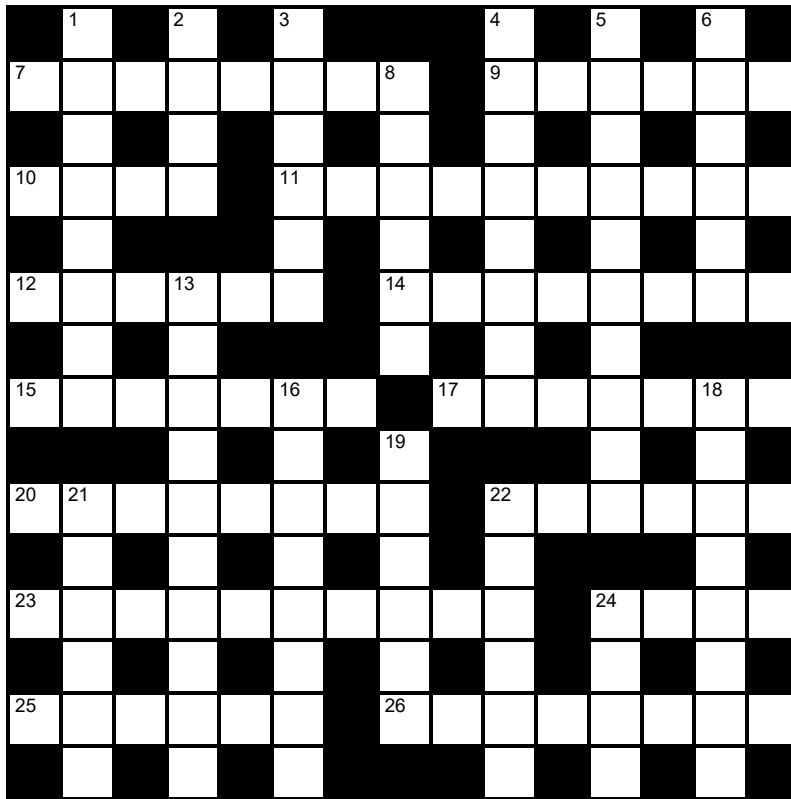


### Days Out

*In each across clue, two letters are omitted from the answers indicated by the wordplay.*

*Definitions are unaffected.*



**Across**

- 7 Beaten about, I returned under the influence of spirits (8)
- 9 Improve the surface of waterproof sheet (4,2)
- 10 Record lament (4)
- 11 It's a mother's duty: cut 1/3 off pasta (10)
- 12 Supporter's one purpose (6)
- 14 Agent's despair when drug goes to the head (8)
- 15 Scrap new festival (7)
- 17 Flask I dropped belongs to those people (7)
- 20 Being back in church... (8)

- 22 ...heaven's broken link (6)
- 23 Left queen bee flying around heads of amorous, excited drones (10)
- 24 In the middle of Portuguese dance (4)
- 25 Oddly, sperm set seed? (6)
- 26 Wealth often buried - unfortunately greater good ignored (8)

**Down**

- 1 Investigating, scare her off (8)
- 2 Well done, me! (4)
- 3 Crystal-clear contents of Mendip millpond brought up (6)

- 4 Dreadful din in store might well be seen here? (8)
- 5 Un-cap pen, taking on case for a large company (10)
- 6 Gags on your and my stench (6)
- 8 Struck toe and heels of hempen shoe found on the floor (6)
- 13 Beyond the city walls, without means of transport, on a mountain (10)
- 16 Hooted when pop star raised a little bear (8)
- 18 Not having finished, are you shifting segment inside, written about someone's death (8)

- 19 Spooner's nut crumble is glowing (3,3)
- 21 Sailor's jacket (6)
- 22 Duck with on-time substitution apparatus (6)
- 24 Look for an answer: if A is C and B is D then \_\_\_\_? (4)