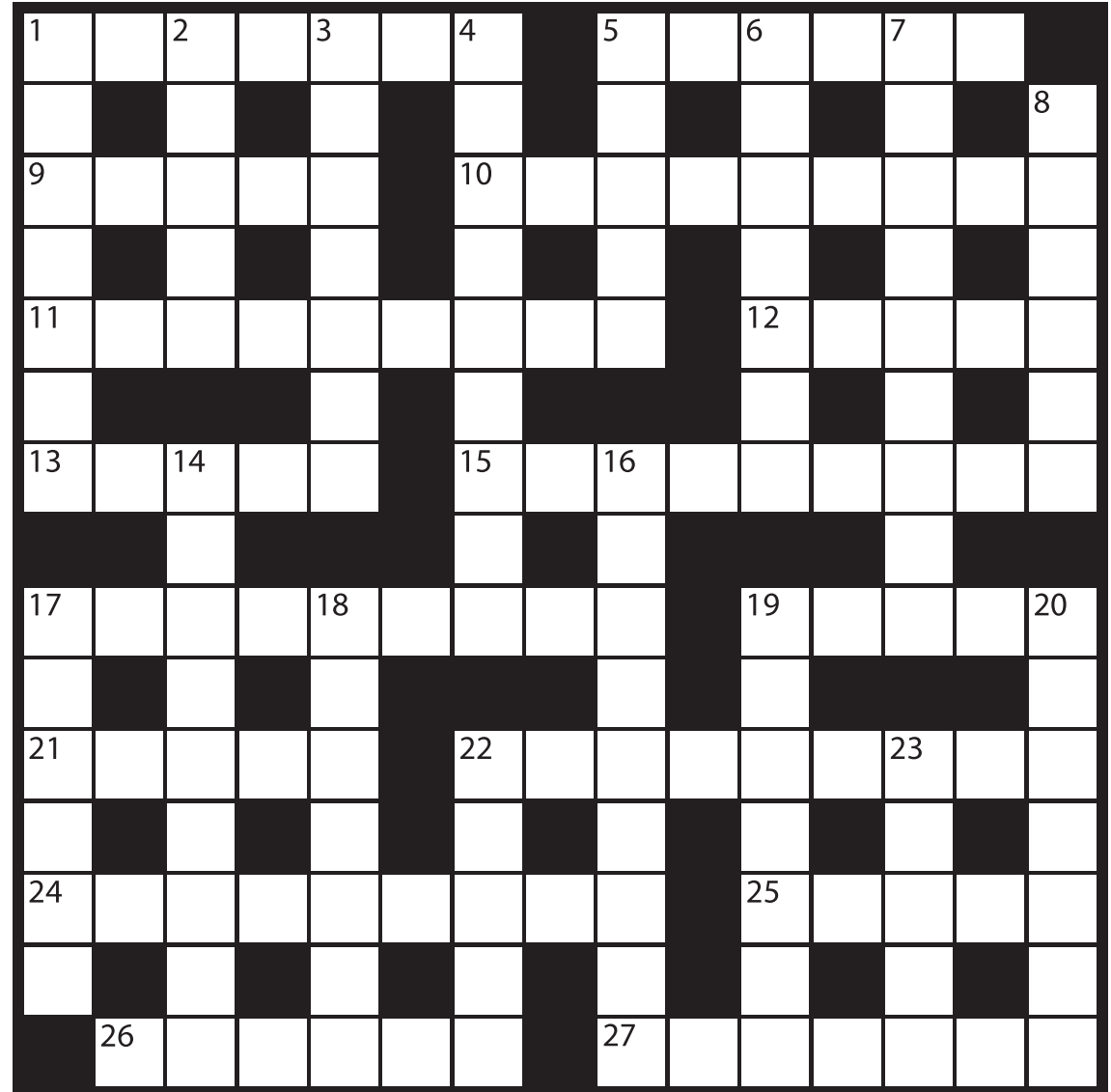


ACROSS

- 1 Rome can somehow produce a love story (7)
- 5 Reflected light from Ulster (6)
- 9 Summer snake? (5)
- 10 Endeavours to include old plays (9)
- 11 Let assets be dispersed? Coarse and vulgar (9)
- 12 Ski slope where pet is zigzagging (5)
- 13 Messy study is not clean (5)
- 15 Instances broadcast non-stop (9)
- 17 Engineers enter aircraft, or ship (9)
- 19 Insect by church in wood (5)
- 21 Eccentric Croat is one of the players (5)
- 22 Handed out bananas, despised holding end of skin (9)
- 24 Short race involved a group of musicians (9)
- 25 Taking love into rickety boat is strictly forbidden (5)
- 26 Guide males to the hill (6)
- 27 Give now (7)

DOWN

- 1 Baked dates or nuts (7)
- 2 Gold sovereign? (5)
- 3 Kids' playroom has railway laid by carer (7)
- 4 Zealot is cross, surrounded by swarming termites (9)
- 5 Lots of burdens (5)
- 6 Reportedly walks on Russian plains (7)
- 7 Bring back control – the country's supporting it (9)
- 8 Like money, it rises (6)
- 14 Accepts, stupidly, the French will produce a show (9)



- 16 Instrument of a joker who keeps an ace up his sleeve? (4,5)
- 17 Iris on the vessel (6)
- 18 Article of clothing chap put round limb (7)
- 19 Bather swims round point to take in air (7)
- 20 I do the manoeuvring round university's shelter (7)
- 22 Put off in crude terms (5)
- 23 Black book in auction (5)