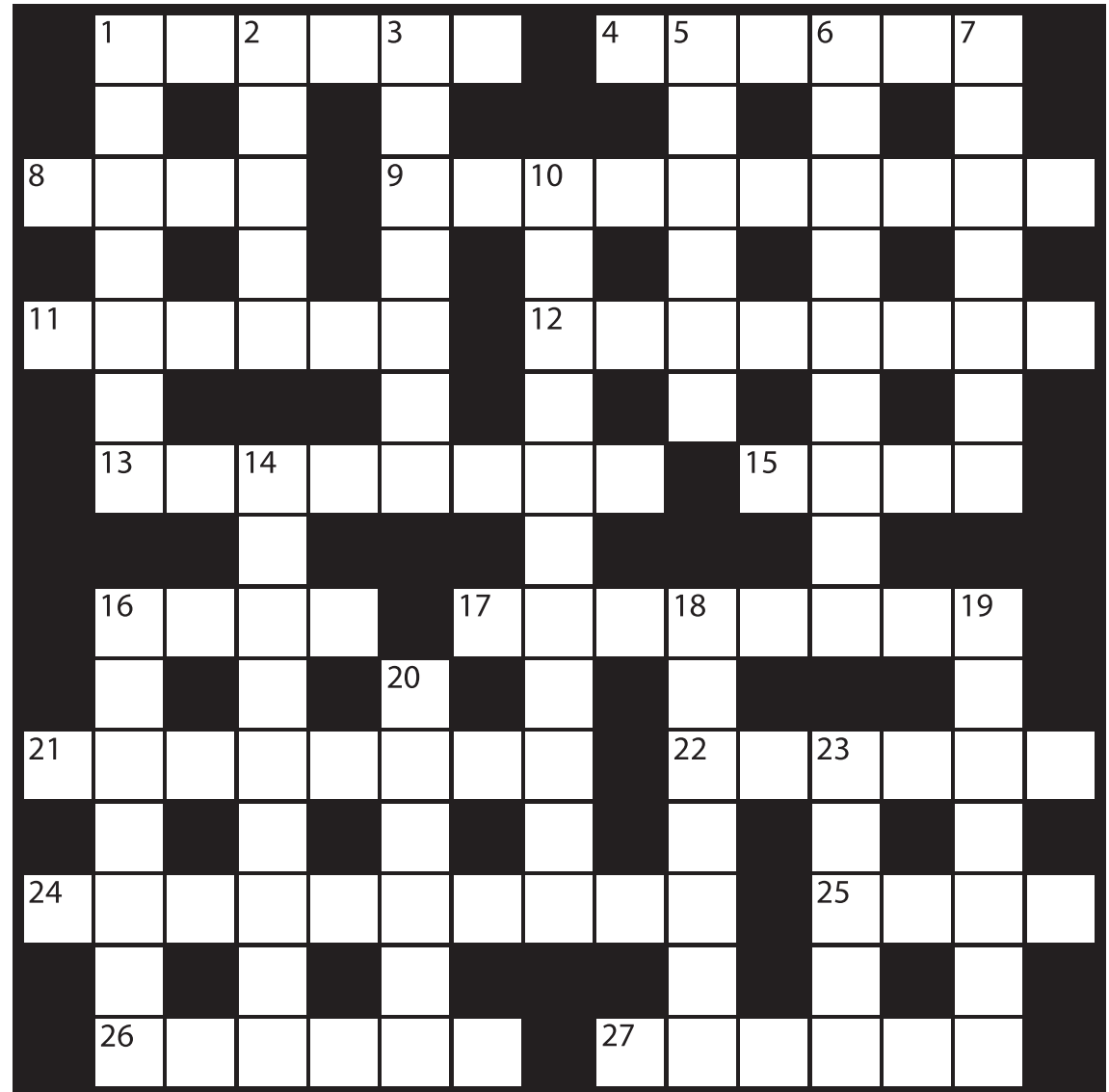


**ACROSS**

- 1 Weapon hit one monarch (6)
- 4 Fellows embracing male winners... (6)
- 8 ...sign of love by guys (4)
- 9 Plants having area in shady ground (10)
- 11 Everything in marshy area declined (6)
- 12 Type of small rodents going round in enclosure (8)
- 13 Tad disheartened to accept French physicist meddled (8)
- 15 Crowded transport service unknown (4)
- 16 Chemical expert on source of mycotoxin (4)
- 17 Aristocrat's single son seen in pubs (8)
- 21 Person leaving college worried after guard gets agitated (8)
- 22 Story about editor makes you delighted (6)
- 24 Not working wound up old enemy (10)
- 25 Greek character involved in riot attacked (4)
- 26 Drool regularly when good person brought back dinners (6)
- 27 Not near device linked to TV (6)

**DOWN**

- 1 High-spirited sheep with gasp for breath (7)
- 2 Board friend put around sides of niche (5)
- 3 Stress from English knight with risk to be beheaded (7)
- 5 That man with a cuddly toy that's animated (6)
- 6 Maiden alarmed with gut size (9)
- 7 Pretty quiet, a quiet cathedral city in England (7)
- 10 Some French work to trap traitor in middle of keep, urgently (11)
- 14 Road construction with island area for tree (9)



- 16 Seaman hurt, in US hospital dept (7)
- 18 Disorganised duo, ever late (7)
- 19 Second of schools in this month requiring RE staff (7)
- 20 Inform a bishop to get up and dance (6)
- 23 Friend in the past stealing the heart of Hamish (5)