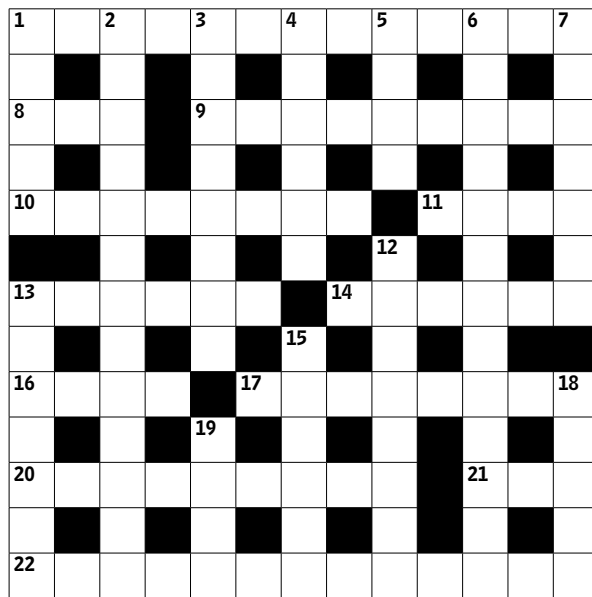
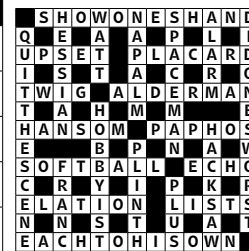


SPEEDY CROSSWORD NO. 925



SOLUTION NO. 924



ACROSS

- 1** Important step to achieving something (4,3,6)
- 8** Solemn promise (3)
- 9** Vacuum caused by an atmospheric down-draught (3,6)
- 10** One of a pair of shirt sleeve fasteners (4,4)
- 11** Title given to the kings of Bulgaria (4)
- 13** Give wholly to (6)
- 14** 'Whisky -----!', classic Ealing comedy of 1949 (6)
- 16** Bygone time (4)
- 17** Asian country, capital Colombo (3,5)
- 20** Tee it high (anag) (9)
- 21** Cause of a princess's insomnia? (3)
- 22** Absorbed in reverie or contemplation (4,2,7)

DOWN

- 1** Devastation (5)
- 2** Determination of a medial estimate or arithmetic mean (3,2,8)
- 3** Dish drier (3,5)
- 4** Off the mark (6)
- 5** Bug-eyed (4)
- 6** Makes someone realise they are not as good as they thought they were (5,4,1,3)
- 7** Bistro, informal dining venue (7)
- 12** Blatant or sensational promotion (8)
- 13** Kind of battery used in smaller domestic appliances (3,4)
- 15** Religious teacher (6)
- 18** To the rear (5)
- 19** Case for holding sewing articles (4)