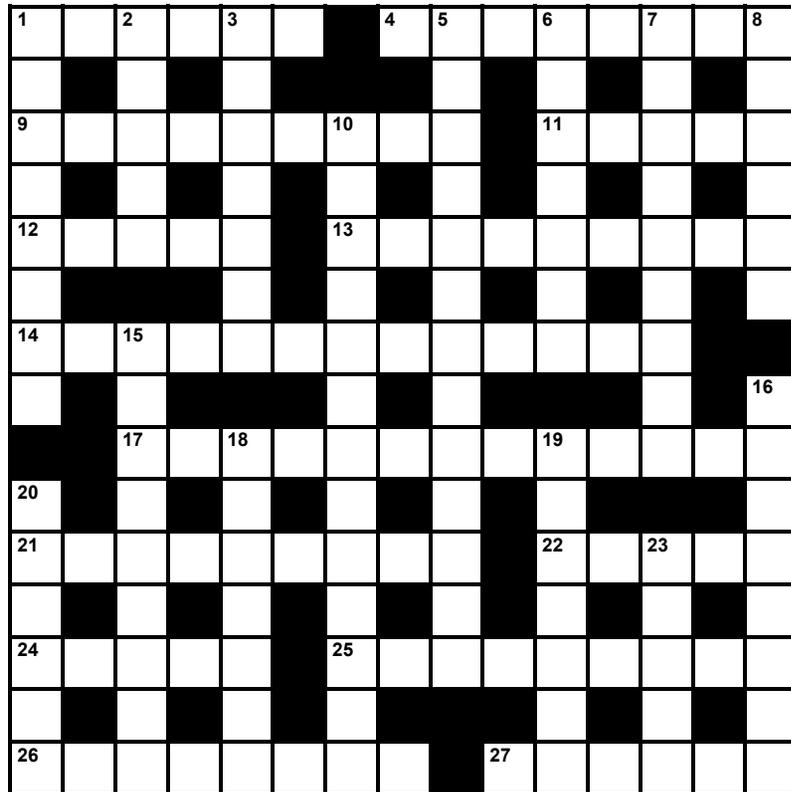


Alchemi 238 by Alchemi



Across

- 1** Car fitted with storage unit for one type of sub-atomic particle (6)
4 Repeatedly hit Polish journalist protecting a couple of teenagers (8)
9/11 To smart set, feta crumbling is what's of great importance (7,2,5)
12 Finally discover hotel with BBC channel's French stream (5)
13 I'm surprised by king having cricketers as fanatically loyal warriors (9)
14 Bar with returning soldier in the balance (13)
17 Bear with 9 being difficult as optimism returns about Obama's leadership (6,3,4)
21 Spider play has been rejected, blocked by heartless law (6-3)
22 Back manager initially to make changes at Arsenal (5)
24 Essentially hoping experts will deliver a verdict (5)
25 Arthritic mice hurt badly after swallowing dose of analgesic (9)
26 Get rid of lubrication when in the last stages of qualification (8)
27 Anglo-Saxon pilot missing one of the stars (6)

Down

- 1** Fruit strain found in southwest Ireland (8)
2 Wearisome troubadours mostly ignored busking here? (5)
3 The most obscure band to back Springsteen went up first (7)
5 Peacekeepers fake cataclysmic battle making a lasting impression (13)
6 Massively reducing consumption quickly weighs down elected government (7)
7 Leaves Texan city before last third of song (3,3,3)
8 Occasionally sees a spy following academic in fancy clothing (6)
10 American military leaders visit Russia, worried over promises of weapons for Japan (7,6)
15 Having a chill victory in finance having the cap removed (9)
16 Perhaps compound revolutionary's revolutionary claim (8)
18 New York (Queens) embassy opening for former African leader (7)
19 Politicians' composure disturbed following company's withdrawal (4-3)
20 Have the means to remove thoroughfare from Midlands town (6)
23 Army ungracious after acting officer makes sacrifices here? (5)