

**ACROSS**

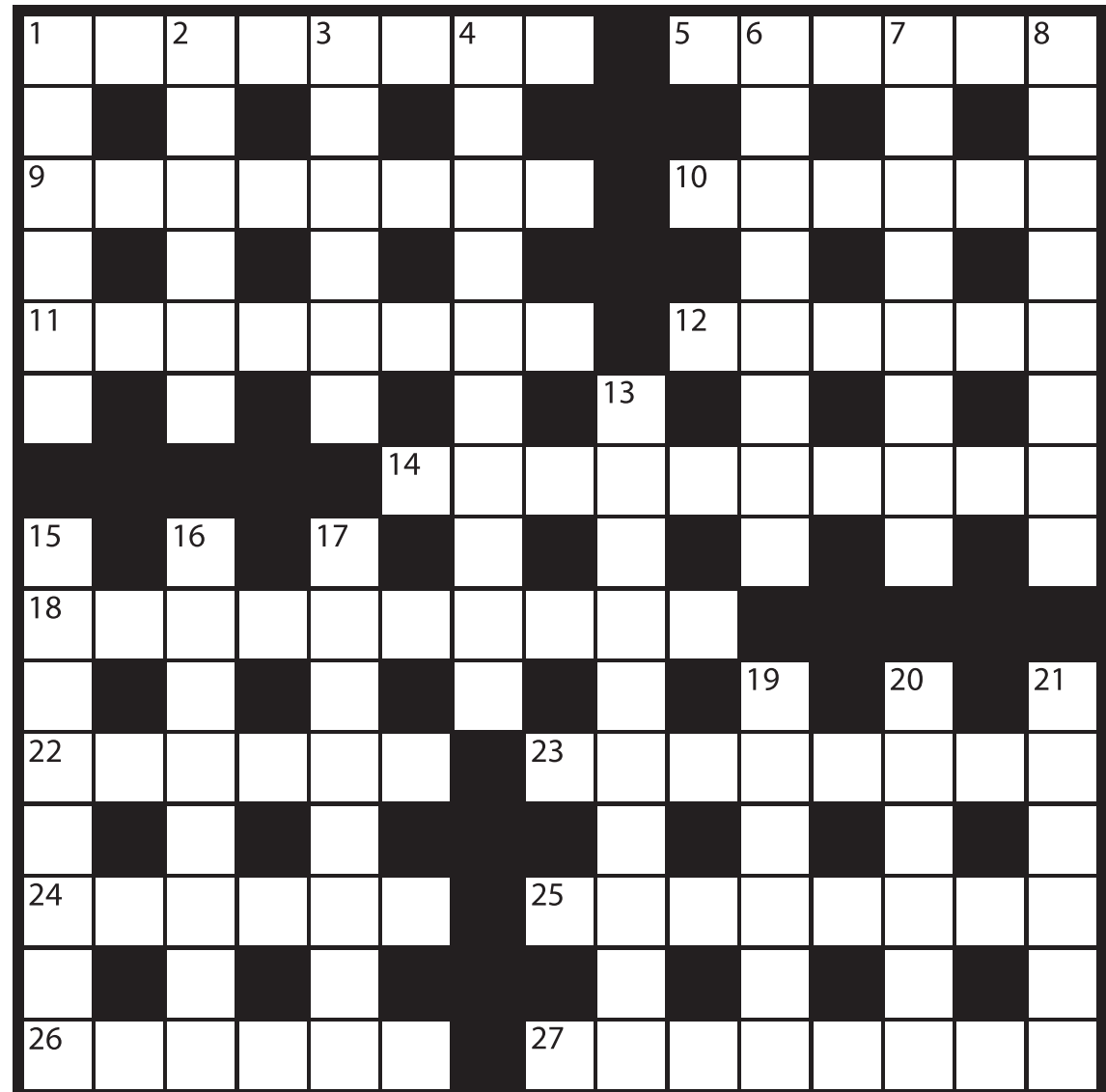
- 1 And 5ac Novel badly insults a reader (8)  
 5 See 1ac (6)  
 9 At last, marriage proposal beginning to stir feelings (8)  
 10 A pair of kings? I disapprove (3-3)  
 11 Copper wearing cross follows the dinosaur (8)  
 12 Soldiers like working? Makes sense (6)  
 14 Speculation priest may be seen thus (10)  
 18 'Perfectionist' italicised in error (10)  
 22 Quicken heart with a gun (6)  
 23 Beef isn't cooked for rewards (8)  
 24 Joyful story about writer (6)  
 25 Digital image enhancement (8)  
 26 Hold gas bottles left by son (6)  
 27 Passionate old soldier embraces macho guys (8)

**DOWN**

- 1 And 15dn Tweeting yet he's drunk again? Finally it ends tonight (6)  
 2 Wears down eager extremists with poetry (6)  
 3 Retired soldier in trouble getting bung (6)  
 4 Chaos sends Roman crazy (10)  
 6 Trainees sent abroad by boss (8)  
 7 At trial, journalist gave evidence (8)  
 8 Let off school to appear in court (8)  
 13 Measured carpet used by shop (10)  
 15 See 1 dn (8)  
 16 Jam hotel's put before everyone in dining room (4,4)

Monday, 31st December, 2018

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- 17 Superheroes often have one abnormally large toe (5,3)  
 19 Imagine six seconds in river... (6)  
 20 ...record time... (6)  
 21 ...claim idiot regularly regrets (6)