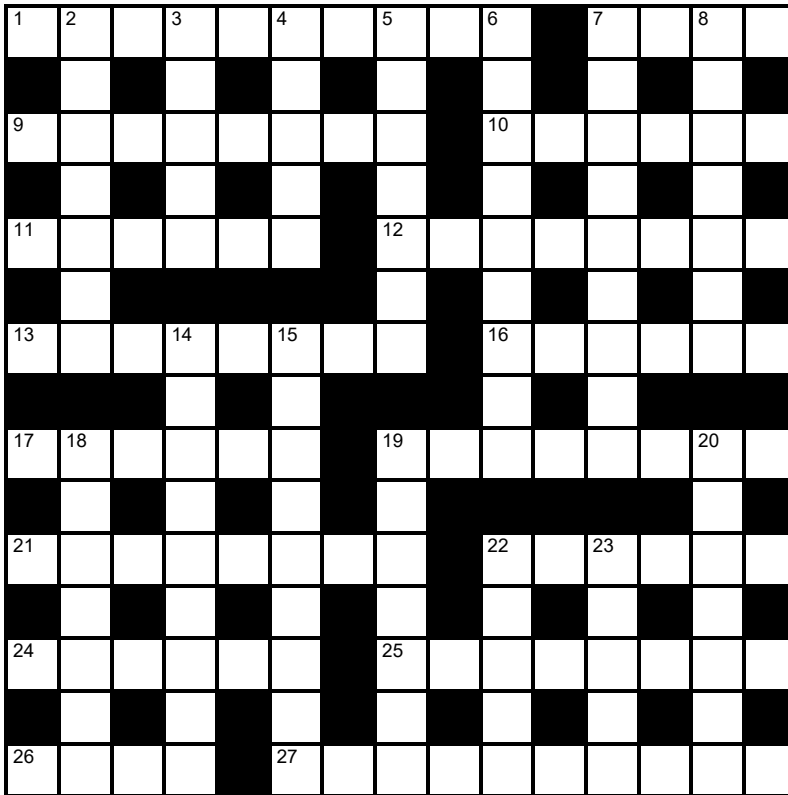


22d is the 24a of 23d, 3d is the 23d of 24a.

Asterisked clues are (sometimes loosely) associated to the theme and maybe partial.



Across

- 1 Thorburn versus White? (5,5)
- 7 26 of 3 that's short of hands? (4)
- *9 Weighty 3? (4,1,3)
- *10 State before 3? (6)
- 11 Plain French one croaked we hear. (6)
- 12 Superfluous want in nude display. (8)
- 13 Sneakily call about organising a lift. (8)
- 16 Place for a hot pot plant? (6)
- 17 Shocked at receiving an indecent shag. (6)
- 19 Exotic spread or oil used to improve reception? (8)
- 21 Short term worry for memory. (8)
- 22 Throw out 23 leader for being hasty. (6)

- 24 Call for no gore capturing clean sheep, a lot more than 3 (we hope). (3,3)
- 25 Plant sucker with speed, old city copper gets glory, not half! (8)
- *26/5 3, 9 or 1950? (4,7)
- 27 English jolly is a bad night for French tout. (10)

Down

- *2 3 if provisional. (7)
- 3 10 and 22d. (5)
- 4 Rank of US lawman apprehending part timer. (5)
- 5 See 26 Across.
- 6 Most of the prince's problem with management of passing on the throne? (9)
- 7 Faculty taking an easy ride gives finer grade. (9)

- 8 Innocence of Ivan abroad for summer in France. (7)
- 14 Identifies Welsh flower for display of colour? (9)
- 15 Hamper with terrine made without iron. (9)
- 18 The articulated more awkward are bundles of nerves. (7)
- 19 Wholesale seems an option. (2,5)
- 20 Shut up one in Winchester, certainly no high flier. (7)
- 22 Winks in order of getting a little appreciation. (5)
- 23 One in the minority announced why they lost power and most of hope. (5)