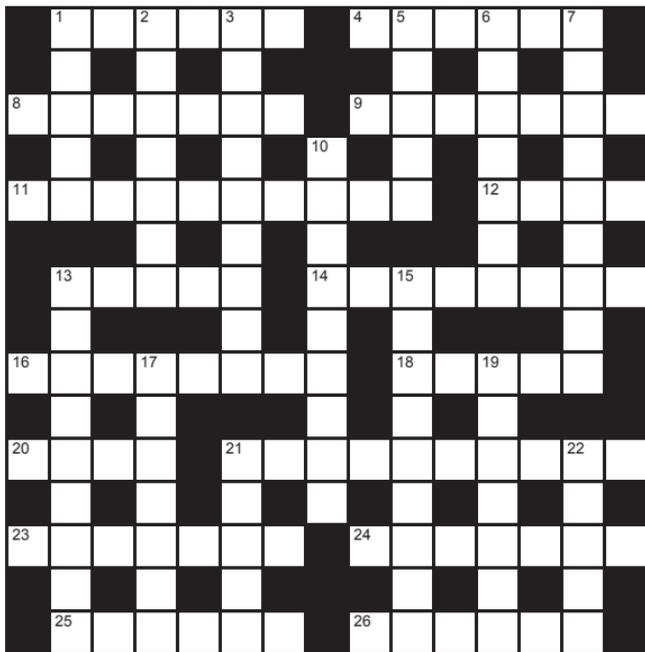


CROSSWORD

No. 16,249 Set by ARMONIE



JOTTER PAD

ACROSS

- 1 Closure is imminent when project leader goes (6)
- 4 Bill's cast out but protected (6)
- 8 This sly eccentric is fashionable (7)
- 9 Place in which Callas represented Norma, ultimately (2,5)
- 11 Fondness for costly staff in hospital department (10)
- 12 Enthusiastic backing for prima donna (4)
- 13 The tongue can be somewhat titillating (5)
- 14 Effort getting river sample (8)
- 16 Various ramblers initially planted in the West Country (8)
- 18 Clean river fish (5)
- 20 Brother rejected thanks from unruly child (4)
- 21 Rich American follows Shakespearean (10)
- 23 Businessman in drag faces old complaint (7)
- 24 Person in support of leader (7)
- 25 Tedious wine type grabbing attention (6)
- 26 Actually a river in India (6)

DOWN

- 1 Had a meal without beginning to tidy up (5)
- 2 Slut led out the most boring (7)
- 3 Torn signs repaired without conditions (2,7)
- 5 Pick up tango showing courage (5)
- 6 Children, taken aback, protect rotter for ages (7)
- 7 Saviour of animals eating offal (9)
- 10 Delivery contains record of picture (9)
- 13 Inspect butcher's routine (4,5)
- 15 Depict one variety of chicanery (9)
- 17 It is tasty but can be surpassed without a starter (7)
- 19 Score runs in a series (7)
- 21 Electronic device for priest? About time! (5)
- 22 Overturn somewhat stupendously (5)