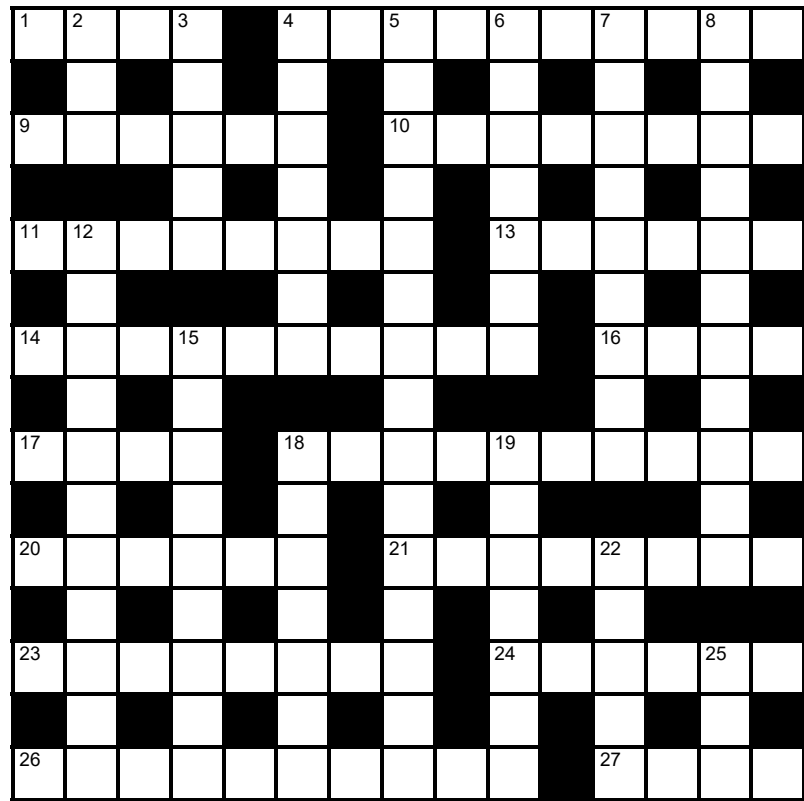


**Across**

- 1/27 Replace what's lost from a barrel when tucking into spirit (4,4)
- 4 Proof of concept finally risk assessed with superficial damage (10)
- 9 Concerning time to run off - come back! (6)
- 10 Monster little known outside of a piece of Greek writing (8)
- 11 Initially Groucho and Zeppo (silly chap) leading Duck Soup (8)
- 13 John worked hard making the back match the front (6)
- 14 Bird with precooked nuts (10)
- 16 Important when losing heart to show a little bottle (4)
- 17 Picked up spy where you can catch a boat (4)
- 18 Riverside place has meal with French bread, each over a pound (5,5)
- 20 Perform damage limitation? (6)
- 21 Clever agent conceals influence (8)
- 23 Monkey harbours anger about wearing a special uniform (8)
- 24 Take exception and end article (6)
- 26 Someone paid to stop entry happening (2,8)
- 27 See 1



**Down**

- 2 Saying the present is lacking - how old are you? (3)
- 3 Provide sequin clothes missing a bit of pizzazz (5)
- 4 Pizzazz? Criticise being over smart (7)
- 5 Not-so-secret lockdown memo edited to conceal number, staggering essentially (6,9)
- 6 Screen lizard (7)
- 7 King's relative struggling in recovery (9)
- 8 Counting up, list first to last with me ultimately scoring (11)
- 12 Outrage as nuclear weapon briefly seen above island country (11)
- 15 Dismantle united Europe, it's the done thing (2,7)
- 18 Touching sentiment (7)
- 19 Used violin oddly, playing underhand? (7)
- 22 Try a new arrangement of spare jigsaw piece (5)
- 25 Pigeon's home not quiet when it does this! (3)