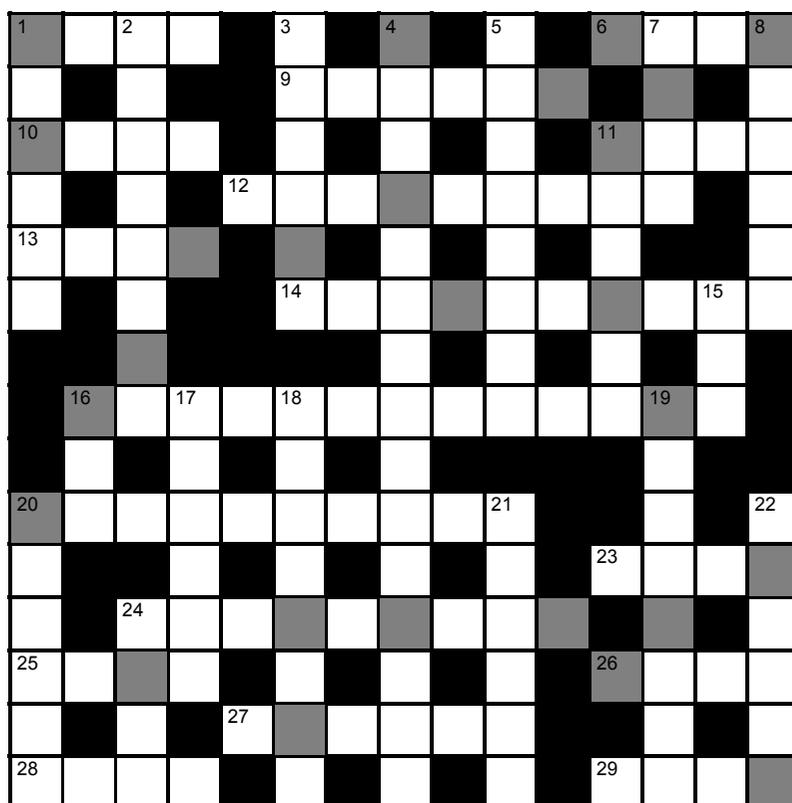


Across

- 1 Congestion leads to second rate post (4)
- 6 Man follows group of animals to find focus (4)
- 9 Image of a tank associated with a rebel leader (6)
- 10 Municipality's computers stored in crinkly wrappers (4)
- 11 In Tagalog, 'elderberry' is neuter (4)
- 12 Worn out team on the loose (4-5)
- 13 Middle of back gets honestly extremely painful (4)



- 14 Brutal choice works somehow after putting on skirts back to front (4,2,4)
- 16 Cut off former lover wanting to chat (13)
- 20 Miss protest linked to Islamic State by the Spanish and the French (10)
- 23 Inertia held back by Damocles? (4)
- 24 Disappointment resulting from return of poor politicians who, according to the French, had got on board (4,5)
- 25 Sentence in French I've initially learnt (4)

- 26 Gorgeous beast in fancy cage (4)
- 27 Swimmer's reported position (6)
- 28 The reader will be called out for Christmas (4)
- 29 Cat joins in conversation (4)

Down

- 1 Raise a large dog (6)
- 2 Tiny wedding chest (8)
- 3 Marshy areas are inlets filled with foul contents (6)
- 4 Punish wag switching drink perhaps for detergent (7-2,6)

- 5 Pasta made from meringue gets stiff in the middle (8)
- 7 Range of benevolent characters turned up (4)
- 8 Someone who sees what's fantastic or average (6)
- 11 Hostess held in bondage is happy (6)
- 15 Kinetic energy yields diamonds (3)
- 16 One by one, latecomers check out (3)
- 17 Singing in church and speaking (6)

- 18 Sly pimp getting excited about a pervert (8)
- 19 Levy for working for nothing on setter's classification (8)
- 20 Bird on river that flows through Chester and Blackburn, for example (6)
- 21 Divorcee lied about being thrown out (6)
- 22 Organ is flaccid, even greying inside (6)
- 24 Face being set up (4)