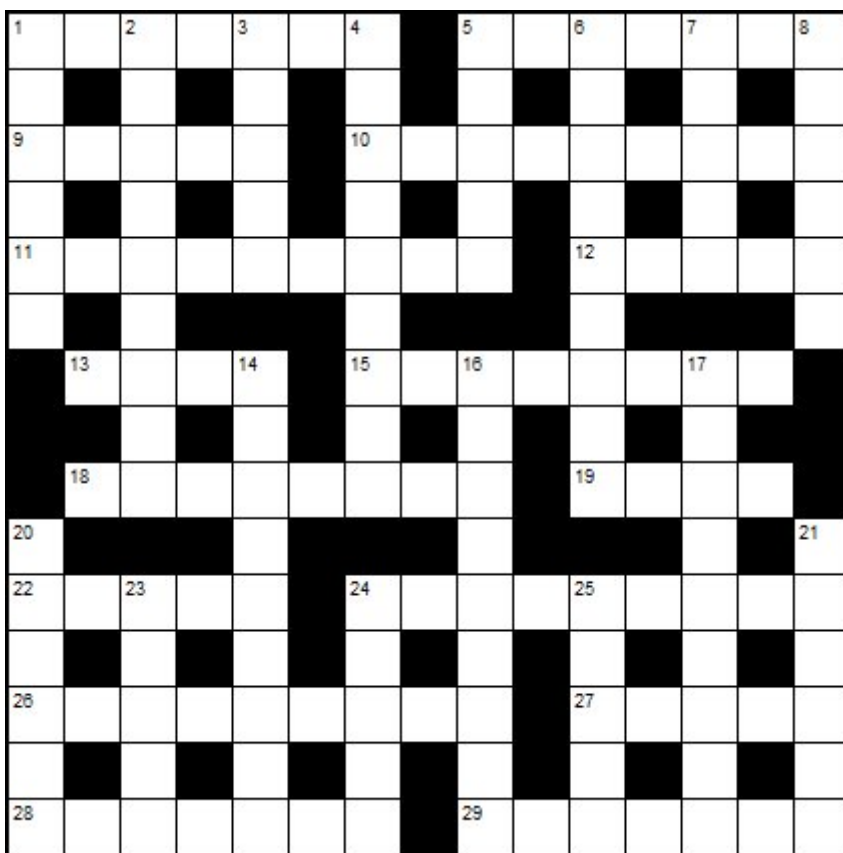


# Puzzle by Grendel

Brevity is the soul of wit, said Shakespeare, and Grendel proves him right with this delightful puzzle. It's difficult to write short, pithy clues which also present a real challenge – I'm aware my own clues tend towards verbosity at times – but here Grendel shows us that it can be done. My favourite is 21 down for its excellent surface, but all the clues are of a high standard. Enjoy!



## ACROSS

- 1 Film sounds of breast surgery (3,4)
- 5 Arouse trendy lover (7)
- 9 Midday direction for worthless individual (2,3)
- 10 Scare Heather? That's shocking! (9)
- 11 Environmentalist with career in rural area (9)
- 12 Joker aboard cart (5)
- 13 Brown king's prison (4)
- 15 Medics interbreed after wine (3,5)
- 18 Flowering pants? Surely you mean plants! (8)
- 19 Failed as returning northern king (4)
- 22 Club with one grand decorative material (5)
- 24 Clue I adapt without a complicated repeat (9)
- 26 Overdo drink then sit back in emergency ward (9)
- 27 Pancake ingredient used in Dublin ice cream (5)
- 28 Misheard girl's name (7)
- 29 Pitch disappointing list (4,3)

**DOWN**

- 1 It's beneficial to remain one over the eight they say (6)
- 2 Block pit with a barrier (9)
- 3 Link that is found in metal (3-2)
- 4 Condition oak or ash, say, for a wood producer (5,4)
- 5 Enter popular place (5)
- 6 The whole kit packed with plants (4,5)
- 7 Spirit used in a good seasoning (5)
- 8 Driver caught in stolen gin escapade (6)
- 14 Reject hammer champion (5,4)
- 16 Said in confusion, "attention", after very quiet fade out (9)
- 17 Romans in a rotten republic (3,6)
- 20 I offer myself up in the same place (6)
- 21 Religion left one in dispute (6)
- 23 Writer has an article in Match (5)
- 24 Club without victory is more boring (5)
- 25 I may boost up etiolated leaders colour (5)