



**Across**

- 7 Exotic pepper pot almost gets a friend taken aback (8)
- 9 Tequila is made from these silver birds (6)
- 10 Singer will do this twice on the radio, averagely well (2-2)
- 11 Be an insect flying fast (10)
- 12 Once damaged margins of the sacrificial pool (6)
- 14 In the firing line? (8)
- 15 Exercises disorientate purists, losing resistance. (3-3)

- 17 Italian, replacing American during immigration, documents sightseeing trips (6)
- 20 They got away with space hopping and cycling experience (8)
- 22 Double trouble and strife? (6)
- 23 Good person ate cooked dates for appetizer (10)
- 24 Plant out a rose centre (4)
- 25 In the lead, promoted and not Championship hopefuls over-promising. Villa? (6)
- 26 Droll and funny host (8)

**Down**

- 1 Spaniard on the up in Swiss city, dumping the French lady? (8)
- 2 Shell company down-sized after not starting VAT returns (4)
- 3 Move near Hippogryph to get new identity (6)
- 4 Musical nun joining Nile Rodgers' outfit shortly to form band (8)
- 5 Daily activity for most men - not hard maintaining dignity (4-6)
- 6 Limescale absorbs alcohol? (6)
- 8 Eat away at alumni feasts regularly (6)
- 13 Nothing remarkable

- but ale can be more important (10)
- 16 Writers gather here to view fight following panic, initially about empty seats (5,3)
- 18 Doctor injecting into painful radius. Old-hat! (8)
- 19 One involved in slip up makes observation (6)
- 21 Cry from creature half-consumed during kinky sex (6)
- 22 Cycling endlessly on island wearing this? (6)
- 24 Technetium stores aluminium powder (4)