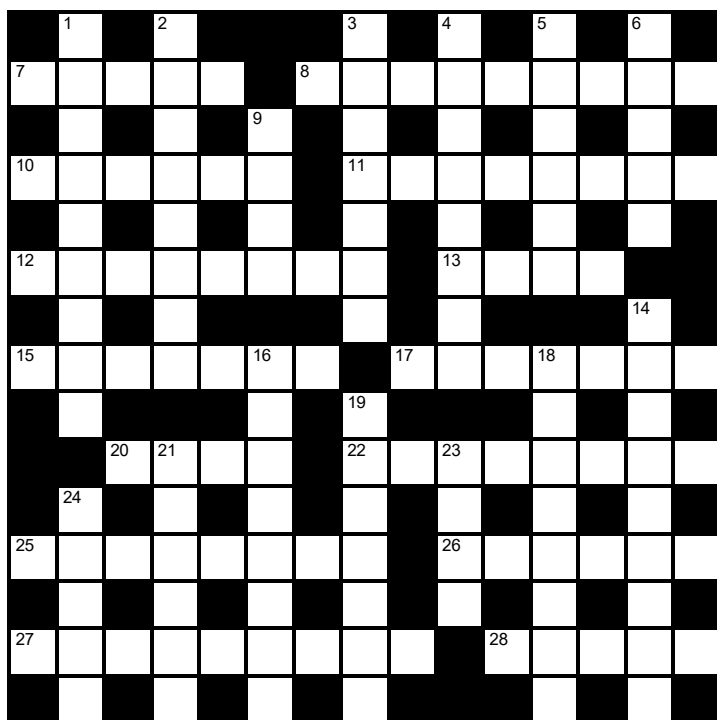


Hydra is the many headed beast of Alchemi, Atrica, Chalicea, Chameleon, Elgar, Encota, Exit, Foxglove, Gazza, Harold, Hippogryph, Jaffa, Kelotoph, Phibs, Prolixic, Radler, Shabbo, Silvanus, Simon, Skinny, Starhorse and Windsurfer.



Across

- 7 Whispers: "Head of Sadler's Wells possibly is retiring" (5)
- 8 Disreputable peacekeepers express hesitation entering hotel (9)
- 10 Queen performing regularly again, getting over snub (6)
- 11 Left quietly together with a raccoon-like creature (3,5)
- 12 One coming back drunk in 10 hours with rock fragment (8)
- 13 One who exploits some serious errors (4)
- 15 Water features in garden centres holding too much (3,4)
- 17 Drunken aunts do stagger (7)

- 20 At first, get in the way of fundraiser (4)
- 22 He's no trouble identifying former student (8)
- 25 St Carrie oddly wanting to tie knot with UK PM "for richer, *not* poorer" (8)
- 26 Scene One: Porkie is embraced by a foreign character (6)
- 27 Images of, for example, residents outside (9)
- 28 Resort to introducing Labour Party strategy, backing leaders (5)

Down

- 1 Sole representative of thirteen - a lonely heart perhaps (9)
- 2 Mention worth, perhaps (5,3)
- 3 Finally, Chalicea, Simon,

- Atrica, Windsurfer, Prolixic, Hippogryph and Skinny create chaos (7)
- 4 A murder's involved parts of body (8)
- 5 Reportedly made notes on rowing crew in turn (6)
- 6 Sherlock's rival, maybe, abandoning the French job (5)
- 9 Dislike pink bathing cap (4)
- 14 Country home, one said to be refurbished (9)
- 16 Spooner's to nail Bounty captain in formal dress (5,3)
- 18 Coincides with cycling enthusiast and amateur rider (8)
- 19 Helped dizzy debutantes wanting exotic sun (7)

- 21 A French department enlists former reserves for personal representation (6)
- 23 Shelled seafood for party (4)
- 24 Spotted dick's introduction after special pastry (5)