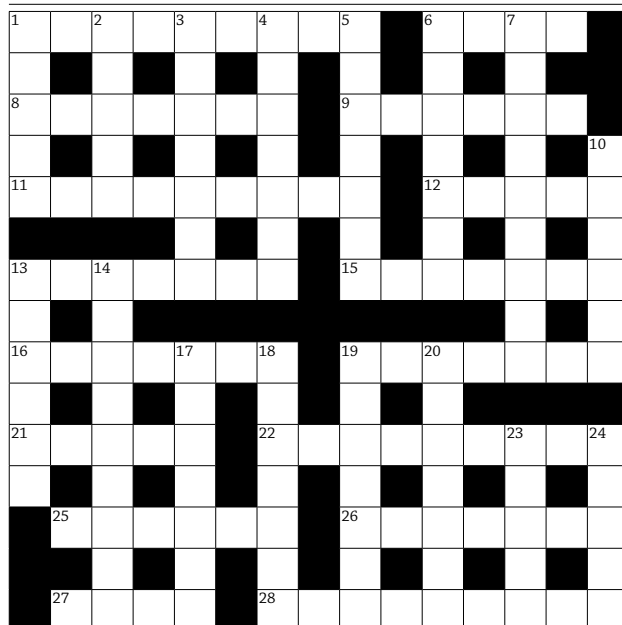


Cryptic crossword



Set by Araucaria

Across

- 1** It gives a good view of dog eating in Duke's Head (3,6)
- 6,19** 17 24 in Cambridge suits (we hear) my father and my husband (11)
- 8** Thank-you letter from my husband (7)
- 9** Captain under 17 6, Lydia's first beau, once at the White House (6)
- 11,24** You will soon be able to dispose of the first part of Zedekiah charitably (9,5)
- 12** Iranian party, possibly the Democratic Unionists, heard now? (5)
- 13** Head off from whence 5 and Lydia eloped? Quite correct (5-2)
- 15** One among the ruined, Lydia was – now it's your turn (7)
- 16** Marx brother, nothing more than a grumbler (7)
- 19** Divine in Cambria walks like a duck (7)
- 21** Spirit out of range lately (5)
- 22** Happy? "You have _____ us long enough" as your father said to Mary at the piano (9)
- 25** Meal without a starter? (6)
- 26** Wed, or in bother? Not so sure about that (1,6)
- 27** Bouncer beloved of Lydia (4)
- 28** Cured by me, leper went to 24's place (9)

Down

- 1** Man on horseback once our enemy (5)
- 2** Brandt gives 19 the morning off – or won't I? (5)
- 3** Translation of Tristia raises question asked of entry to the Turner prize? (2,2,3)
- 4** Spot small boy pursuing record (7)
- 5** The bad guy from medieval 19's place, say (7)
- 6** Novelist as 17 (7)
- 7** Time to study political economist, hard and repetitive work (9)
- 10** Ghosts of 28 soon to be polluted, according to Lady Catherine (6)
- 13** Undistinguished miscellany by one painting the country silver (6)
- 14** Ogre again upset Miss 24 (9)
- 17** French settler meets the Spanish officer (7)
- 18** Senior citizen keeping Lady Day at church, as Joe Gargery called Pip (3,4)
- 19** See 6 across
- 20** Fido got off his feet for a wild flower (3-4)
- 23** Boy takes it back with a wave (5)
- 24** See 11

(Note: The former Miss (Charlotte) Lucas is supposed to have commissioned this puzzle for her friend's wedding, but there are some anachronisms, and surely she wouldn't have kept on about Lydia? The clues vary in level of hardness; also, unless you know Pride and Prejudice well, they will naturally be harder for you than they would have been for the intended recipient.