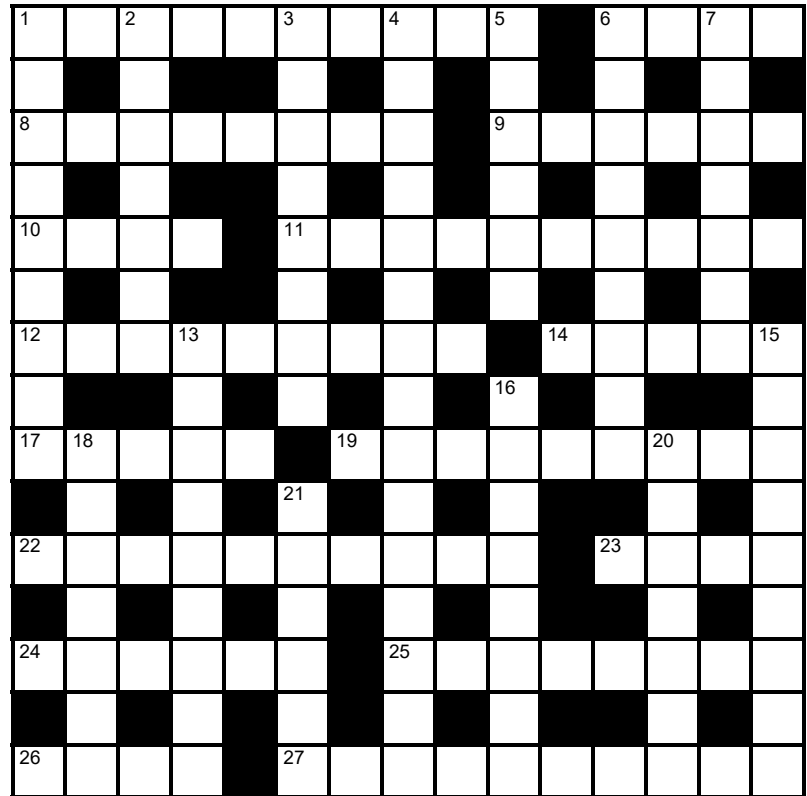


Across

- 1 Local girls - they often hit the bar (4,6)
- 6 Problem welding two metals (4)
- 8 Nuclear explosion initially transformed sky blue (8)
- 9 Wife left wearing pants - ready to drive? (2,4)
- 10 Figure Angus drew occasionally (4)
- 11 Proposal about taking over French mime artist's estate (10)
- 12 Conductor to pick record, working without credit (9)
- 14 Continue with extremely risqué novel (5)
- 17 Pasta in Tunis contains poison (5)
- 19 Playing area matches, fell backwards (5,4)
- 22 Rod played blank (5-5)
- 23 Tribe left in May (4)
- 24 Monarch - the fourth to return capital (6)
- 25 Waterfowl asked for by expanding egg supplier? (8)
- 26 Ayesha and daughter lose (4)
- 27 Mastermind hearing songs by Wagner? (10)

Down

- 1 Hold up fiddle being checked out, the result's a foregone conclusion (2,7)
- 2 Cut down male fleeing fictional village (7)



- 3 Amateur's motionless, outside without power (8)
- 4 Entertainer who makes a fuss? (4,3,5,3)
- 5 Avoids pious men drinking liqueur (6)
- 6 Tourist faculty supported by Sybil? (9)
- 7 Battle with Democratic leaders is all the rage (1,2,4)
- 13 Worried business writer's boss (9)
- 15 Romeo possibly won Marie's fancy (9)
- 16 Activity with Head that may lead to name change (4,4)
- 18 A Bishop from Krakow ignoring pressure to scrap (7)
- 20 Peanut product, possibly stale at the edges, eaten by drunk (7)
- 21 Briefly testify about article creating intrigue (6)