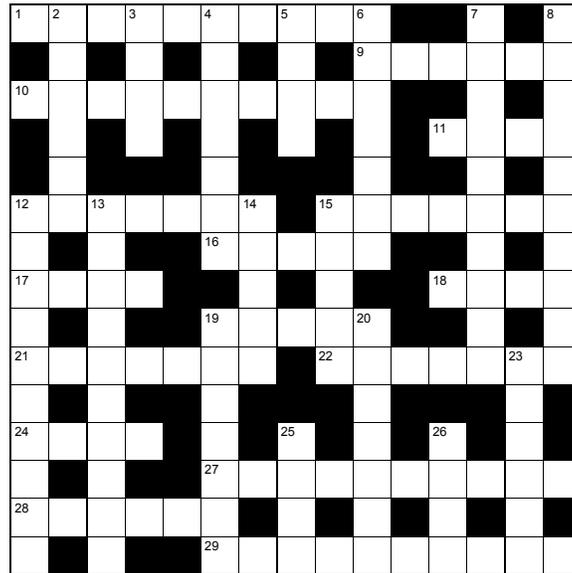


Crossword No XC248404



ACROSS

- 1 Narrow escape from encounter with sharp razor? (5,5)
- 9 On reflection Val is hard but generous (6)
- 10 Gran gets ring back in very short time (10)
- 11 Person revered by one pretty girl mostly (4)
- 12 One who foretells financial advantage for the auditor (7)
- 15 Cuts around university floodgates (7)
- 16 Irritable character in Grahame's story (5)
- 17 Rocks and Ecstasy impounded by judge (4)
- 18 Prevent vessels returning (4)
- 19 One following strict diet, say, in the lead (5)
- 21 Territorial dispute causing conflict at the racecourse? (4,3)
- 22 Left with beam after show (7)
- 24 Metal item used to control pet (4)
- 27 Symbolic tales spreading lies galore (10)
- 28 Striking single, move faster than opponent (6)
- 29 Forced away gentle bird (5,5)

DOWN

- 2 One departing bar is heard (6)
- 3 Northerner puts son on bed (4)
- 4 Around lake there's poor protection (7)
- 5 Above taking part in wildcat operations (4)
- 6 Ageing tree starts to look yellowish (7)
- 7 One justifying V-sign (10)
- 8 Could be holy popish thinking (10)
- 12 At sea patrol boat loses a little time in Welsh seaside town (4,6)
- 13 Responds excessively when engineer gets stuck into ham (10)
- 14 Sailor takes exercise to become thinner (5)
- 15 Reversed roles for band (5)
- 19 Homeless person in Virginia given allowance (7)
- 20 Is familiar we hear with happy bunch... (7)
- 23 ...a toff, too (2,4)
- 25 Predatory creature rising with tide (4)
- 26 A danger to swimmers in Oregon and California (4)

DOWN

2 leaver. 3 scot. 4 shelter. 5 atop. 6 elderly. 7 vindicator. 8 philosophy. 12 Port Talbot. 13 overreacts. 14 taper. 15 strap. 19 vagrant. 20 nosegay. 23 as well. 25 flow. 26 orca.