

**ACROSS**

- 8 Ballot of characters working in which striker may appear (8)  
 9 Confession in a letter read aloud (6)  
 10 Everyone entertained by terrible song (6)  
 11 Gas consumed by small babies (8)  
 12 Conceal bravery on horseback (6,2)  
 13 Foreigner also speaking French and English (6)  
 14 New start for Harry Potter, now old and happy (2,3,2,3,5)  
 18 Stand on driveway at first after journey (6)  
 20 Writing books in the country (8)  
 23 Monk in vehicle gets one food (8)  
 24 Coin with female monarch used by the Spanish (6)  
 25 Retired old officer fled (6)  
 26 White lies developed in group (8)

**DOWN**

- 1 Food to upset old Scotsman (6)  
 2 Weapon in trial oddly stopping argument (8)  
 3 Story about a cleric's boy (6)  
 4 Appoint entirely awful ambassador (15)  
 5 Old horse surrounded by naked peers (8)  
 6 Soldiers caught in large-scale bog (6)  
 7 Stuff China broadcast about student (8)  
 15 One telling story about corrupt island (8)  
 16 Veterans show affection after leader's lost (3,5)  
 17 Just penning articles in secret (2,3,3)  
 19 Hides pound in underwear (6)  
 21 Sample of spud containing sulphur (6)  
 22 Where canoes may be drifting (6)

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