortened cross permitted as heraldic star (6)
- 22 Tailless seabird's companion seen in ravine (5)
- 23 Old winger getting up for a dance (5)
- 25 Digested body of water in space (5)