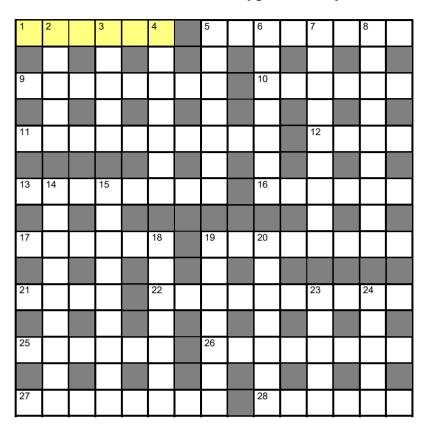
Cryptic 051 by Leucine



Across

- 1 Score of batters out first ball in French cricket? Fake news!
- 5 Run for office by leaderless rascal with a gin cocktail (8)
- 9 Vassals from Belgian city? (8)
- 10 Simon's interlocutor announced as geometrician (6)
- 11 Poop buries contrary man at prison camp (10)
- 12 African Queen idled? (4)
- 13 Second of biblical lyricists out to get handy clairvoyants (8)
- 16 Text about cuppa

- travels like *African Queen?* (6)
- 17 Signal to sign up with Tories? (6)
- 19 One-track Blair produces tedium (8)
- 21 Earthbound local in Taranaki wild (4)
- 22 Sexy mixed-up lout embraced by you in Paris (10)
- 25 Dancing California girl may deter Count (6)
- 26 Cheap yet dreadful accessory for pirate (8)
- 27 Slovak nudism oh so regularly rascals! (2-3-3)
- 28 Scandalous hearsay describes scissors (6)

Down

- 2 Miladi euphemistically covers valediction (5)
- 3 Asking aloud, ought not Jason to release inert gas? (5)
- 4 Belittles, but does de end justify this? (7)
- 5 Sails south as part of 5 across (7)
- 6 Tom pops off for Fab Four! (3-4)
- 7 Active Duty Tour starts with gaps filled by soldiers making change (9)
- 8 Soldier emerges from last carriage when velocity is first minimised (9)

- 14 Morning, Clapton! For starters, anywhere nearby open for coffee? (9)
- 15 Single malt takes motorway for a former PM (9)
- 18 Beginners without bad habits (7)
- 19 Ah no! Islamic scholars adopt alien fishy haircuts (7)
- 20 Bearing 45 degrees, with sighs of relief, for relatives (7)
- 23 Idiom "The American Century" perhaps? (5)
- 24 Awfully cruel abscess (5)