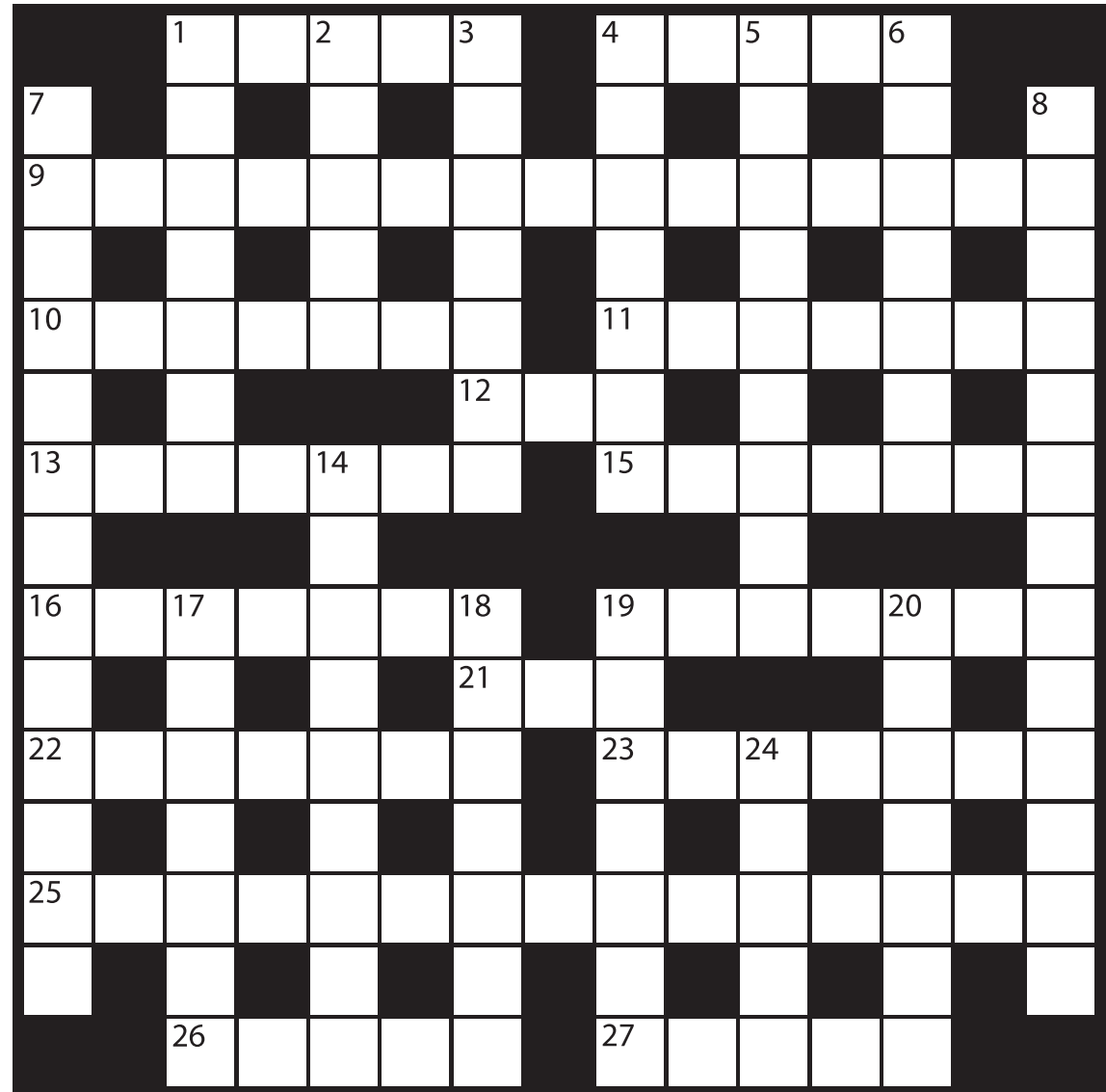


ACROSS

- 1 Regularly dried head by place to get clean (5)
- 4 Long periods in retreat carrying second-rate weapon (5)
- 9 Insurgents progress on river and arise at sea (15)
- 10 Father left Rome, moving somewhere else in Italy (7)
- 11 Pleasant heading off before with date arranged for drink (4,3)
- 12 Bronze article on centre of altar (3)
- 13 Chic animal enclosure is in outskirts of Leith (7)
- 15 Men, those that spout vocally (7)
- 16 Containers, tons used by ancient people (3,4)
- 19 Group of footballers with craft, mostly on form (7)
- 21 Cry after losing starter for tool (3)
- 22 Month working to gain a good figure (7)
- 23 Not popular bar in station (7)
- 25 Quizzically examine potter in trial and error (15)
- 26 Musician using some seedy language (5)
- 27 Meg at centre opening gala, perhaps (5)

DOWN

- 1 Struggle of five in retreat from south on railway (7)
- 2 More healthy bread overseas (5)
- 3 Pledge to jog hard and remain on top of it (7)
- 4 Son bounding along at an angle (7)
- 5 Innocent small bees swarming around (9)
- 6 Record is note about ending of unusual letter (7)
- 7 Asked expert journalist about stance (13)
- 8 Executing a trap to catch fool at home in South Africa (13)
- 14 Maiden luring a criminal to pinch gold (9)
- 17 Leaves home after school's up (7)
- 18 He might make child a kipper (7)



- 19 Spring entertainment involving large old church (7)
- 20 Certain writer's club is on third of October (7)
- 24 Arrow pointing north and east to get to market (5)