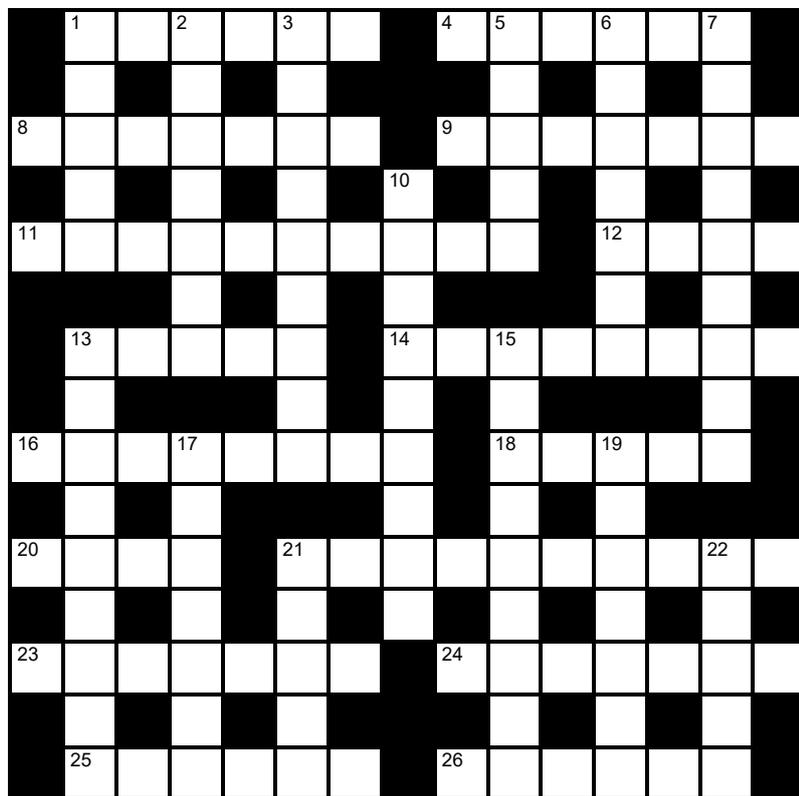


Somewhat Blue

There is a ghost theme (of course - Chalicea is incapable of setting without one) but solvers don't need to recognise it. The title and ten of the words in the solution grid share a definition in the Chambers Dictionary.



Across

- 1 Force way into unusual recipe (6)
- 4 Singular girl, Hebrew princess, returning to constantly trouble (6)
- 8 Braised, cooked marine flier (7)
- 9 Scottish speciality to prohibit pinking sound of combustion engines, we're told (7)
- 11 Surrounded by gaseous burps, lady's maid from time to time complains whiningly (10)
- 12 Use knife on wheeling flying mammals (4)
- 13 Characters among ninjitsus hid their delicacy (5)
- 14 Musical composition of buff beginning to tour largest continent (8)

- 16 He and I welcoming revolutionary links in capital city (8)
- 18 Foremost tree on street (5)
- 20 Furtive look in both directions (4)
- 21 Central American's peculiar lingua franca (not originally Latin or French) (10)
- 23 Be aware beforehand of fixed charge involving mineral aggregates (7)
- 24 What gives colour to tissues of hog, humans and beetles essentially (7)
- 25 Affirmative vote expressed to permit very small hole (6)
- 26 Short time these days for little fish (6)

Down

- 1 Portion of pastry dish with starters of Camembert and egg (5)
- 2 Following end of game, doctor with charity preserves state of body (7)
- 3 Flower of automobile pursued by great number (9)
- 5 Gather together in a religious service (5)
- 6 Memory loss of men wandering in the largest continent (7)
- 7 Left winger, thus on US intelligence agency register (9)
- 10 Corn husks in bits of cast-off handfuls for little songbird (9)
- 13 Dock worker's nerve ends oddly disregarded in warehouse (9)
- 15 New fashion I enter, fit for Egyptian queen (9)
- 17 Most excellent meat dish served in rich cream sauce (7)
- 19 System of government of engineers, US private, and ordinary soldiers (7)
- 21 Young relative's base in heart of French Riviera city (5)
- 22 About wintery precipitation just like at the present moment (2,3)