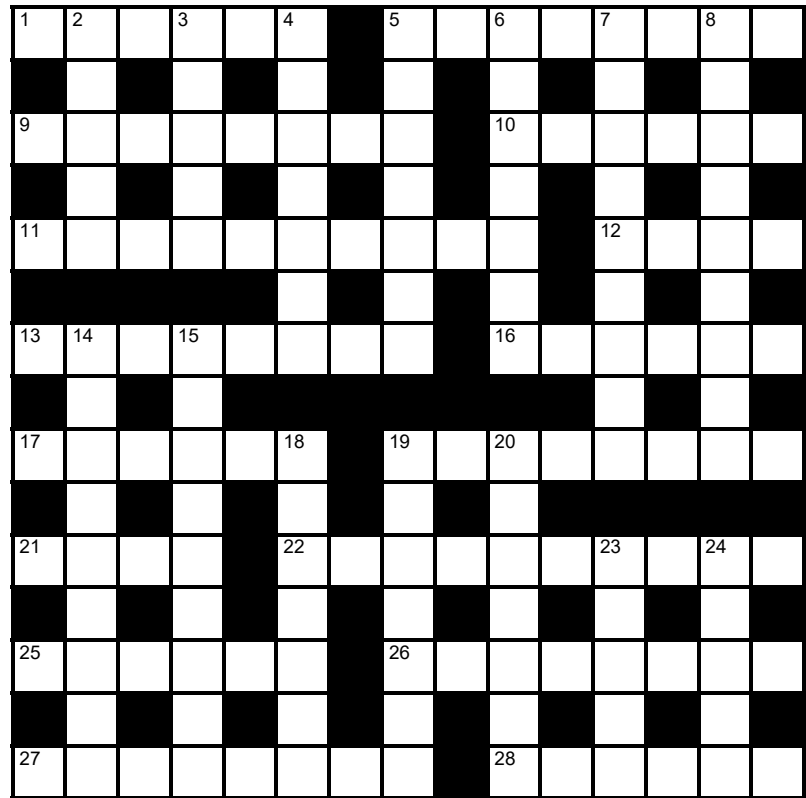


Across

- 1 Tree splints now and then in hollow under the fireplace (3-3)
- 5 Most perceptive when initially taking university exam (8)
- 9 Bygone tup I smoked and sliced - highly seasoned meat (8)
- 10 The hollow shaky tree may do this (6)
- 11 Unexpectedly Herculean power of little Irish sprite (10)
- 12 Dock entrance is difficult (4)
- 13 First eagerness locally for crispness in newly-baked cake (4-4)
- 16 Senseless prattle of German holding one second-class book (6)
- 17 Involve oneself dramatically in clothing, say, needing no fastening (4-2)
- 19 Growing older, admitting recalled sin and confessing long ago (8)
- 21 In Glasgow a little scruffy dog essentially fawning (4)
- 22 Garbled gloomy note regarding insects (10)
- 25 Trouble returns in truncated collection of papers relating to child (6)
- 26 Large-scale disruption on high, hot base lava making a comeback (8)
- 27 High church may become so inflamed with anger (8)



28 Latest estimates reflect cause of sickness (6)

Down

- 2 Comment unfavourably on list of candidates (5)
- 3 Look narrowly round heart of British prison cell (5)
- 4 Partly entrance-denying in an abstracted state (7)
- 5 Keep up discussion of a barrier involving information technology (7)
- 6 One who is instructed, mostly, to constantly worry producing copper and zinc alloy (7)

7 Surprisingly sees best southern antelopes (9)

8 Pod, pulse and one without the other (5,4)

14 Trespass, straying into ruins (9)

15 Dear one-time partner expressing thoughtfulness (9)

18 Sharp pointed implements almost unnecessary (7)

19 Amaze technician initially taken in by a noise (7)

20 Speed in US city not oddly tests precocious young girl (7)

23 Abandon holidays (5)

24 Rudely slags industrial material (5)