



**Across**

- 1 Short opera singer will be performing around one for a bit (8)
- 5 South African grasps at straw (6)
- 10 Serving of pizza in a meeting, in retrospect, is madness (5)
- 11 Makes mushy ITV series about a missing son (9)
- 12 Flirt with host (9)
- 13 The thinking man's artist? (5)
- 14 Opinion of editor blue-pencilled from material (6)
- 15 Poet's essentially useless idea (7)
- 18 Spun around in boozier in Magaluf perhaps (7)

- 20 In addition to taking bishop out in Scotland? (2,4)
- 22 Cut down on bull in crosswords? (5)
- 24 Regulars rule nothing out in corrupt election by leftie extremists (9)
- 25 Live together (2,7)
- 26 US taxman claims number returning decreases (5)
- 27 You can get drinks here, and a meal with posh service (3,3)
- 28 Drives flying saucers over Germany (8)

**Down**

- 1 Lads and me together accidentally distressed young lady? (6)
- 2 Nice number for a card game (5-2-2)
- 3 Friend who takes it on the chin? (8,7)
- 4 Head off through Thailand wearing topless dress (7)
- 6 Might they single-handedly strip you of your assets? (3-5,7)
- 7 Heard malicious gossip going around about esteemed leader (5)
- 8 Beginning to train at sea with sonar ... echo ... echo ... echo (8)

- 9 British XI in Paris brings home medal (6)
- 16 To sum up, it's no wonder I freaked out (2,3,4)
- 17 Songwriter's single's first covered by end-of-pier entertainer? (8)
- 19 Put money on bastard doing a runner with credit card (6)
- 20 Spinner's way of getting to Oz? (7)
- 21 Stops eating to swallow drug, and then binges (6)
- 23 Mayfair Conservative clubs are not about religion (5)