



Across

- 1 Gripped by the ear and given a smack (6)
- 5 Struggling? Press One for answer (8)
- 9 Number Ten's backing cable network (8)
- 10 Mark and Adam disturbed by film (3,3)
- 11 Rudely pokes around stage and struts about (5-5)
- 12 Derelict house providing accommodation for second person (4)
- 13 Resorted to cunning ruse in contract (8)
- 16 Depressed French artist travels west carrying what's left of goods (6)

- 17 Britain leads United States in committal proceedings (6)
- 19 Confounded figure out on bail regularly (8)
- 21 Struggle with concept ... (4)
- 22 ... of giving chocolate (4,6)
- 25 Releases cry of encouragement (4,2)
- 26 Thus China becomes a weak ... (8)
- 27 ... power, sure to be broken by Frenchman's extensive range (8)
- 28 Number ten, short of century, centrally contracted by Essex coach (6)

Down

- 2 Inclined to throw up excessively every year (3,2)
- 3 Uncovers what bats and sloths do! (5)
- 4 House is dirty after 24 hours being unoccupied (7)
- 5 Tire of Trump having superficial make-over (7)
- 6 Crack troops taking out most of change in Russian drinks machine for snacks (7)
- 7 Veteran's an experienced producer? (3,6)
- 8 Casualty could be pensioner during very quiet period ... (4,5)

- 14 ... see about American brought in breathing in a perplexing way (9)
- 15 Erased detail was reconstructed (4,5)
- 18 Nimble, returning supremo's silk clothes (7)
- 19 Swear briefly following facts becoming clear (2,5)
- 20 Fellow director's call for dissension (7)
- 23 Macron's refusal to curb party political extremists is material (5)
- 24 What's needed when one's not up to the mark (5)