

Newsletter

An Admiral of the Fleet

This print is the work of Romeyn de Hooghe (1645–1708), engraver, etcher, draughtsman, painter, medallist and sculptor, who produced 3,500 prints during his long career. It was purchased with the help of a donation from the Friends and will be an addition to the Library's collection of de Hooghe's work, some of which can also be seen in the Library's *Dutch Baroque Gardens* volumes, acquired in 1861. De Hooghe's works are much in demand.

An allegorical etching glorifying the Admiral of the Dutch fleet Michiel de Ruyter (1607–76) who played a pivotal role in the first three Anglo-Dutch wars and who led the Raid on Chatham in 1667. De Ruyter's body is portrayed with a sword in one hand and surrounded by weeping women. The pillars show scenes of his famous sea battles.



Recent grants

The Friends have given £2,500 to enable the purchase of a manuscript inventory of the household goods, plate, jewellery, china, linen and wearing apparel of Thomas Shore of the East India Company who died in 1759. The catalogue, which is organised by room, gives an insight into the arrangement of a home of the period and offers a detailed record of the personal life of a prosperous Englishman employed in East India trade. It will be a valuable addition to the Thomas Shore items in the Library's India Office collections.

An album of drawings and watercolours illustrating a private collection of Dutch, Flemish and

Italian paintings, as well as works by Holbein, Bruegel, Rubens, Poussin and others, has been purchased with the help of £10,000 from the Friends. The album, which was made by the Norfolk scholar and antiquary Dawson Turner and contains watercolour copies by three of his daughters, Hannah Sarah, Mary Anne and Elizabeth Palgrave, dates from 1828–33. It will join the Library's large collection of Dawson Turner material and will be a useful source for research into female artists of the period.

A grant of £20,000 was given to support the exhibition *Maps and the 20th Century: Drawing the Line* (see page 2).

Accommodation

The Friends' Room will be closed from late July to October while refurbishment of a new room for the use of Members and Friends is carried out. The Secretary's office has been moved to the fourth floor.



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History in Maps

From November 2016 to March 2017 the British Library will host the world's first major exhibition of 20th-century maps. *Maps and the 20th Century: Drawing the Line* will evaluate the turbulent century through the eyes of hundreds of maps produced during the course of it. Taking examples from the Library's unparalleled collections, including the formerly secret map archive of the British Ministry of Defence, the exhibition will provide contemporary insights into some of the major political, military and social events, as well as less familiar and unusual aspects of the period.

Far from portraying maps as innocent bystanders, the exhibition will demonstrate how maps were active participants in the century, creating and subverting visions of the world for good and for bad, for education and for military offensive, from the creation of the state of Syria to the promotion of Beatles tourism in Liverpool.

The exhibition will be arranged thematically so that the visitor can compare maps produced in the context of war, peace, finance and mobility. By considering the way in which these themes overlap, the exhibition will demonstrate how neither history nor maps are ever black-and-white.



George Arkell, *Jewish East London* (London, 1900), 04034.ee.33.
© British Library Board.

Important key loans to the exhibition include Harry Beck's original sketch for the London Underground diagram, and a hand-drawn map of Middle Earth by J R R Tolkien.

Thanks to a generous financial contribution by the Friends of the British Library, the exhibition will be an immersive experience for the visitor, one which emphasises how maps became powerful everyday objects in society during the 20th century.

Tom Harper, Lead Curator, Maps

Volunteers

Jean-Anne Ashton, who retired as coordinator of the Volunteers in June, marks the end of six happy years.

I want to thank all the Friends, past and present, who have 'manned the desk' during my six years as Volunteer Coordinator. Their reliability and commitment made it possible to extend the desk opening hours to six days a week.

Most volunteers live in London but some travelled from Cambridge, Oxford, Hertfordshire, Cardiff and Shetland – organising their trips to London to include a few hours at the British Library.

Tribute must be publicly paid to Nickie Chapman whose support has been invaluable, covering for me



on occasions. A huge 'thank you', Nickie.

I shall continue to support the Friends as a desk volunteer and look forward to seeing some of you there in the future. Jo Hunt took over on 1 July – the desk is in safe hands!



Correction

Peter Bloxham has pointed out a mistake in the last Newsletter concerning the death of the author Stefan Zweig. Zweig committed suicide with Lotte Altmann in his new home in Petropolis in Brazil, not in New Mexico as stated.

Mr Bloxham hopes that a British Library Exhibition will make more people aware of Zweig and his work.

A Visit to Boston Spa

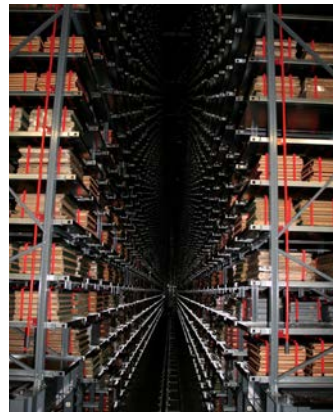


Thirteen miles from York, at the edge of the Thorp Arch Trading Estate, on ground formerly occupied by a munitions factory, is the British Library's Boston Spa site. This has been a hub of the UK inter-library lending network since 1961. Today it also offers researchers access to books and journals received through legal deposit, microfilmed and print newspapers, document supply collections and electronic resources, via a quiet and pleasant reading room.

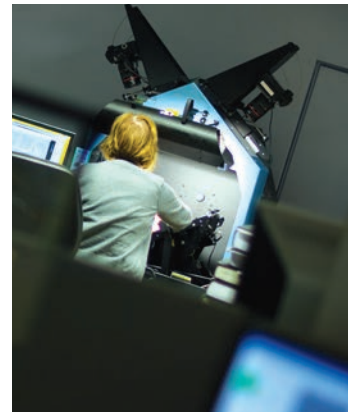
On a visit last October, in addition to a pretty bank – which we were told would later be covered with daffodils, some elegant new buildings, friendly staff and an admirable canteen, a range of activities was evident. In the dramatic high-density Additional Storage Building, a low-oxygen, environmentally-controlled building, where the storage capability is equivalent to 262 km of shelving, a tall picking robot moved smoothly along the shelves, removing requested

'low use items', which would travel by overnight van to St Pancras. The titles spotted were *Visit Colchester*, *How to Write Comedy* and the *MOS Study Guide for 2013*.

In the digitization suite, where the Kirtas Scanner photographs printed material ranging from 16th-century maps to historic copies of publications such as *The Trench Journal*, *The Friend* and the *Proceedings of the Royal Society of Chemistry*, crumbling newspaper pages were being turned into fully searchable images and glass lantern slides became clear photographs. The British Newspaper Archive, digital resource for scholars, was full of voices from the past: a letter from a soldier in Sebastopol printed in the *Reading Mercury*. The Boston Spa Reading Room is open from 09.00 to 16.30 from Monday to Friday and readers can register online at www.bl.uk



The storage void of the new British Library National Newspaper Building at Boston Spa in West Yorkshire. Photo © Katie Betts.



The Digitisation Suite.

Back to the 70s

Those who remember the 1970s as if it were yesterday will find some familiar things in the foyer exhibition *Punk 1976–78*, which runs until 2 October. On display are posters, album covers, fanzines and blurred photographs of gaunt young men, all assembled to mark the 40th anniversary of a strident but short-lived musical movement. A leather jacket from Lewis Leathers is given its own display case and there are safety pins and t-shirts, letters, rehearsal lists and recording contracts for bands such as the Sex Pistols and the Clash. The intense media interest of the time is represented by a *Daily Mirror*



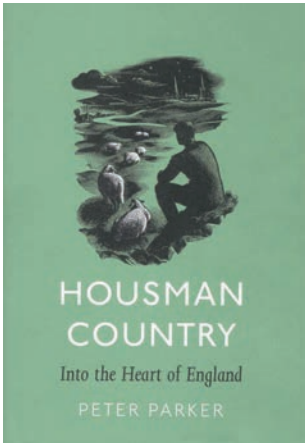
front page exclaiming 'The Filth and the Fury!' and the film of a fractious interview on the 'Today' programme from 1976. The exhibition, which is supported by Dr Martens, was, in



early July, full of visitors, but there was a considerable presence of benign senior citizens listening on earphones to the full 3.21 minutes of 'God Save the Queen'.

Telling gaps

A E Housman's Diaries



The British Library is the world's largest storehouse of words, both printed and written, so it may seem perverse to select from this vast treasury a manuscript characterised by blank pages. The box labelled Add. MS. 45861 contains the only diaries that A E Housman is known to have kept. Although their contents have been transcribed and published, with varying degrees of accuracy, in

Encounter (October 1967) and the *Housman Society Journal* (1982), reading the original pocket diaries is an entirely different experience, making one aware of what is *not* written.

They cover the years 1888 to 1891– though 'cover' is perhaps the wrong word, since even by Housman's own laconic standards the entries are distinctly sparse and terse. Housman occasionally records the temperature or the date on which wild flowers come into bloom, but the only other entries refer – often tenuously – to his friend Moses Jackson, never referred to by name but only as 'he'. Housman had met Jackson when they were undergraduates at Oxford, and at some point fell hopelessly and unrequitedly in love with him, later telling him: 'You are largely responsible for my writing poetry'. They both got jobs at the Patent Office and

for a while shared accommodation, but in December 1887 Jackson joined the Indian Civil Service and set off for the Subcontinent.

Of the diaries for 1889, 1890 and 1891 only fourteen individual pages survive, detached from their bindings. The Pettitt's Annual Diary for 1888, however, is complete and in pristine condition. In telegraphic form it traces Jackson's journey as the ship takes him further and further away from England: '*Bokhara* arrives at Gibraltar', '*Bokhara* arrives at Port Said', 'He gets to Karachi at "8 o'clock"'. Housman then waits for further news.

It takes eleven long months for Jackson to send a letter: in the meantime Housman is reduced to noting that he has twice lunched with Jackson's brother, that a colleague has received a letter, that Jackson's grandmother has died. Apart from these few scraps, the diary is empty, and the cumulative effect of so many blank pages is desolating. As in Housman's poems, what is left out becomes as striking as what is left in, and in its compressed, uninflected, almost unspoken way, this carefully preserved ledger of absence is almost as eloquent.

Peter Parker

Peter Parker is the author of *The Od Lie: The Great War and the public-school ethos* (1987), *Ackerley: A Biography of J R Ackerley* (1994) *Isherwood: A life* (2004) and *The Last Veteran: Harry Patch and the Legacy of War* (2015).

From the battlefield

The centenary of the Battle of the Somme was marked at the Library on 7 July by an evening of readings. The works of the war poets, Wilfred Owen, Isaac Rosenberg, Ivor Gurney and others, were read by actors and there were performances of poems set to music with the accompaniment of pianist Tessa Uys. The programme included a rare performance of David Jones's 'In Parenthesis' (1937), a modernist mixture of free verse and prose which was based on his experiences as an infantryman. David Jones (1895–1974) was a painter and engraver, a pupil of Eric Gill, who served with the Royal Welch Fusiliers on the Western Front from 1915 to 1918 and was involved in the fighting



Scene on the Somme Front © National Library of Scotland/The British Library

at Mametz Wood. His epic work follows the experiences of one Private John Ball in the trenches and at the Battle of the Somme.

Two letters on display in the Sir John Ritblat Treasures of the British Library Gallery mark the course of the war and its aftermath. A letter from Lord Lansdowne to his wife, dated 2 August 1914, describing a busy day of meetings and dinners, ends on a personal note: 'I fear we are in for a time of great uncertainty. The only comfort that I can find is in the reflection that you are there to help me to bear my share of the load.' A more formal letter about the League of Nations from Ramsay MacDonald to Robert Cecil, written on 3 July 1923, states: 'It is quite impossible to do something at Geneva to ease the situation and to lead to a slackening of the murderous grip which France now holds upon Germany.'

My British Library Significant women

My romance with the British Library began almost half a century ago in the old Reading Room of the British Museum. I was not then an academic and had no specific project; acquiring a card was a statement of intent. Writers I admired valued their freedom to slip in and out of this great institution, even those who lived far from London like Storm Jameson whose descriptions in *Journey from the North* of impoverished study, fuelled only by a bag of plums bought in Shepherd's Bush and 'eaten in the cloakroom of the Museum at midday', had captured my imagination. I kept trying to manage on a bag of plums but never could, and I certainly never ate in the cloakroom which I recall being smelly.

Attached to old traditions, I was among those who feared loss in the move. There was no need. The new building with its airy spaces and luxurious fittings became at once both object of desire and inciter of new passions. What had been an on-off relationship whose nadir was the day I scrawled across my notes, 'Enough! Cannot read another word of 150-year-old gossip' (a book called *Mrs Brookfield and Her Circle* had put me to sleep) became permanent.

My research took me from 20th-century women like Storm Jameson, via the 19th century of Jane Carlye, Geraldine Jewsbury and Felicia Hemans, to an interest in 18th-century women writers. It was a puzzle at first that there seemed to be so many of them: I ordered from the catalogue and up they came, vivid and voluble. Why did standard textbooks on 18th-century literature not include significant novelists like Charlotte Lennox? Thinkers like Mary Wollstonecraft? Poets like Charlotte Smith (who was also a major novelist)? Sometimes, as I copied extracts I would later include in



William Hogarth, *A Midnight Modern Conversation* depicts a club of middle-aged respectable men of the sort who enjoyed Laetitia Pilkington's 'entertaining speech'.

Dr Johnson's Women and *The Rise and Fall of the Woman of Letters*, I had the sense that I was transferring matter wholesale, out of darkness into light. It was not a grandiose feeling; it was tinged with sadness. The voices were alive, their concerns immediate; as women experimenting with every kind of writing, engaging in public debates, they spoke directly to me.

I soon learned I was not a lone explorer. And the Library has become more sociable too, its public spaces fully utilised by academics meeting graduate students and each other, by younger scholars and would-be scholars who may not yet know, as I didn't, quite what they want to do there but feeling they belong.

Norma Clarke

Professor of English Literature, Kingston University
As well as the titles mentioned here, I've used the library for research on: *Ambitious Heights – Writing, Friendship, Love* (Routledge, 1989) *Queen of the Wits: a Life of Laetitia Pilkington* (Faber, 2008) *Brothers of the Quill: Oliver Goldsmith in Grub Street* (Harvard University Press, 2016).

Book Review



Adventures in the Strand: Arthur Conan Doyle and the Strand Magazine By Mike Ashley
British Library Publications. £25

Mike Ashley's scholarly and well-illustrated book covers the forty-year relationship between Arthur Conan Doyle and *The Strand Magazine*: 'one of the most famous authors in

the world, and one of the most famous magazines'. Ashley gives a brief history of the magazine, concentrating on the innovations of its literary editor Herbert Greenhough Smith, whose encouragement of Conan Doyle led to the innovation of series fiction with a continuing central figure. From the opening sentence of 'A Scandal in Bohemia' in July 1891 ('To Sherlock Holmes she is always *the woman*') the circulation of *The Strand* soared, and in 1892 Doyle

was given a fee of £1,000 for twelve stories of 8,660 words each for a third Sherlock Holmes series. There was a public outcry at Holmes's death in 1893 when the magazine received hundreds of letters of complaint from its readers.

Doyle returned to *The Strand* after his wife's death in 1906, contributing 19 Brigadier Gerard stories set during the Napoleonic wars, several 'Round the Fire' stories and an account of 'The Tragedy of the *Korosoko*', as well as science fiction, First World War reportage and sporting tales. After an account of Doyle's involvement in the Society for Psychical Research and a chapter on his belief in fairies, the book ends with Doyle's autobiography *Memories and Adventures* which was serialised in *The Strand* in 1923–24, and the winding down of the magazine after the author's death in 1930.

Elizabeth Barry

Autumn Visits

Barbican

London EC2Y

Wednesday 19 October, 2pm, £17

Maximum 20 people



A Grade II listed building, the Barbican is Europe's largest multi-arts and conference venue and one of London's best examples of Brutalist architecture.

Friends will have a 90-minute walking tour of the Barbican and discover the fascinating history behind the building of the Centre and the surrounding estate.

Walking along the Barbican highwalks, you'll learn more about the construction, design and influence of the estate, along with surprising and rarely seen sights and discoveries, plus little known insights into this unique architectural endeavour.

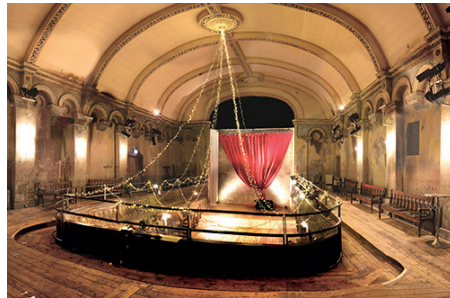
Wilton's Music Hall

London E1

Monday 24 October, 6pm, £12

Maximum 10 people

Wilton's Music Hall is a gem in the heart of London and the oldest grand music hall in the world. It presents a year round programme of exceptional live music and world-class productions, alongside learning and participation work that engages the local community and schools.



The Grade II* listed building recently completed a four-year capital project of restoration with support from the Heritage Lottery Fund and numerous trusts and individuals.

This Historical Tour has been devised by Wilton's researcher and historian and lasts approximately one hour. Providing a glimpse into the life of the last surviving building of its kind, this visit is perfect for everyone who would like to learn more about this historic venue.

National Theatre Backstage Tour

London SE1

Thursday 27 October, 11.30am, £16

Maximum 20 people



The National Theatre is a working building, producing over 20 new productions every year. Preparation for the shows, including rehearsals, prop and costume-making all happen on site. It houses not just three auditoriums, but also rehearsal rooms, set-building and scenic-painting workshops, costume- and prop-making and digital design. The NT is a creative hub with over 1000 people working on its five-acre site.

Friends will have a backstage tour, including a visit to the workshops. The tour lasts for approximately 90 minutes.

Benjamin Franklin House Architectural Tour

London WC2N

Monday 7 November, 2pm, £12

Maximum 15 people

Benjamin Franklin House is a museum in a terraced Georgian house, close to Trafalgar Square. It is the only surviving former residence of Benjamin Franklin, one of the Founding Fathers of the United States. The house dates from c.1730, and Franklin lived and worked there for sixteen years.

During the Architectural Tour, the Georgian features of the 1730's building are revealed, along with its fascinating history encompassing Franklin's long residence (1757-1775), the Hewson anatomy school, and the comprehensive conservation project that saved it from dereliction.



Society of Genealogists Library

London EC1M

Wednesday 23 November, 11.15am, £10

Maximum 15 people

Founded in 1911 the Society of Genealogists is Britain's premier family history society. The Society maintains a splendid genealogical library and education centre in Clerkenwell in London. The Library has many unique unpublished manuscript notes and printed and unpublished family histories, as well as Britain's largest collection of parish register copies and many nonconformist registers. Along with registers, the Library holds local histories, copies of churchyard gravestone inscriptions, poll books, trade directories, census indexes and a wealth of information about the parishes.

Friends will have a tour of the Library, which should last around 90 minutes.

Museum of Brands, Packaging and Advertising

London W11

Tuesday 29 November, 2pm, £14

Maximum 20 people



The Museum of Brands, Packaging and Advertising examines the history of consumer culture from Victorian times to the present day. The museum features over 12,000 original items including domestic "everyday" products, packaging, posters, toys and games.

Set out in chronological order, you will see how the brands around us

have evolved from the naïve charm of Victorian times to the greater sophistication of today. It also reflects the change in shopping habits, the impact of transportation, media, the effects of two world wars and the gradual emancipation of women.

Friends will have an introductory talk and then time to enjoy the Museum.

St Albans Cathedral

St Albans AL1

Thursday 8 December, 1pm, £12

Maximum 20 people



St Albans Cathedral stands over the place where Alban, Britain's first saint, was buried after giving his life for his faith over 1700 years ago. The building's amazing mixture of architectural styles bears witness to the many centuries of its life, first as a monastic Abbey, and now as a Cathedral.

The Cathedral has a wealth of unique highlights for visitors to enjoy, including the Shrine of Saint Alban, the longest nave in England, stunning medieval wall paintings and magnificent architecture. Friends will have a guided tour of the Cathedral, lasting around an hour.

The Christmas market is also scheduled to be on at this time, so

you may wish to allow yourself some time before or after the visit to look around. It is mainly situated around the Cathedral.

National Art Library, V&A

London SW7

Monday 12 December, 2pm, £10

Maximum 20 people

The National Art Library is one of the largest four libraries in the world dedicated to the study of the fine and applied arts. With over 1.5 million items within its collections, it resides within the V&A Museum where the team also form the curatorial department for the study of the national collection of the art, craft and design of the book.

Friends will have a behind-the-scenes visit to explore how the library operates today and its rich history, and also with the opportunity to see a variety of treasures chosen from the NAL's special collections. The library's special collections encompass a wide range of items from medieval illuminated manuscripts all the way through to contemporary book art and graphic novels.

Handel House Museum and Harpsichord Recital

London W1K

Thursday 15 December, 1pm, £17

Maximum 20 people

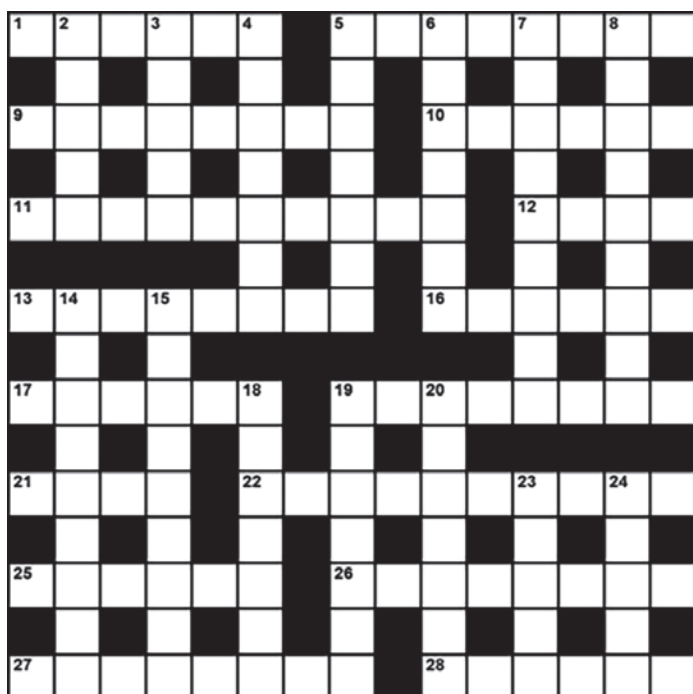
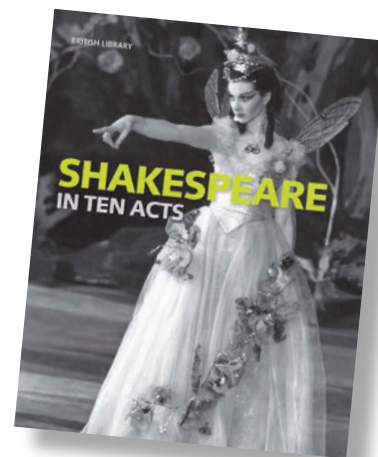
Its continued popularity has encouraged us to repeat our visit to the home of George Frederic Handel from 1723 until his death in 1759, where he composed some of his greatest music.

The museum celebrates his life and work in finely restored Georgian interiors. The visit will begin with a tour of nearby St George's Church, where Handel played the organ. Then we will head back to the house for a guided tour and a harpsichord recital lasting around 30 minutes.

Crossword Prize

The senders of the first three correct solutions opened will each win a copy of *Shakespeare in Ten Acts*, edited by Gordon McMullan and Zoe Wilcox (British Library £25). The catalogue to the Library's successful Shakespeare exhibition, it contains essays and commentaries on plays and performances and is lavishly illustrated..

The closing date is **9 September** or seven days after the delivery of the Newsletter.



Answers to Summer crossword

Across: 1 Flabby, 4 Banquets, 9 Duenna, 10 Paradise, 12 Raillery, 13 Remote, 15 Translucence, 18 In the long run, 21 Danube, 22 Assessor, 24 Adorable, 25 Banana, 26 Seedsman, 27 Byline.

Down: 1 Federate, 2 American, 3 Bangles and beads, 5 ASAP, 6 Quatercentenary, 7 Editor, 8 Swedes, 11 Groucho, 14 Legless, 16 Frascati, 17 Increase, 19 Ideals, 20 Undone, 23 Flea.

The **winners** of the summer crossword, who each received a copy of the British Library book: *Penguins, Pineapples and Pangolins*, were **Mrs E Kenny** of Hove, **Ian Brown** of London and **Douglas McCreadie** of Kew.

Across

- 1 Exaggerate and provoke inflation (4,2)
- 5 Indeed, publicity for Roman quartet is poor (8)
- 9 Because 2 won 11, we say this to 17 (8)
- 10 Stay around to lose the next one (6)
- 11 Consult before reaching conclusion? Um . . . the people have spoken (10)
- 12 In composition, Ibsen probably used these (4)
- 13 Shocked that shroud is enveloped by something derivative (8)
- 16 Seeking philanthropists in London or south-east (6)
- 17 Issue for 11 (6)
- 19 Is Oscar mixed up with a bird? Capital (3,5)
- 21 Marginal – but fashionable – comedy (4)
- 22 Search my loo, excluding nothing, to unravel why I sob (10)
- 25 Shakespeare's Caesar left more than one to Rome (plus walks and orchards) (6)
- 26 Have it all before theorizing, said Holmes (8)
- 27 His ten-year return was all but eponymous (8)
- 28 Something in Hades is tempting – but stop it (6)

Down

- 2 Get out of 17 by winning 11 (5)
- 3 The answer is west of our present location (5)
- 4 Strike early deal with 50 assorted lepers (7)
- 5 Thus was Shelley, pursuing a maiden and clasping a reed (7)
- 6 Tomb may drip in a storm (7)
- 7 Coming soon, mixed up in mice, men . . . (9)
- 8 Get festive and tattooed here (9)
- 14 Many a 6 has been (9)
- 15 With nothing added, nouns may be hard to identify (9)
- 18 In pictures, 1 can mean doing this (7)
- 19 Getting to the core, we finish off scatty uncle (7)
- 20 In a word, confused anger makes one concerned (7)
- 23 Here horses, hounds and hunters gather (5)
- 24 Lashes out to protect feet (5)

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