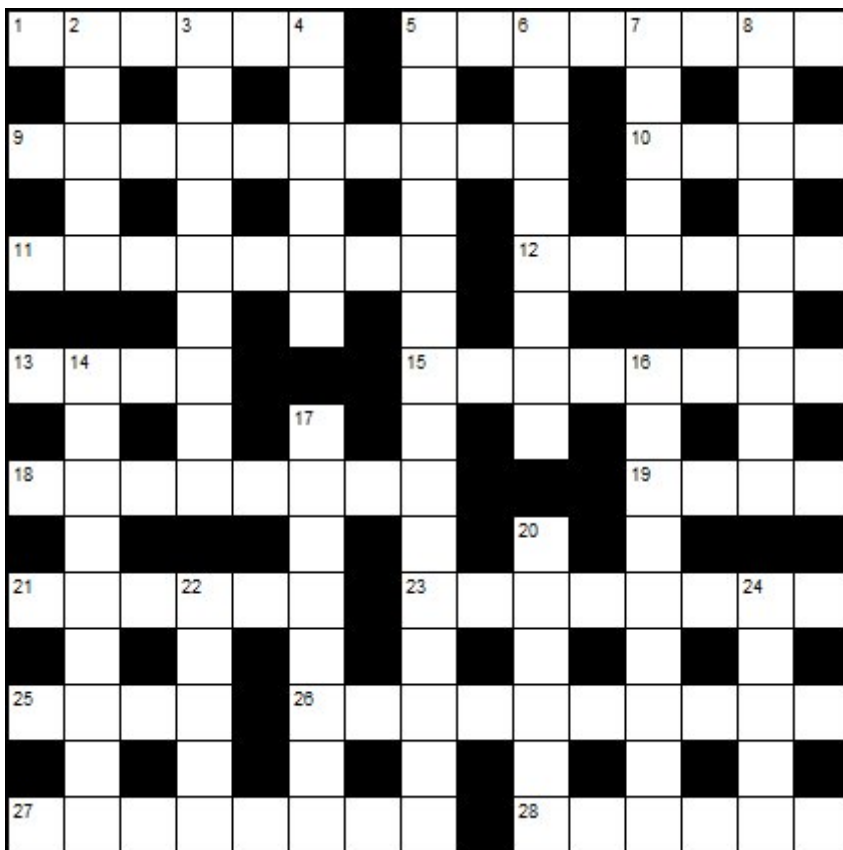


Puzzle by Hoskins

This is an excellent debut puzzle from Hoskins. The clues are entertaining, scrupulously fair and read well literally; and Hoskins has used a wide variety of clueing types. My favourites are 9 across and 20 down.



ACROSS

- 1 Some flora sea captain brought back to make salad? (6)
- 5 Neighbourly individual spies bishop being arrested (8)
- 9 Amorous way in which couples canoodle? (6,4)
- 10 After taking cocaine, need to talk wildly (4)
- 11 Bird hatched from rotten egg (8)
- 12 Drunk adult regularly carried by orderly (6)
- 13 Network heads to make erotic series happen (4)
- 15 Do over ferryman for being in debt? (8)
- 18 Hurry up and break set point (4,2,2)
- 19 Crown prince recalled army base (4)
- 21 Artist embraced by sweet clergyman (6)
- 23 Hung around student during German Ed. (8)
- 25 Following Aida's opening note for note? (4)
- 26 We hear long-distance runner is jerk without belief (10)
- 27 Best to cover up frisky nude swinger (8)
- 28 Bow to regal figure wearing cultured pearl? (6)

DOWN

- 2 Island tax supports introduction of airport (5)

- 3** Joint stashed under southern gang's small boat (9)
- 4** Take exception to being here topless (6)
- 5** Bloomer as hero blames theft on The Fly! (4-2-9)
- 6** Recapture wild and heartless beast (8)
- 7** Bitter queen gets into LSD (5)
- 8** Most charming treasure stories end in excitement (9)
- 14** Gent stripped to explore mature escort (9)
- 16** Odious leader with power to crush men? (9)
- 17** Fiendish fellow knocks out model in domestic (8)
- 20** Line manager who's often engaged by banks? (6)
- 22** Revise end of petition to Lord's director (5)
- 24** Bigoted chap to be beheaded live (5)