



DOWN

1. The lady seductive, but deadly in France. (5)
2. Should one ask searching questions or bury opinions in 28? (4)
3. A confused and sad boy, Ern was like a desiccated skeleton at times. (3,2,4)
4. The willow tree would be more pleasant if its top hadn't been lopped. (5)
5. There is a sense in which it is entirely personal. (5)
6. The ruler sounded cooler when he was back. (4)
7. Lively ensoulment! (9)
10. After the fish, permit me to have a crumpet. (7)
12. Initially he thought someone should abridge the letter to the earl at postcode 4012. (3)
15. Did he discover a plain on the moon when working at 13? (10)
16. Take it or leave it, the number in question is crucial to our finances. (5-4)
18. Is he a whining schoolboy, a clock thief or a kite tamer perhaps? (4-5)
19. A kind of wine, bottled in France. (7)
23. In some parts, that author uses a Greek character. (3)
25. The leader will inspire us to fight or die, we hear. (5)
26. The ox is the animal that surpasses all others in carrying a load. (5)
27. Although he sounds loud, the poet looks indecisive. (5)
29. Love in the groove can be utter defeat. (4)

ACROSS

1. 'All this ... and sweet' (Marvell). Sounds like Irish summer rain. (4,3,4)
8. The major's servant, in a temper, lost his head but found his soul, perhaps, in India. (5)
9. His basic philosophy explains why this spy came to destroy rather than construct. (11)
11. Some repeat both rumours monotonously. (5)
13. What a discovery! There is knowledge to be gained along this road. (6,6)
14. The chemical formula for this can be found in the almanac lent to me by the old sailor at the arms talks. (4)
16. Right up to the present time, this is the place for tranquil spirits. (5)
17. In ethical terms, does 9 explain this evil? (5)
20. The measure becomes extremely random with the heat. (5)
21. Pale, like Palm Sunday residue. (5)
22. Shaken by the storm, in a poetic way. (4)
24. What a friend might have said to nervous William, pointing his crossbow. (3,6,3)
28. In ancient Rome and 13, there is place for discussion. (5)
30. Not a red letter day, but dark and bloody perhaps. (5,6)
31. O mighty mount, you lure us to our centre, but without quarter for some. (5)
32. Record rewards, I hear, for great undertakings. (11)