

ACROSS

- 1 Thrashed (7)
- 5 Distinguished female singer (4)
- 8 Compile, collect (5)
- 9 Art exhibition hall (7)
- 11 Strikes lightly (4)
- 12 Contains (8)
- 15 Permitted by law (5)
- 16 Extent (5)
- 19 ___ receiver, bankruptcy troubleshooter (8)
- 21 First name of the Prussian statesman Bismarck (4)
- 23 ___ Crosbie, TV's Mrs Meldrew (7)
- 25 Long weapon with a pointed head (5)
- 26 Small parasitic insects (4)
- 27 Go one better than (7)

DOWN

- 2 Traditional British fare (5,4)
- 3 Hard at work (4)
- 4 Motor (6)
- 5 ___ Boy, David Jason role (3)
- 6 Spirit, gusto (5)
- 7 ___ Fiennes, 'The English Patient' actor (5)
- 10 Shrubs with mauve flowers (6)
- 13 Speaks with difficulty (9)
- 14 Symbol of good luck (6)
- 17 Elaborate creamy layered cake (6)
- 18 Shouts, yells (5)
- 20 Growths studied by mycologists (5)
- 22 Urgently (inits) (4)
- 24 Milk-producing farm animal (3)

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