

ACROSS

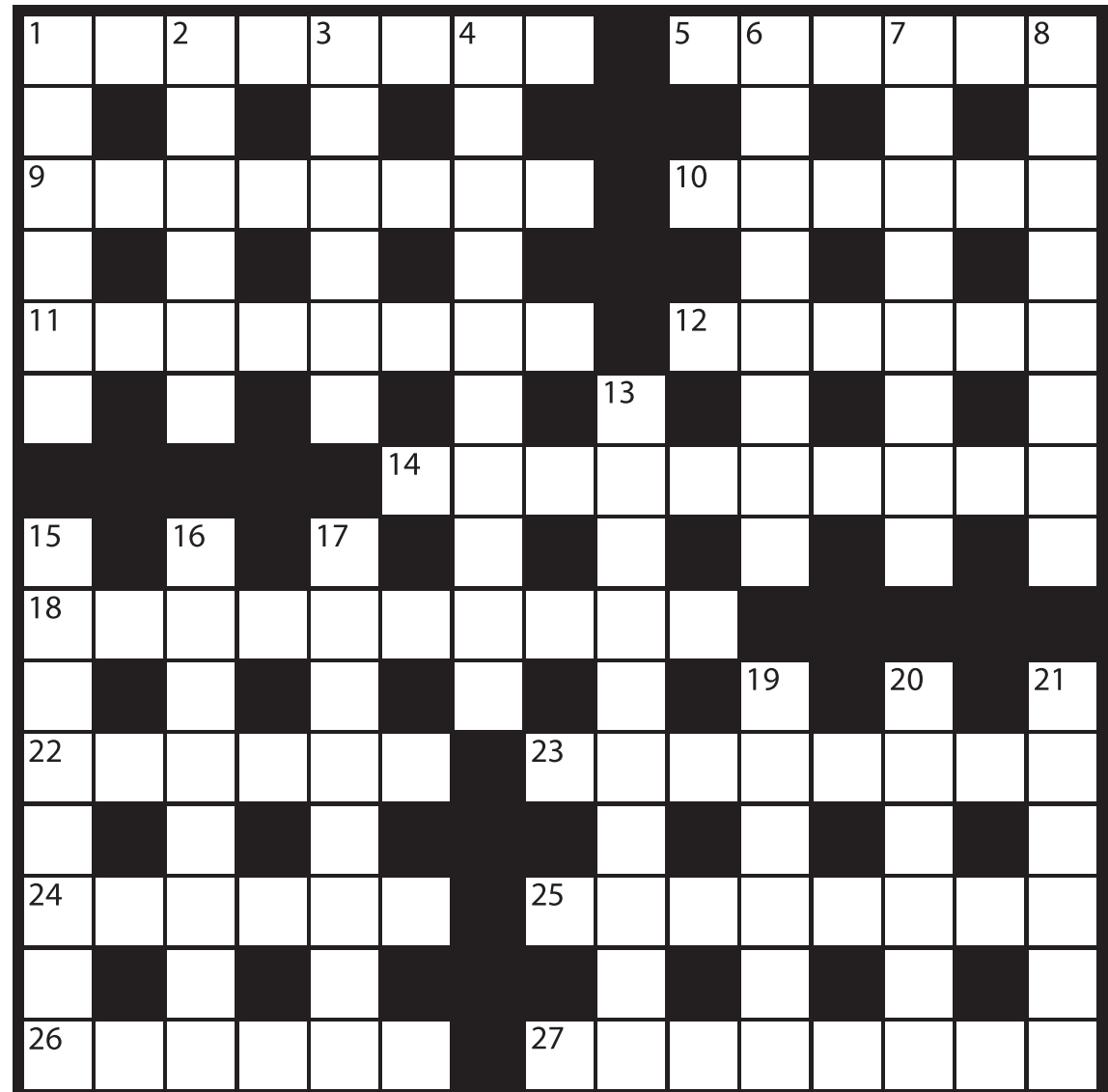
- 1 Asian asks for a bit of his money back in jest (8)
- 5 Defeated old cook, on the phone (6)
- 9 Of which Hitch was master with unique selling point in taste? (8)
- 10 Cake given steep return by somebody who loved nosh (6)
- 11 Story appearing in spare change for Eastenders? (8)
- 12 Indian manager originally worshipping God (6)
- 14 Rate Barker - he won't last the distance! (10)
- 18 Damp squib I can't set off with a capital X (10)
- 22 Hamlet was taken by American soldier in upturned vehicle (6)
- 23 The endless stream to the monarch provides exciting film (8)
- 24 I'm about to remain in the same place (6)
- 25 Swimmer fails with his freestyle (8)
- 26 See 8 Down (6)
- 27 Short in two red cards? Absolutely (4,4)

DOWN

- 1 Hopes dashed after Jesuit leader's biblical figure (6)
- 2 Plato's upset by delivery (6)
- 3 Given a crooked line, look for engraving (6)
- 4 City's teams struggling to be efficient (10)
- 6 Type of guess inserting old money in rising Scottish banker (8)
- 7 To get drunk during "Flower of Scotland" and, for a little while, delighted (8)
- 8 And 26 Across In remarkable throngs, the RNLi discover Aurora (8,6)
- 13 Headmaster's version, converting old pence to new, is the literal translation (10)

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- 15 Vital organ loses point on highland Scottish community (8)
- 16 Grass receives a duck for unlawful act (8)
- 17 Unconscious in grave? That's unfortunate (8)
- 19 See 21 Down (6)
- 20 Desperate lap in the east of mountains (6)
- 21 And 19dn Dramatist hurt arm: sick, then more so? (6,6)