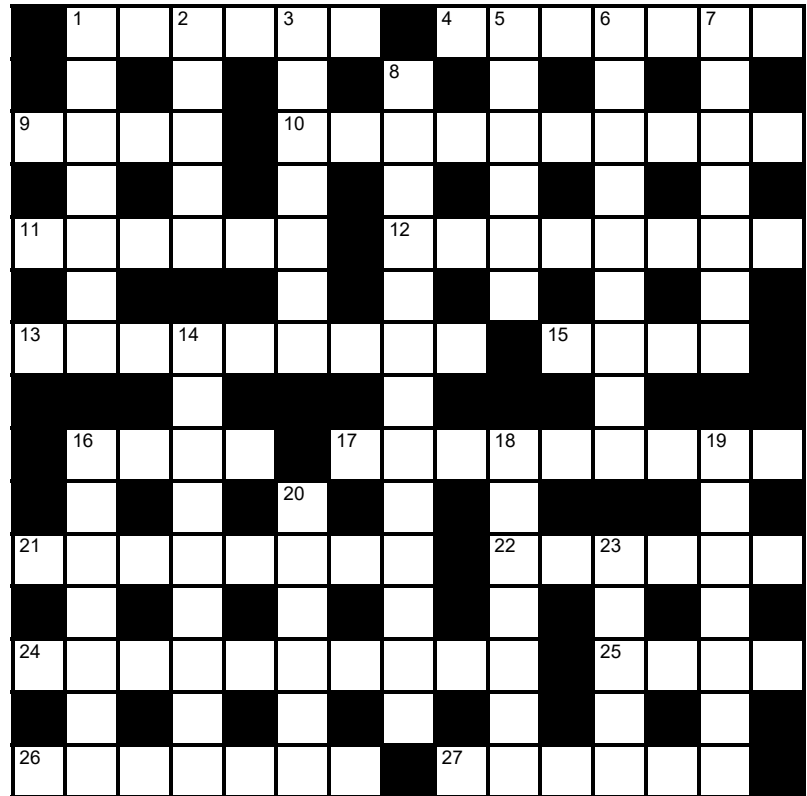


Across

- 1 Plough or excavator's bucket (6)
- 4 Acrobat's a clumsy person needing time for balancing at first (7)
- 9 Walk dogs, maybe, in retirement (4)
- 10 Demand too much with regard to child in one's care (10)
- 11 Building hosting some of such urchins (6)
- 12 Vivid red colour, part of scratchcard in a lottery (8)
- 13 Blithely at first wandering, gathering blackberries (9)
- 15 Lightweight plaything - small furry animal with energy (4)

- 16 Uncommon river measurement unit (4)
- 17 System is ultimately tantamount for this Wesleyan (9)
- 21 Peculiarly insular including one of an ancient British tribe (8)
- 22 Slightly dotty fellow, troubled cook chasing after copper (6)
- 24 Wipe out old boy, person able to read and write (10)
- 25 Temporarily submerge an amphibious military transport vehicle (4)
- 26 Take in broadcast about barrier (7)
- 27 Inattentive and dozy; shake please! (6)



Down

- 1 Drainage trench worker to be indecisive about opening of channel (7)
- 2 Hamelin's rat remover; pay him and you may call the tune (5)
- 3 Of great momentum, rising to deal successfully with Bard's prince (7)
- 5 Straighten out one French mongrel with rules essentially (6)
- 6 In a fashion befit idea that's blessed (9)
- 7 Deeply impress frenzied avenger (7)
- 8 Relating to three-hundredth anniversary of a surprising inlet entrance (13)

- 14 Active and lively calmer cur I alarmed somewhat (9)
- 16 Pot of gold at the end of this? (or maybe just type of trout) (7)
- 18 Ball game with curved sticks succeeded in local harvest home suppers (7)
- 19 Succeeded, as things are, to halt flow from frozen polar cover (7)
- 20 Roman orator's short boast about formality (6)
- 23 Scoundrel say, turning up to scrounge (5)