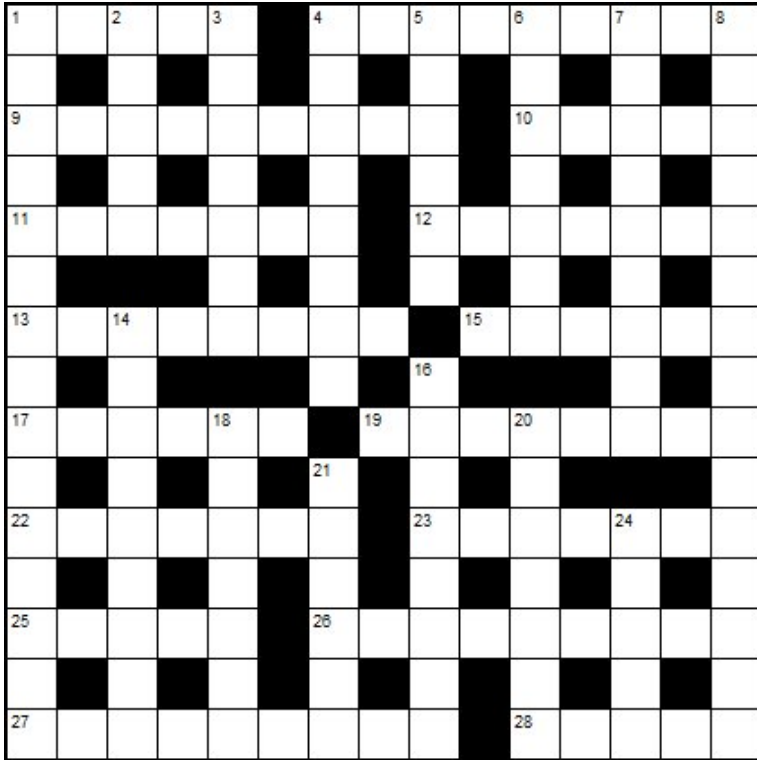


Crossword by Euston

Euston's debut puzzle is quite a challenge! It uses some very clever wordplay and will appeal to those who prefer cunningly misleading clues over obscurity as a way of detaining the solver a little longer. I especially liked 1 across and 8 down.



ACROSS

- 1 One second? (5)
- 4 Cross dress, turning heads of colleagues in bold lilac ensemble (9)
- 9 We're shortly to receive a jolly good hiding on political escalator? (9)
- 10 Starts to shut out light and radiation from the Sun (5)
- 11 Wayward ambler's heading south, circling miles off course (7)
- 12 Hungry? Mum's out of chips – make salad (7)
- 13 Hoodlum and wise guy embracing end of prohibition (8)
- 15 Bottom left longing for cane (6)
- 17 Player at centre-back retains fluid (6)
- 19 Filthy Frank? (8)
- 22 Chimera? Fear not – pass by, skipping (7)
- 23 Writer extorted money by electronic means (7)
- 25 Relative's uncontrollable after *Shaking All Over* and *Born To Run* (5)
- 26 Former king – 'I banish all Muslims from the East!' (9)
- 27 Vulgar Spooner's tied up girl (9)
- 28 The sound of spring cleaning? (5)

DOWN

- 1 It's not difficult to achieve unfailing growth with reform (3-7,5)
- 2 To play without picking the two leading strikers – bizarre! (5)
- 3 City streets erupting, getting set off by these? (7)
- 4 Taken for a laugh out loud journalist (8)
- 5 Quick fitting parts for old railways and tube (6)
- 6 The fleeing criminal who catches a golden goose (4,3)
- 7 Wild sea covers surface of lost island (9)
- 8 Of great importance – potentially greater than this? (5-10)
- 14 Arrest Newton, a gutless crook stealing primarily trinkets... (4-5)
- 16 ...or farthings? (8)

- 18** These days education's most advanced in top universities (7)
- 20** Lazy way detailed instructions go unfinished (7)
- 21** Some lively cheerleaders could be 1d (6)
- 24** Authorise detective to apprehend a beast (5)