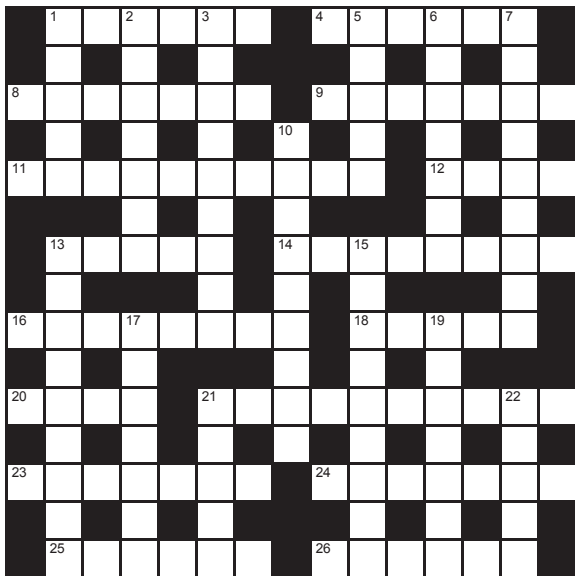


CROSSWORD

No. 16,136 Set by ARMONIE



JOTTER PAD

ACROSS

- 1 Buy tea blended for excellence (6)
- 4 Arranged faster attack (6)
- 8 Withdraws from touching matches (7)
- 9 Record one's poem in this section (7)
- 11 Brief managed seat held by Conservative (10)
- 12 Geek produces a portion of designer drug (4)
- 13 Drawback of Tom's central heating (5)
- 14 It's popular to perform, fast or slow (8)
- 16 Outsider is nudged or treated roughly (8)
- 18 Before getting out of puff see a clergyman (5)
- 20 Cherish a desire for a dance partner (4)
- 21 Drama teacher's carriage (10)
- 23 Servicewoman admitting international race is recorded (7)
- 24 Tacitus changed clothing (3,4)
- 25 Demands, and gets, old book (6)
- 26 Spirit-raising Irishman goes to church (6)

DOWN

- 1 Dim speculator keeps little (5)
- 2 A Tory leader pockets profits? That's touching! (7)
- 3 Water I discarded is contaminated (9)
- 5 Rewards? Unknown for drunk! (5)
- 6 Magazine shows ways gunmen retreated (7)
- 7 Anne cured problematic stamina (9)
- 10 Tool noticed after masonry course (6,3)
- 13 Meeting place for many on racetrack (9)
- 15 Record Bolshevik in time of pillage (9)
- 17 Vengeful daughter picked gunman (7)
- 19 Calls to give up immorality (5,2)
- 21 Sons defrost fish (5)
- 22 Cuba charged British general (5)