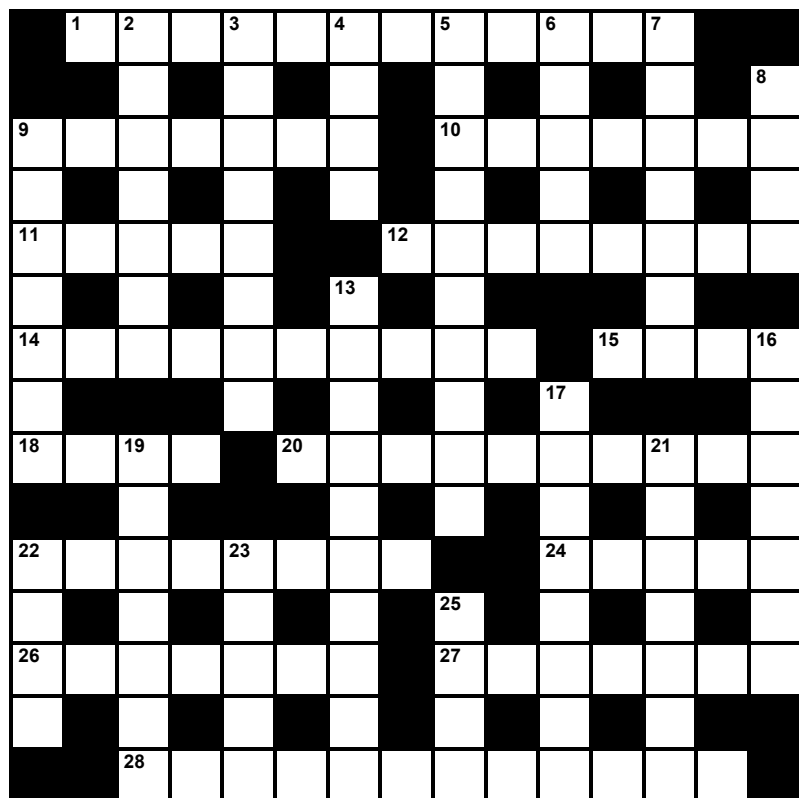


Missing Link by Alchemi

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)