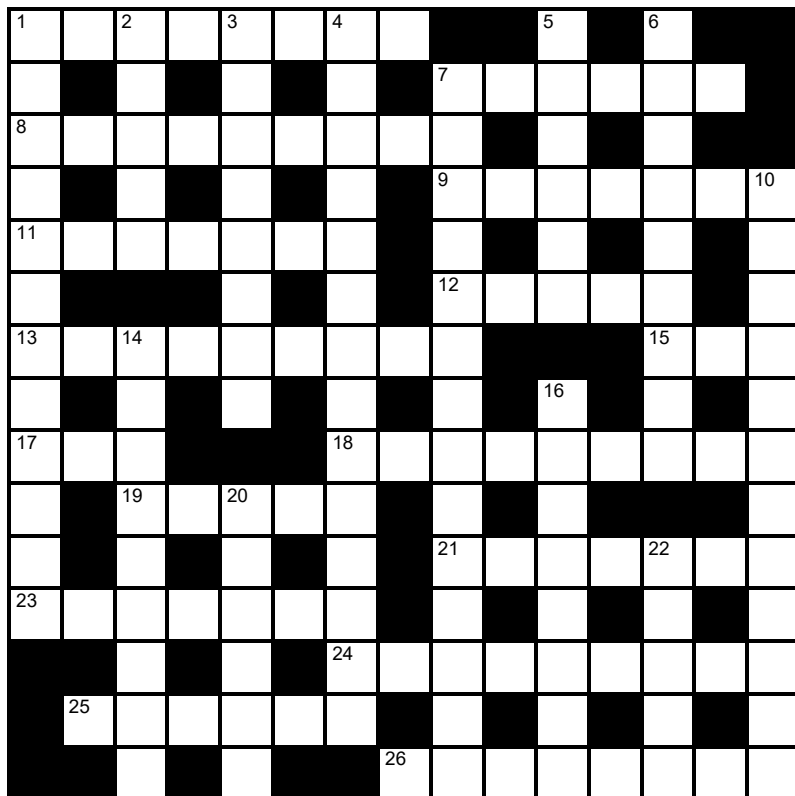


Couplet



Across

- 1 Creature with odd stripes taking a number, first joining moderate (8)
- 7 Unravel crossword containing two-part coupling (6)
- 8 Cracked Easter egg for 26? (9)
- 9 Party with only draught and bottled beer? Impossible! (2,3,2)
- 11 Botched raid right before operation to send down supplies (3-4)
- 12 Clumsy to write backwards in it (5)
- 13 Wear casual clothes to lecture (5,4)
- 15 Drink and eat badly (3)
- 17 Tool bar will lose elements regularly (3)
- 18 Broken in mule holds key light up (9)

- 19 Passageway is swamped by drink (5)
- 21 Coffee substitute trendy at first or trendy at last (7)
- 23 Short mystic offended with cultured food (7)
- 24 Adjust to surroundings, losing a little time in east gallery (9)
- 25 Not cricket if a run is disrupted (6)
- 26 Ready a needed border to hold store (3,5)

Down

- 1 Ready a needed border to hold store (4-3-5)
- 2 Regain standing when skipping a country (5)
- 3 Inaccurate sage sorry over lost fodder crop (8)
- 4 One saves postage returning rubbish instrument with cheap wrappers and coverings (5,9)

- 5 Anthropomorphic lichen has wearied expression (6)
- 6 Ten brutes rampaging - they're 25? (9)
- 7 Snack seller, against closing mine, starts to ask contract help in (7,7)
- 10 Foxy lace style one initially trimmed with gas cutting rig? (12)
- 14 Growing grain is tricky in uprooted glen (9)
- 16 Gain is in awkward patch (8)
- 20 Cry as short storm absorbs energy (6)
- 22 Creature with odd stripes taking a number, first joining moderate (5)