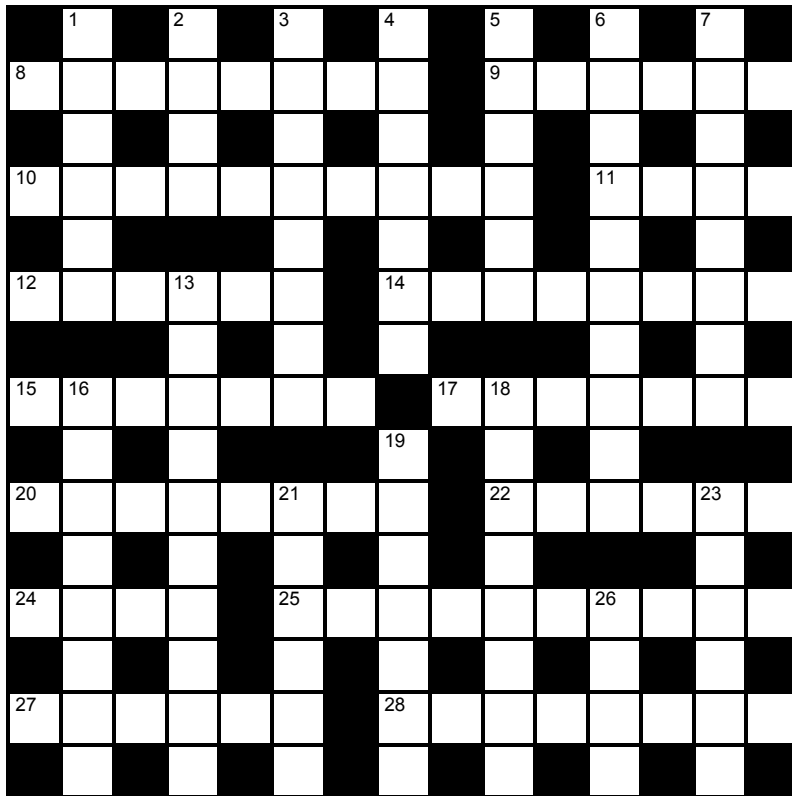


NTSPP - 166 by Gazza



Across

- 8 Fantasist getting strong backing for first time in subordinate group (8)
- 9 Your old dad takes priority following a deficiency in care (6)
- 10 Sadly we lack Paul's buzz in the morning (4-2,4)
- 11 Go drinking, shrugging off adverse reaction (4)
- 12 A spot of backfiring from engine block's not serious (6)
- 14 Historic Dutch demands in States? (8)
- 15 Current chaplain's absorbed in interminable hunt for tarts (7)
- 17 Holds good lands (7)
- 20 'Bugs have a role' admitted by old spy chief (8)

- 22 Restores some bits that had been dropped ... (6)
- 24 ... and initial selections to be remastered include Maddy's 'All Around My Hat' (4)
- 25 Craftily hugged a pet as means of checking bottom (5,5)
- 27 Artificially boosted babies' hearts with functioning circuit (6)
- 28 Cited official loused up (8)

Down

- 1 Struggle to conceal decline in looks (6)
- 2 In Boulogne I caught decent cod (4)
- 3 Old vid which would be unacceptable nowadays (8)
- 4 One-time strategy involved wheels (7)
- 5 Apprentice taken in by new cigar-making plant (6)

- 6 Spying woman engaged in repeated snoring, artist begins to create a hullabaloo (10)
- 7 Mate and crew make delivery (8)
- 13 Summon workers embroiled in internal agitation (10)
- 16 Plucky Ms. Stubbs went to pieces on air (8)
- 18 Scarper after boy's initial rejection (5-3)
- 19 I followed confusing RAC map to get drink (7)
- 21 Embarrassed? Take steps to get into shape (6)
- 23 Freeze the French government's artificial support (3,3)
- 26 Washington does U-turn in alert - wrong! (4)