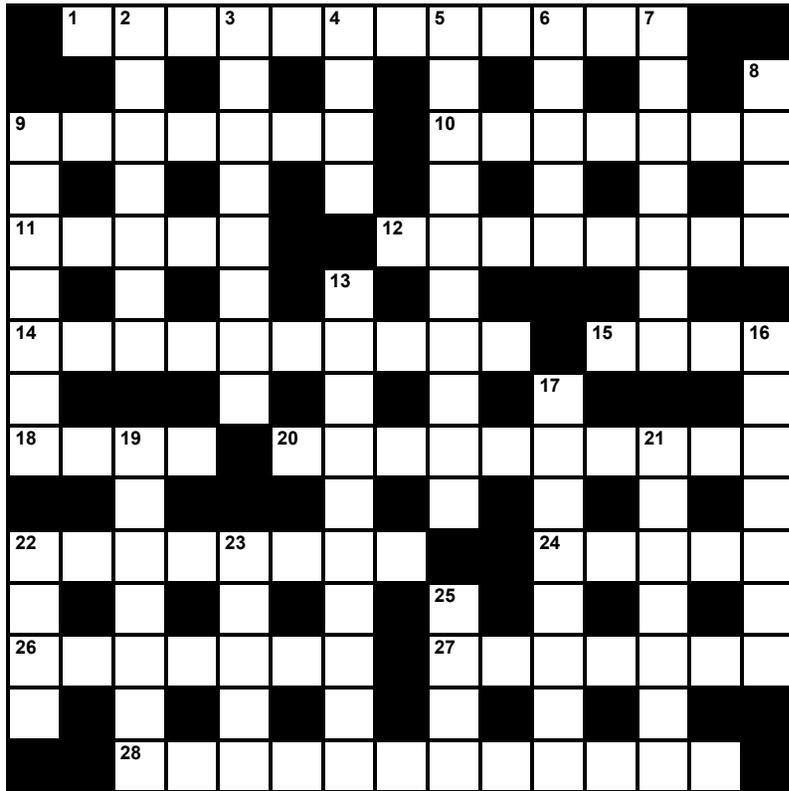


## Missing Link by Alchemi

*The answers clues which lack definition are 8 of 9 consecutive entries in a much longer sequence. Solvers should identify the missing entry, which would not have fitted into any space in the grid.*



### Across

- 1** Ruined booze a result of extreme cold (8,4)  
**9** Improvise a trial fix? (4-3)  
**10** Perhaps Leith recipe sounds puritanical (7)  
**11** Key in "short breaks" for vacancies (5)  
**12** Smell quarry around heathland's western edge (8)  
**14** Way through fence made a mockery of announced house rules (5,5)  
**15** Nationalist party embraces a card game (4)

**18** Can return small eggs (4)

- 20** Nervously sit near Mr T for further broadcast (10)  
**22** Spooner to chew on notoriety for sobriquet (8)  
**24** Collapsing set omitted from stage directions (5)  
**26** Laid-back trader coming back about ten (7)  
**27** Guardian fairly even about waste disposal? (7)  
**28** Hen glides and crashes all by herself (6-6)

### Down

- 2** By-passes famous steeplechaser (7)  
**3** Terrifying people cut royal tours by 20% (8)  
**4** Not some complex gruesome craving (4)  
**5** These maybe sound almost expert when shaken (10)  
**6** Supply with online joke (5)  
**7** Man leaving home with religious symbol right in character (7)  
**8** Dairy product from man in Wyoming (4)  
**9** Denial up to Major Terry Lennon? (7)

**13** One in the fashion business is seldom pure when ruffled (10)

- 16** The track "Old Man River" features highbrow tips (7)  
**17** D-Day, for example, is no vain struggle (8)  
**19** Excites hotel romeo surrounded by cash registers (7)  
**21** Burrower injected with altered DNA (7)  
**22** Faded edges presenting a choice (4)  
**23** Heard thieves working (5)  
**25** Transport to the centre of Cleethorpes (4)