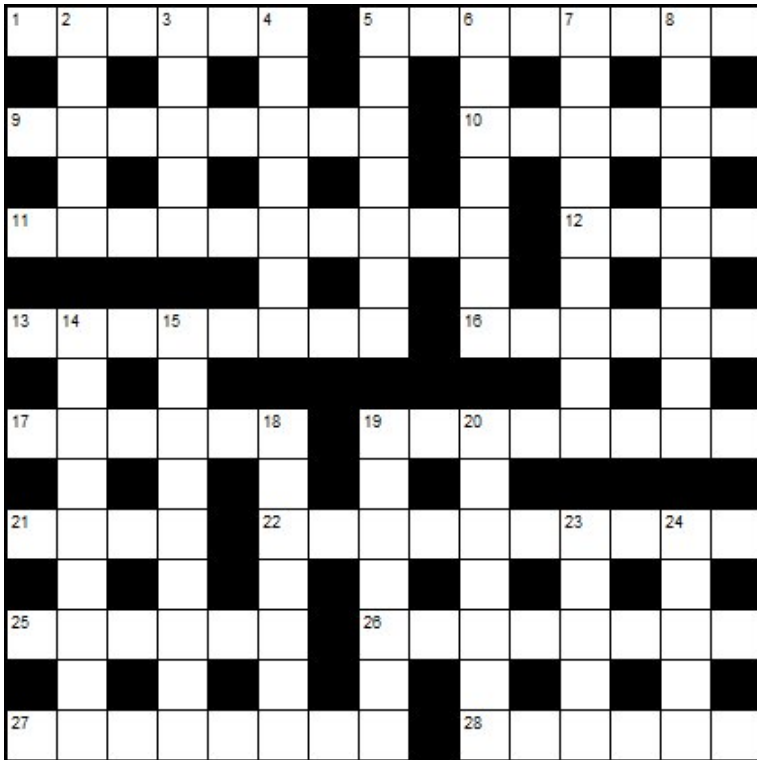


# Puzzle by Harold

This corker of a puzzle from Harold is another excellent debut. Smooth surfaces, sound clues, varied techniques – what more can one ask? Particular favourites are 9 across and 14 down.



## ACROSS

- 1 Opening sections of display in the wrong order (6)
- 5 Dwarf is away with most of crew (8)
- 9 Steps taken to impose prohibition in defined area before time (8)
- 10 Having the ability to spin a line on corruption (6)
- 11 Ruling Thatcher perhaps introduced originally to protect Indians (6,4)
- 12 Jalopy discovered refurbished is something precious (4)
- 13 State airline has first-class backing (8)
- 16 Notice leading article and barely contain anger (6)
- 17 Hidden tax on driving: inside story reviewed (6)
- 19 It's a case of Romans turning around life for Italians in Tyrrhenian island (8)
- 21 Tool from South Oxford? (4)
- 22 "Infra" confused with "depth" in guide (10)
- 25 Welsh Guards' leader captured by Frenchwoman (6)
- 26 Lines in Court 1 at Queen's less clear (8)
- 27 Fool taking oil company to regulator's principal adjudicator (8)
- 28 Demise of language losing its essence (6)

## DOWN

- 2 Flag held in headquarters of Ukwa East for convention (5)
- 3 Schoolmaster accepts thanks for climbing aid (5)
- 4 Electronic instrument missing a bit of metal internally (7)
- 5 Instrument in old vehicle is not accurate to begin with (7)
- 6 Crop rotations from North and South come together at the end (7)
- 7 Party animal is old dog in *Times* (9)
- 8 In new edition of *Grove*, Bach is a former world leader (9)
- 14 Cheese is ultimately kept fresh in cold wrappers (3,6)
- 15 Information about former setter broadcast in film (9)
- 18 Lessen or undo the effects of ironing (7)
- 19 Peace-loving soldier, one inexperienced in retreat (4-3)
- 20 Launch, apparently without the means to rise (4-3)

**23** City with capital halved produces fibre (5)

**24** Odds of 26 being stripped to the core? (5)