



**Across**

- 8 100 books, 1 in 9 producing poison (8)
- 9 Writer in fast ship going to die (6)
- 10 Requests idiot to guard king (4)
- 11 Vacant stable impresses nasty Queen's jockey (5-5)
- 12 Children wife defends having entered ring (6)
- 14 Craftsmanship, mostly, is protecting paper resort facilities (3,5)
- 15 Vice holds tool essentially rigid for horse service (7)

- 17 Understand old character occupying bench? (3,4)
- 20 Collect suiting a saint (8)
- 22 Lozenge sounding sort of nuts (6)
- 23 Posh car stops working without witticisms (10)
- 24 Happy German boy (4)
- 25 Language of old islander is dextrosinistral (6)
- 26 The French go after independent party worshipping cult figure (8)

**Down**

- 1 Metalworker could somehow mint this (8)
- 2 Hills for local cycling display (4)
- 3 Figures English sense moves south (6)
- 4 Titled lady to go with topless gown (7)
- 5 Need fire put out to alter parameters (8)
- 6 Choose one film I see as offering hope (10)
- 7 Is inquisitive, finally, about Father (6)

- 13 Cape woven from poor lace gets top honours (5,5)
- 16 Certain river drowns Australian academic (6,2)
- 18 Gave dogs fads from, essentially, a scientist (8)
- 19 Pitcher leaves when detectives reach Iowa (7)
- 21 Foreign police, one a bore on reflection (6)
- 22 Dot's frequent companion keeps American time as a habit (6)
- 24 Foreign dignitary needing good service (4)