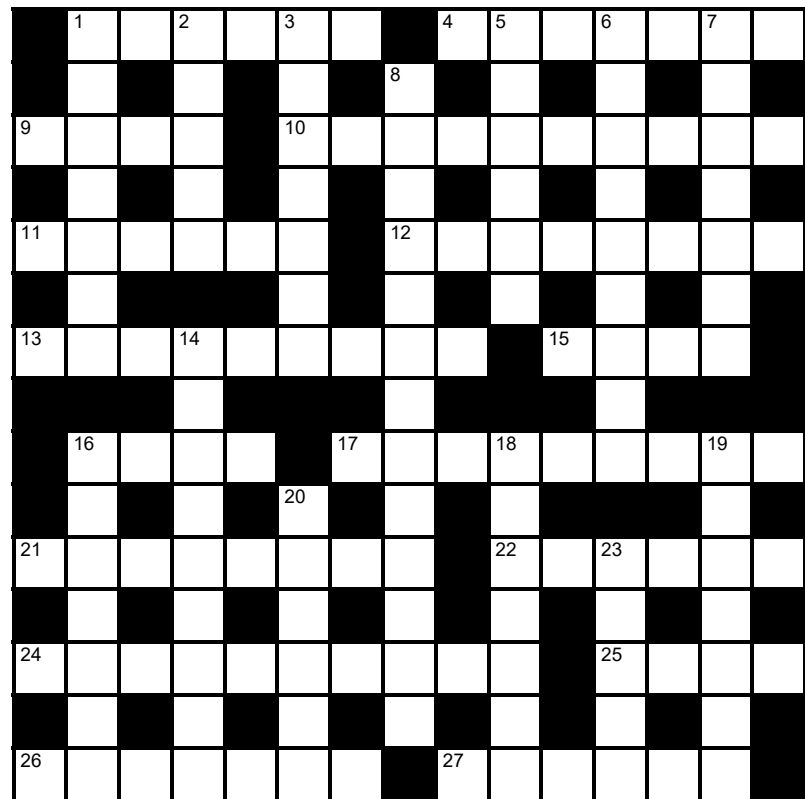


Across

- 1 Massages - necessities, we're told (6)
- 4 Alfalfa found in boundless muck in swamp near Argos (7)
- 9 Thanks not applicable for police station in India (4)
- 10 Freeing from dirt people of fashion in US capital (10)
- 11 Painful end of long drawn-out task (6)
- 12 Restrain lovable person, we hear, maybe one of Santa's favourites (8)
- 13 Wandering in a ripped type of trousers (9)
- 15 Backing place of entertainment of highest quality (4)
- 16 Somewhat contaminated one-time Ugandan head of state (4)
- 17 Lacking in jauntiness argue not so much about porkies essentially (9)
- 21 Fruit containing revolutionary Spanish delicacy (8)
- 22 Representative loses first half of game: wipe out! (6)
- 24 Complex and cunning treacherous person in Spain (10)
- 25 Drink dime-a-dozen bottles (4)
- 26 Brenda Lee 1963 hit - in the customary way (2,5)
- 27 Three kings embracing one European coin (6)



Down

- 1 German instrument for 16 down (7)
- 2 Perform punishment ultimately after rod for beating raised (5)
- 3 Unusually worded page for this drop of moisture (7)
- 5 Higher education establishment left maintaining condition for Middle Eastern peace-keepers (6)
- 6 Irritability with clumsy dolt holding old sharp axe, say (5,4)
- 7 Lack of remarkable things, brief illicit encounters during midday break (7)
- 8 A troubled pastor pursued by anxiety disorder - this morbid fear of thunder and

lightning (13)

- 14 Rainbow goddess effectively manages instruments for exhibiting prismatic colours (9)
- 16 Austria's prolific composer unusually amused all initially (7)
- 18 More embarrassed about European ruminant mammal (3,4)
- 19 Properly organised RAF site's steadily fine (3,4)
- 20 His mate in returning principally abdominal medical condition (6)
- 23 The French fellow is a lover (5)