

**ACROSS**

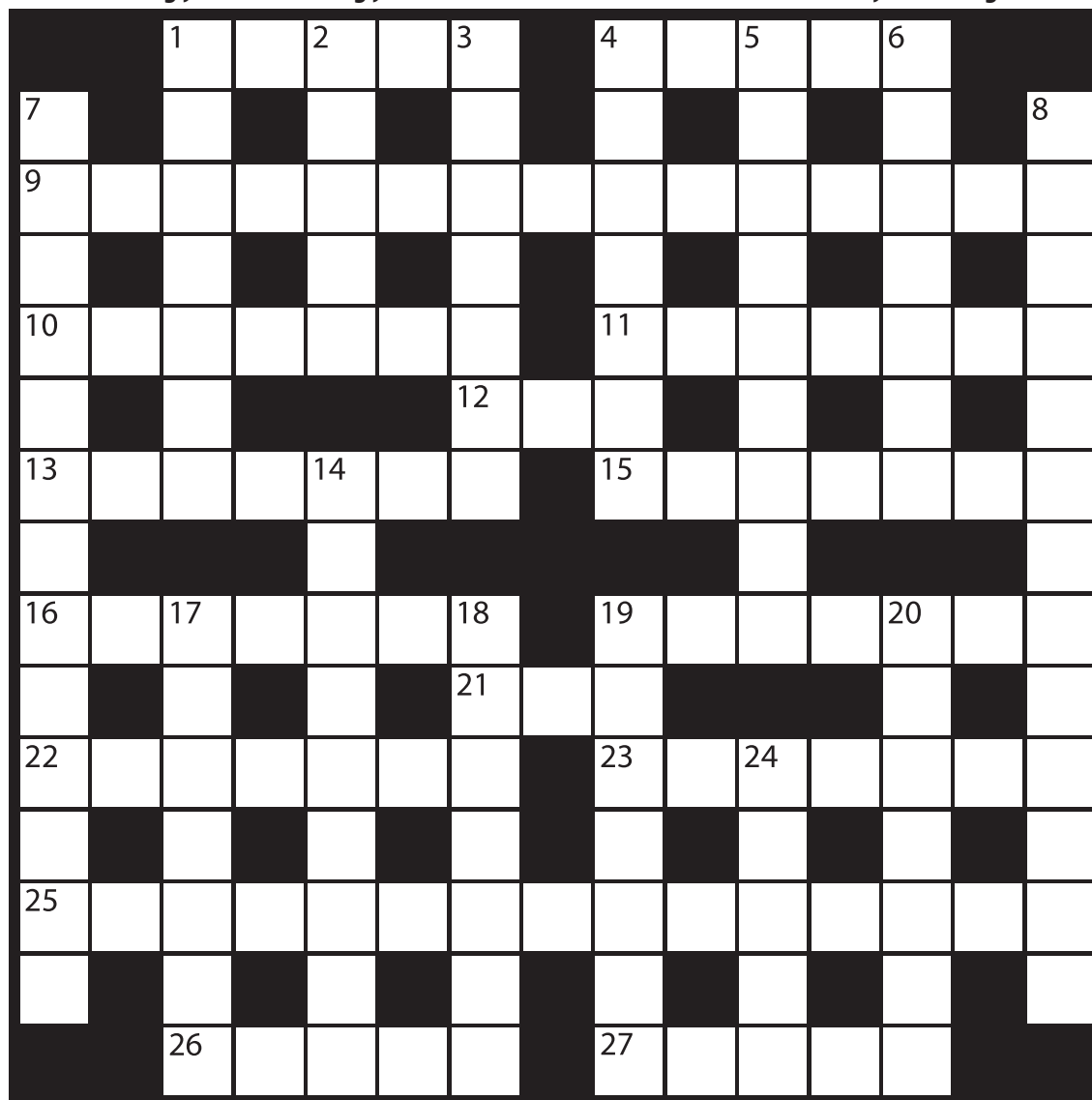
- 1 Right for deserters to retreat with beetle, we're told (5)  
 4 Funny characters often make interesting clients, originally (5)  
 9 Defenders got bad with age and didn't move quickly (7,4,4)  
 10 Bolt around the tale? (7)  
 11 Two cricket terms drag on (7)  
 12 A place, unfinished, as seen in The Simpsons (3)  
 13 Copper darts flung as pie? (7)  
 15 Flowery newspaper has value, or almost (7)  
 16 Dismissed at job settlement (7)  
 19 Listener's promotion for noise muffler (7)  
 21 I leave warriors with a naughty child (3)  
 22 Scottish footballer's diatribe after doing up relegation leaders (7)  
 23 Become an heir in T-style (7)  
 25 Red Road allowed in to dangerous game (7,8)  
 26 Coins exchanged amid boom? (5)  
 27 Religious books are sent back by poetic muse (5)

**DOWN**

- 1 Goodman's cricket contest in hidden stores (7)  
 2 Fish in Caledonian glen (5)  
 3 Putin, say - or Karen Gillan? (7)  
 4 Honesty of positive attitude at ancient city (7)  
 5 Don't shoot him - or me, given Scottish Greens' assembly? (9)  
 6 Farewell to ice hero, perhaps (7)  
 7 Pre-bookings given by general before the attack? (7,6)  
 8 Bear to win the woman and be united (5,8)

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- 14 A share of fuss - or love (9)  
 17 Corrodes after the endless lunges (7)  
 18 Giant in charge of doomed ship (7)  
 19 Records and poem absorb one part of series (7)  
 20 Learning about dry love at school in Scotland (7)  
 24 She cultivates the Italian - had problems outside (5)