ACROSS

- 1 Old office worker (6)
- 4 Act violently against (6)
- 9 External, superficial (7)
- **10** Gum for sticking (5)
- 11 Loathe, detest (5)
- **12** Sequential (number) (7)
- 13 Shoulder covering (5)
- 15 Burnt remains (5)
- 20 With bath (of a hotel room) (2,5)
- 22 Commissionaire (5)
- **24** Period (5)
- 25 Pleasantly (7)
- 26 Four times five (6)
- **27** Abetter (6)

DOWN

- 1 In both directions (3-3)
- 2 Playing surface (5)
- 3 Small common bird (7)
- 5 Lukewarm (5)
- 6 Non-existence (7)
- 7 Avidly, eagerly (6)
- 8 Attached item (3-2)
- 14 Kidnapper's victim (7)
- 16 Extract (juice from a fruit) (7)
- 17 Spouted vessel (6)
- 18 Employ again (5)
- 19 Solemn request to God (6)
- 21 Chemically unreactive (5)
- 23 Increase in temperature (3,2)

