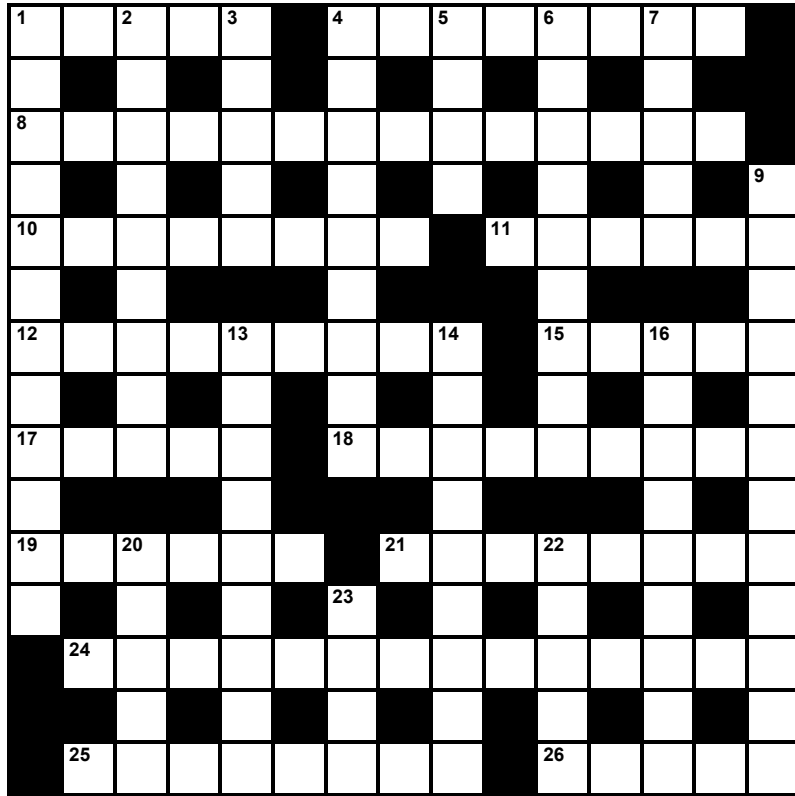


by



Across

- 1 "Gents" seen among cartographers' signs (5)
- 4 Evil old king mistreated his pussy (8)
- 8 Spies on game in thrilling circumstances; when I leave, final play ends very painfully (14)
- 10 Covers space alien with sulphur (8)
- 11 Philosopher getting stew at 25% off - *zut alors!* (3-3)
- 12 Something holding back sailor captured by vicious insect (9)
- 15 Canine film star lacks energy drink (5)

- 17 Deserves organs without number (5)
- 18 Growth returns and goes on before reaching breaking point (4,5)
- 19 Obliterate American church after First Elder gets very loud (6)
- 21 Top "*Rock Island Line*"? It's unnecessary (8)
- 24 A peer's not to be disturbed after a couple of pints at lunchtime (7,4,3)
- 25 Artist's ruination begins after card game with the French (8)
- 26 Time to demand small jobs (5)

Down

- 1 No part of speech under revision by journalist is carrying too much (12)
- 2 Eastern Tyneside right to hold singing magician (9)
- 3 Workers leaders in Slovakia in a difficult situation (5)
- 4 Changing leaders, we hear, colours the whole city in America (5,4)
- 5/23 Is acceptable to literary family raising son (4,4)
- 6 Quiet hotel serves about 50 at the peaks (9)
- 7 Character gets up drunk in the dark (5)

- 9 Actor ruining ritual with jewels (5,7)
- 13 The remainder preserves ways of doing nothing to get better (4,5)
- 14 Examination reveals the heartless way father raised salesman (4,5)
- 16 Following disturbed rest, we French go round the bend becoming very active (9)
- 20 Hand off comfortably (5)
- 22 Pirate snickers, coming up having hidden a small map (5)
- 23 See 5