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CRYPTIC by DA

20,851

NB - In all relevant clues, the mystery C stands for the same word.

ACROSS

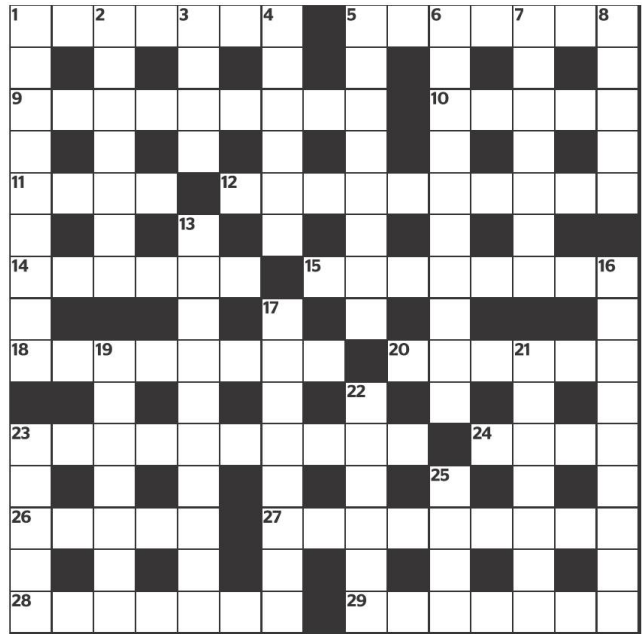
- 1 See 25-down
- 5 American links noble to cocaine hub (7)
- 9 See 20-across
- 10 Cuts what those lacking 6-down give in quotes? (5)
- 11, 26-across Lead flimsy C (9)
- 12, 7-down C cryptically producing secretions? Yes (10,7)
- 14 Fit crew's naval rank reviewed (6)
- 15 1970s singer a few recalled - minus mop top - in coat (3,5)
- 18 Commercial imbalance ensnared short French painter? (5,3)
- 20, 9-across Jumbo hasn't detoured to pass through C (2,4,9)
- 23 C friend dumped Pole for two opposites (10)
- 24, 27-across Curtails a range including field C (4,9)
- 26 See 11-across
- 27 See 24-across

- 28 Dwarfs tender exam for sisters (7)
- 29 Treated salt, perhaps, so I'd die horribly (7)

DOWN

- 1 Early help spots Tory leader skewering 23-across (4,5)
- 2 Conservative Americans offload \$1000 to Africans (7)
- 3 Like a slick fox in essence - sneaky to mask face (4)
- 4 Wrong family register (4,2)
- 5 Need 'brae' translated in Scotland? (8)
- 6 Outright class - it feeds optimistic C (10)
- 7 See 12-across
- 8 Fools abbreviated survey (5)
- 13 Man of C has been changing agent (10)
- 16 Grazing ground summoned antelope (9)
- 17 Puddle-jumper wrecks passage (8)
- 19 Knight's squire to rig mare out (7)
- 21 Fortune tellers filling in form, leaving initial amid cards (7)
- 22 Little tree stuffed shirt up? Help ultimately refused (6)
- 23 C-C-Cools it? (5)
- 25, 1-across CFD? (4,7)

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Yesterday's cryptic 20,850

