



Across

- 1 Monster hiding here? He'd be turned around (5,3,3)
- 9 Insistence upper class rule without monarchy and without energy (7)
- 10 Bung initially plugs hole in middle of gondola meandering somewhere in Italy (7)
- 11 Scarlets, say, scrummaging, in two lines each, after 50-50 (8)
- 12 Last lap altercation (3-2)
- 14 Walk backwards in quicker tempo (4)

- 15 Hollow voice interrupting what might be said at the chalet bunks (6,3)
- 17 Bricklayer's rockery contains large sandstone formation? (5,4)
- 19 Cutting first of claws turns dog into a bear (4)
- 21 About time, a knight returned and fought here? (5)
- 22 Left-back ran around and had a tantrum (8)
- 25 Pleased drunk ran out (7)
- 26 I've heard song has arrived in African country (7)

- 27 Starts to bake a nice "apple n almond" brioche, to study cake (6,5)

Down

- 1 Improve source of Danube in Prague perhaps (7)
- 2 Reception might see your first, and possibly children's first, English (5)
- 3 Old French king, according to James VI for example, holds gold cup (5,5)
- 4 Centres of Wolverhampton, South Edinburgh and Bristol become focal points (4)
- 5 Gives a false impression about French towers (8)
- 6 Start meal, as

above, replacing first Tango with booze (3,4)

- 7 Horror comedy about a fated she-hound (5,2,3,4)
- 8 A hateful damsel in distress gives the order to move quickly (4,5,5)
- 13 TT bike cuts out: find a receipt (6,4)
- 16 Murderer to offend, like soldiers before (8)
- 18 I've heard you hit newcomer on the farm (3,4)
- 20 Incompatible work presented (7)
- 23 16th Century in North-East where French originated (5)

24 Centipede nests
overshadowing
garden (4)