

by

**Across**

**1** Our host's preparation of Baltic herb eliminating consumption (8)

**5** Wine-laden ship offends (6)

**9** At one stage, maid got something to hold beer (3,5)

**10** Serenity's essence, when in church, will redeem (6)

**12** Hollywood film "*Victoria Superior*"? (5)

**13** Naive young woman, not posh, really odd as a rule (2,7)

**14** Rectangular pair of spectacles worn around British Library - no good! (6)

**16** One who fails to tell the truth about motor vehicle (7)

**19** The Spanish say that is singular wistful poetry (7)

**21** Very good, with less confusing passages (6)

**23** Finally sell cool new spots for pub-owners (9)

**25** Ties up "No Parking" sites (5)

**26** Hold Geordie players to end of season (6)

**27** Dancing king sealion that's sold by charlatan (5,3)

**28** Just like that, big

**29** Risk long punishment, revealing our host's alter ego (8)

**Down**

**1** Middle Easterner the French find easy to cultivate (6)

**2** Fragile ass's hee-haw message heard (9)

**3** Parts of maestro lessons (5)

**4** Beating over the head as tooth grips bone (7)

**6** Lashing an outrage

bringing torn bits of skin (9)

**7** Blacken independents' leader in seat (5)

**8** Short break leaves lasting impressions around academia (8)

**11** Culture medium with Indian music on a rising trend (4)

**15** After tearjerker, turn over for tastier fare (5,4)

**17** Instances of making do when one's croci wilt (9)

**18** As lice sing badly, there are limits! (8)

**20** Search for believer announced (4)

**21** Club for classical art on the way up (7)

**22** Building stone remains household god (6)

**24** Boiling oil in castle's cauldron initially causes pain (5)

**25** Make a comparison, and even Blair is above Livingstone (5)

