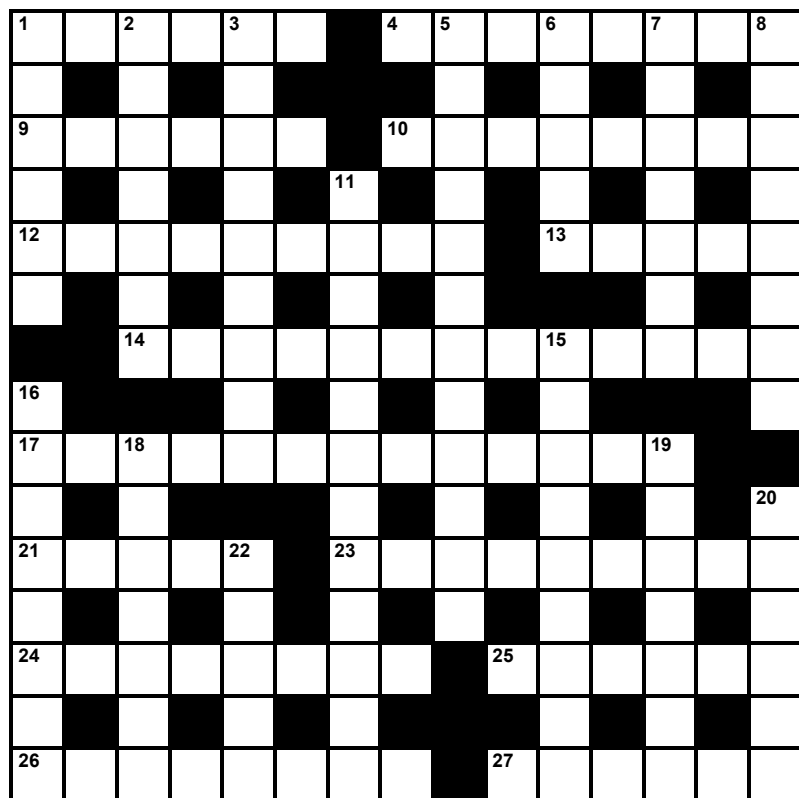


Alchemi 5 *by Alchemi*



Across

1 Saying everyone can expect direct elections, starts to declare independence (6)

4 Maybe Dundonian scams not unusual (8)

9 Pays next year's subscription for up-to-date sapper info (6)

10 Just in: safe-break reveals what philanderer has (8)

12 Bullpen I'm sorting out for measuring depth (9)

13 Native people have a sample of neat Ribena (5)

14 I neglect mum to develop modern working practice (13)

17 Frighten wonk with one nasty weapon (8,5)

21 Unit One somehow comes from far north (5)

23 Musical group loses nothing in return for cleansing (9)

24 Fussy photo featuring journalist and social worker (8)

25 Give hint to legend to go quietly (6)

26 Eased off fast when forest animals came back round (8)

27 Restless drones slept noisily (6)

Down

1 Gets rid of southern dice game (6)

2 Direct party on Tube (7)

3 Perhaps new blood will begin at the bottom (4,5)

5 Fees from cake used to build drink dispensers (12)

6 Vehicle reversing in dry area (5)

7 Swallow one cocktail (7)

8 Following rise in Malaysian currency, Thailand's leader urges savings (4,4)

11 Actor has French wine

and a little caviar to tempt pair inside (7,5)

15 Aunt Irina converts to monotheistic denomination (9)

16 Canonised serial killer usually ends up naked (8)

18 Aircraft logo depicts circular railway (7)

19 Top-secret timescales hold back broadcaster (7)

20 Ambitious deputy wants to decapitate (6)

22 Projection for one-off cricket team? (5)