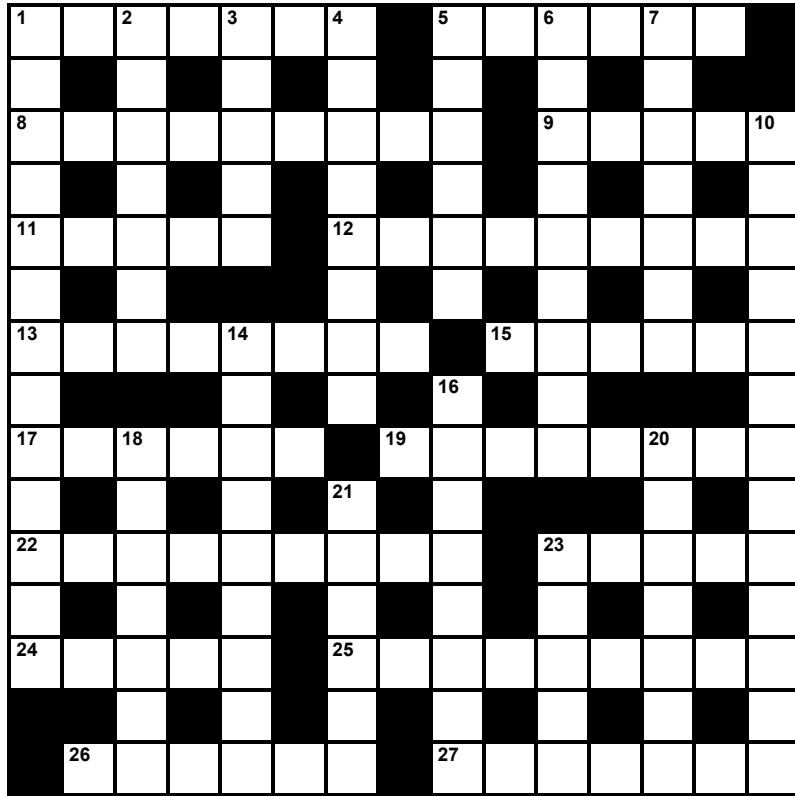


# Alchemi 256 by Alchemi



### Across

- 1 Manage loans (primarily) (7)
- 5 Woman who does a silent act back in Jamaica (6)
- 8 One so-called outbreak limited in area (9)
- 9 Poor bedding material a way to get sore (5)
- 11 Requires poles to hold river back (5)
- 12 Food crew OK after upheaval in payment system (9)
- 13 Soaks military formations lacking navy's diving equipment (3,5)
- 15 Left in charge of bird growth (6)
- 17 Perhaps cummings leaves 3 sick for excitement (6)
- 19 Horse which is enthusiastic about boxes? (8)
- 22 Try to turn over a dune (9)
- 23 Fairly large place impressing American writer (5)
- 24 Melting snow finally less alcoholic (5)
- 25 Playing Dixie does reduce (9)
- 26 Tristan and Isolde initially have to leave secluded area to become more intimate (6)
- 27 Equipped to hold any number stitched together (7)

### Down

- 1 Enlist disguised intelligence head as one to observe without comment (6,7)
- 2 Archbishop the first to be a playwright (7)
- 3 Keys in Donizetti's *L'esule di Roma* (5)
- 4 Drunks heading for place aboard ship (8)
- 5 Book referees (6)
- 6 Deep questions of time covered by QI (as Stephen Fry might say) (9)
- 7 Writer has a lot about the Republican party (7)
- 10 Agent had kid we butchered in black magic ritual (6,3,4)
- 14 Lets slip a couple of French articles on series of cricket matches (9)
- 16 One detecting woman's hair below bottom of headdress (8)
- 18 Engineers beginning to break into boring F1 team (3,4)
- 20 Note new option is without purpose (2,5)
- 21 Note on more exotic food (6)
- 23 Defence appeal I binned centrally (5)