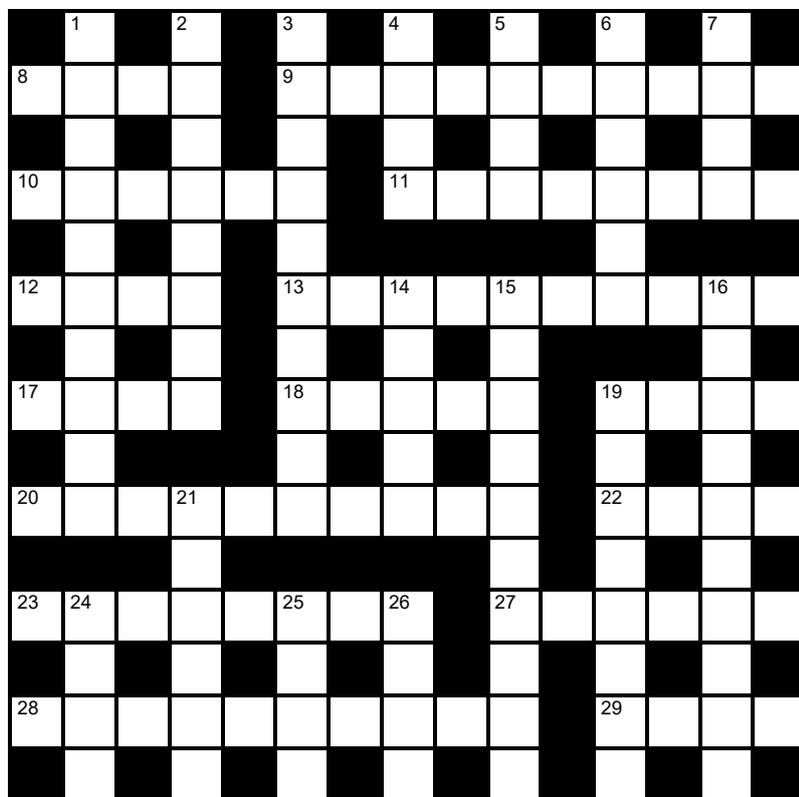


** Hydra is the many headed beast represented by Alchemi, Artix, Atrica, Chalicea, Dill, Elgar, Elkamere, Encota, Exit, Gazza, Giovanni, Harold, Howzat, Italicus, Jaffa, Kelotoph, Knut, Marg, Mucky, Phibs, Prolixic, Radler, Shabbo, Silvanus, Skinny, Snape, Starhorse and Windsurfer*



Across

- 8 Ocado's business separated from very expensive food shop (4)
- 9 Spoke about independent cotton machine being invented (10)
- 10 Back trouble kept perennial beauty in bed (6)
- 11 Dodgy deal in cards for bluff (8)
- 12 Sound new excavation outside (4)
- 13 Disconcerted to recall dress is dull up in town, oddly (10)
- 17 Bloke going for a spin in Nevada? (4)
- 18 Poet's anguished

- composition with tormented sigh recalled (5)
- 19 Greek documents...that you are trying to fill in? (4)
- 20 Sobriety represented by object with Eastern head (10)
- 22 Recording captures only vocal bit of Toby Belch (4)
- 23 Art attraction near Islington gets evacuated (8)
- 27 Sailor with a way to foreign parts (6)
- 28 Shot rabbit in rear; part of buck about ready to eat now? (10)
- 29 Typed, omitting letter K in clocked (4)

Down

- 1 Make the drink potable (10)
- 2 Expected to keep a record after one head-to-head (8)
- 3 Raunchy on-line madam left out her address? (6,4)
- 4 Bolt has one instead of a Sky receiver (4)
- 5 Upset passionate and demanding woman (4)
- 6 Cowboys' home is entirely in the hands of US lawyers (6)
- 7 Chapter number 1 (4)
- 14 Jog naked around centre of Wigan (5)
- 15 Goes ashore, dressed as

Batman and the scenery improved (10)

- 16 Very happy outside, I'm popular and taken out (10)
- 19 Directed Edmund to support grand balls (8)
- 21 Relax with German boxing success (6)
- 24 Police action leads to rapid arrest in Dover (4)
- 25 False rumour about missing plant (4)
- 26 Children cycling leave rubber on the road (4)