

October 2026 Slot 5 by Manveru

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Across

- 1 They live in town with liberated slave girl (9)
- 6 He's virtuous, timeless and embraces everyone's sins (just the original ones) (5)
- 9 Batman averts disaster with Robin's butt getting caught (7)
- 10 Head of eel is stuffed inside bait for fishing perhaps (7)
- 11 Topic: 'A type of cell relating to blood' (5)
- 12 Bewilderment with advanced puzzle pieces and a touch of trigonometry (9)
- 13 Arch detail constructed to hide head of icon in Hagia Sophia originally (9)
- 15 Fleece taken from 60% of sheep on unfenced farm (5)
- 16 Legend that's useful in this book! (5)
- 18 Psychotic and desperate brute is dead and buried, finally! (9)
- 20 Tried hard to make strudel filled with grog, but it's empty! (9)
- 23 Send on or send back? (5)
- 25 Surgery on hip and one leg will provide stance (7)
- 26 Nearly finish drink (ale) brewed from place of Guinness (7)
- 27 Small flowerless matted plant storing energy - one separating water? (5)
- 28 It requires focus and resolution to reveal 14d perhaps (9)

Down

- 1 See 5 - is it... (5)
- 2 ...great Lake Superior's northern point reimagined as the most vast (7)
- 3 Understanding comes from answer cryptically compiled with 'special' Australian English (9)
- 4 Special newspaper edition uncovers characters involved in sex trafficking (5)
- 5 They make up words and dictionary has four of them! (9)
- 6 Sounds like a pair or pear perhaps? (5)
- 7 Pressure as queen takes knight in the unexpected *Schnoz* opening? (7)
- 8 Took refuge and was uncomfortably hot, needing hospital after losing weight (9)
- 13 'Social status and Othello's rise' could be taught here (9)
- 14 Mars Bar, finally with al dente version infused with nib of pistachio (3,6)
- 15 Flying perhaps with nuts onboard? (9)
- 17 Trucks, whoppers, loaded with gold rupees (7)
- 19 Muscular - a look for horny ones? (7)
- 21 Beams or particles? There's no answer (5)
- 22 Pierce with a bullet or interrogate? Dead, not good (5)
- 24 Link magnetic flux density disappearing with an elongated area of high pressure (5)