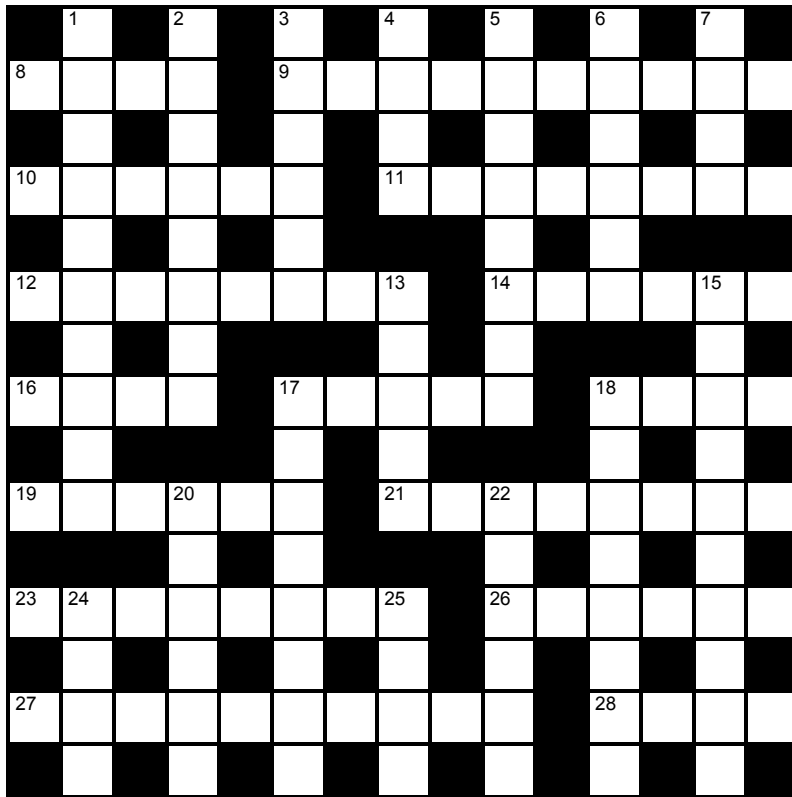


## NTSPP - 210a by Prolixic

### A Birthday Puzzle (1 of 2)



#### Across

- 8** Spar's informal home (4)  
**9** Folk he ties up - people such as these? (3,5,2)  
**10** Overdrawn with debts - that's offensive (6)  
**11** Police force arrests second hero returning with composer (8)  
**12** Complaint of peers touring old island (8)  
**14** Old Liverpool player's not about for pitch invasion? (6)  
**16** Exhausted when left sleeping! (4)  
**17** Copying a sound (5)

- 18** Live back to back with broadcaster (4)  
**19** Something amazing trendy councillor left that's safe to eat (6)  
**21** Criminal tags (8)  
**23** Strangely mishear about Bishop's Jewish custom (8)  
**26** Cut back with soldiers (6)  
**27** Send back impressive pips? (4,6)  
**28** N-number returned after tax? (4)

#### Down

- 1** Unsentimental broad I held goes to pieces (4-6)

- 2** Provided a fine old newsreader with education (8)  
**3** Secret Intelligence Service upholds instruction to reader with drooping eyelids (6)  
**4** A male hairdo (4)  
**5** Soft furnishing (8)  
**6** Guard in Slough before communist uprising (6)  
**7** Particles found in 40% of surgical procedures (4)  
**13** Policeman's undercover operation! (5)  
**15** Spooner's message warning of an addiction to cakes (5,5)

- 17** Marauding pirate provided drink (8)  
**18** Get to know teacher before Saturday morning! (8)  
**20** Carried over large island (6)  
**22** Attorney and associate welcome the Italian king of the barbarians (6)  
**24** Leading lady keeps note for Arab chieftain (4)  
**25** Masses held by German youths (4)