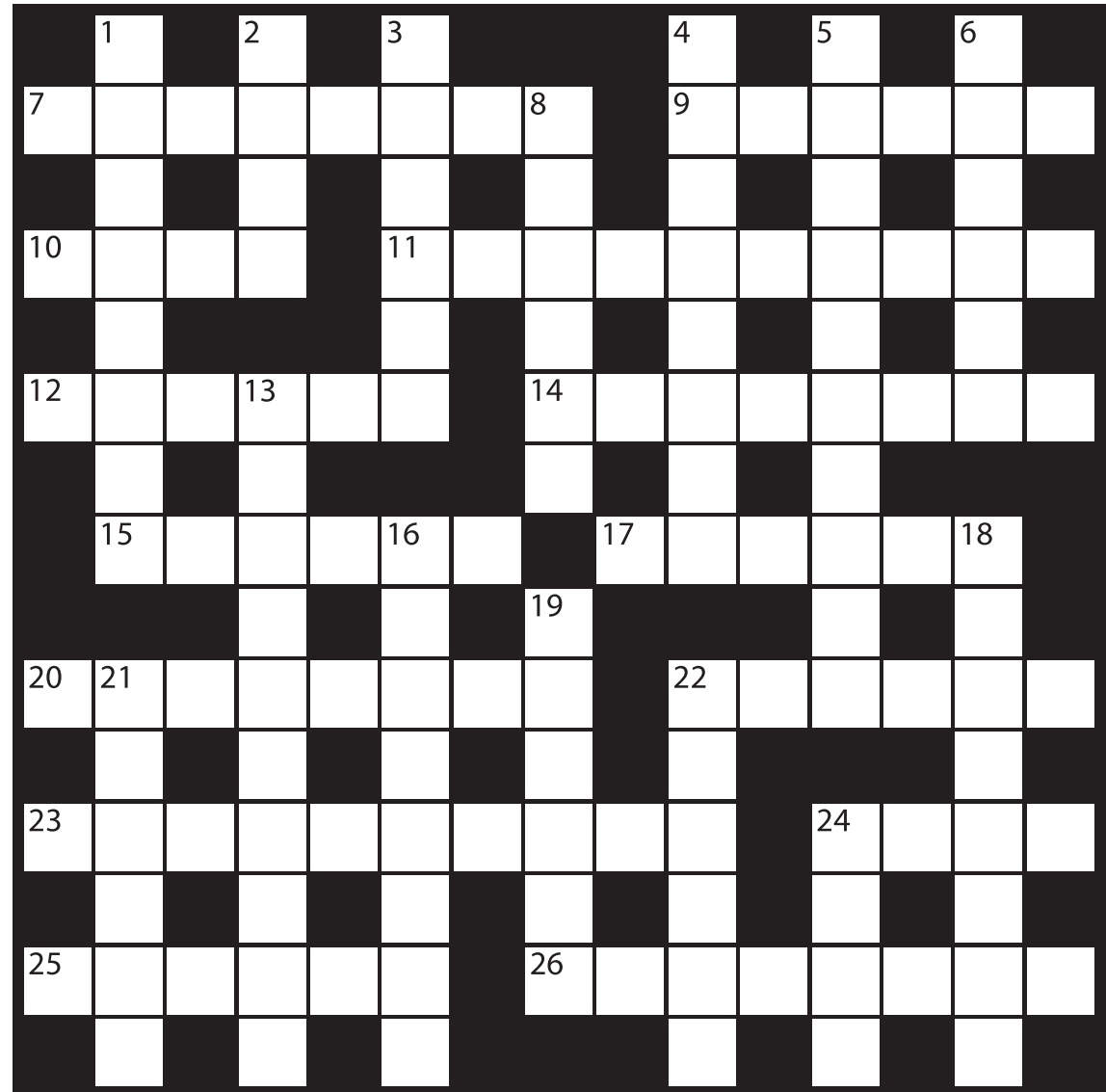


**ACROSS**

- 7 One that's served US general receiving award (8)
- 9 Foreign characters very big inside and out (6)
- 10 Alec ignoring banks with commercial tip-off (4)
- 11 Free love: he thus cavorted with one (2,3,5)
- 12 Cold fish rejected by English king (6)
- 14 After turning face, Boz not badly attacked (4,4)
- 15 Shot lodged in thief for thieving (6)
- 17 Help fellow following concerning tale (6)
- 20 Loathing diets, mysteriously gaining a stone (8)
- 22 Finger's skin peeled off, caught in wood (6)
- 23 Books one like The Herald supports (10)
- 24 Similar to relish (4)
- 25 Birds from river in south-east depart to the west (6)
- 26 Once more claim right and see tsar destabilised (8)

**DOWN**

- 1 Join line and get on section of aircraft (8)
- 2 Endlessly pore over hunky male (4)
- 3 Burden of male in one heartless gang (6)
- 4 Agitated voices about Man United (8)
- 5 Show fierce animal getting round it's destruction (10)
- 6 Help to support lead of big dog (6)
- 8 Noisy toy animal talked oddly (6)
- 13 Flexible feet turned without restriction (10)
- 16 Plant went up broom, close to tractor shed (8)
- 18 Traces monarch inside cinema (8)



- 19 Sportsman to secure runs (6)
- 21 Murdoch, perhaps, stopped by a queen and countryfolk (6)
- 22 Scientist like Celsius welcomed by friend (6)
- 24 Final screw's head sunken in wooden strip (4)