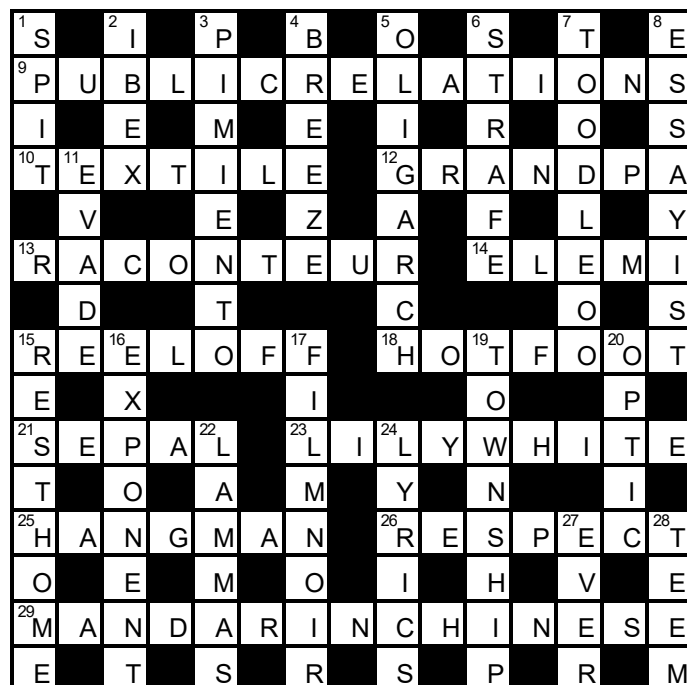


**Across**

- 9** Spin sex-crime? (6,9) public relations (Spin (PR) - Sex in public would be a crime)
- 10** Material lie about following script (7) textile (Material - LIE* (anagram="about") following TEXT (script))
- 12** K-Pop? (7) grandpa (Cryptic definition - GRAND (k/thousand) + PA (pop/father))
- 13** Relations expert driving supporters working true to form (9) raconteur (Expert in relations (stories) - RAC (organisation supporting drivers) + ON (working) + TRUE* (anagram="to form"))
- 14** Varnish found in spaniel emissions (5) elemi (Varnish - Hidden word (found in) [spani]EL EMI[ssions])
- 15** Run through dance, it's cancelled (4,3) reel off (Run through - REEL (dance) + OFF (cancelled))
- 18** Run an attractive distance (7) hotfoot (Run - HOT (attractive) + FOOT (distance))
- 21** Flower case leaps into action (5) sepal (Flower case - LEAPS* (anagram="into action"))
- 23** Caucasian girl turned out to be innocent (4-5) lily-white (Innocent - LILY (girl) + WHITE (caucasian))
- 25** Pierrepoint's game (7) hangman (Double definition)
- 26** Admire spelled out song (7) respect (Admire - 'Respect' is a song in which the word is spelled out)
- 29** Civil servant to takeaway tongue (8,7) Mandarin Chinese (Tongue (language) - MANDARIN (civil servant) + CHINESE (takeaway))

Down

- 1** Tips over bar (4) spit (Bar (projection into the sea) - reversal (over) of TIPS)
- 2** Horny beast to live in No.9 (4) ibex (A beast with a horn - BE (live) in IX (number 9 in Roman numerals))

3 Mini poet could be spicy (8)	pimiento (Spicy (pepper) - MINI POET* (anagram="could be"))
4 A piece of cake gives you wind (6)	breeze (Double definition - easy + wind)
5 Rich and powerful person finds unholy grail in Scottish utterance (8)	oligarch (Rich and powerful person - GRAIL* (anagram="unholy") in OCH (Scottish word))
6 Pepper fry steak served without kefir and yoghurt starters (6)	strafe (Pepper (verb) - FRY STEAK* (anagram="served") without K[efir] & Y[oghurt] (starting letters))
7 When going to the toilet, say goodbye (6-2)	toodle-oo (Goodbye - Homophone of TO DE LOO (to the toilet))
8 Lamb stew sits easy (8)	essayist ((Charles) Lamb (an essayist) - Anagram ("stew") of SITS EASY)
11 Dodge the Peron of France (5)	evade (Dodge - EVA (Peron) + DE ("of" in France))
15 Old institution to lie to the house (4,4)	rest home (Institution for the old - REST (lie) + HOME (house))
16 Practitioner has old river and no tree (8)	exponent (Practitioner - EX (old) + PO (river) + N (no) + ENT (tree, in Tolkein novels))
17 Milf orgy in, or about, cinema (4,4)	film noir (Cinema (style) - MILF* (anagram="orgy") + IN OR* (anagram="about"))
19 Neighbourhood draw, pin-up keeps quiet (8)	township (Neighbourhood - TOW (draw / pull) + reversal (up) of PIN around (keeps) SH (quiet))
20 Some nerve, to adopt iconic bears (5)	optic (A nerve - Hidden word (bears) in [ad]OPT IC[onic])
22 For harvest festival, thousands are in city simultaneously (6)	Lammas (Harvest festival - MM (thousands) in LA (city) + AS (simultaneously))
24 Book of Liverpool's year, red in colour, soccer leaders (6)	lyrics (Book (in musicals) - L[iverpools] Y[ear] R[ed] I[n] C[olour] S[occer] (leading letters))
27 Always about to start, right? (4)	ever (Always - EVE (about to start) + R (right))
28 Gather up and lash down (4)	teem (Lash down (with rain) - Reversal (up) of MEET (gather))