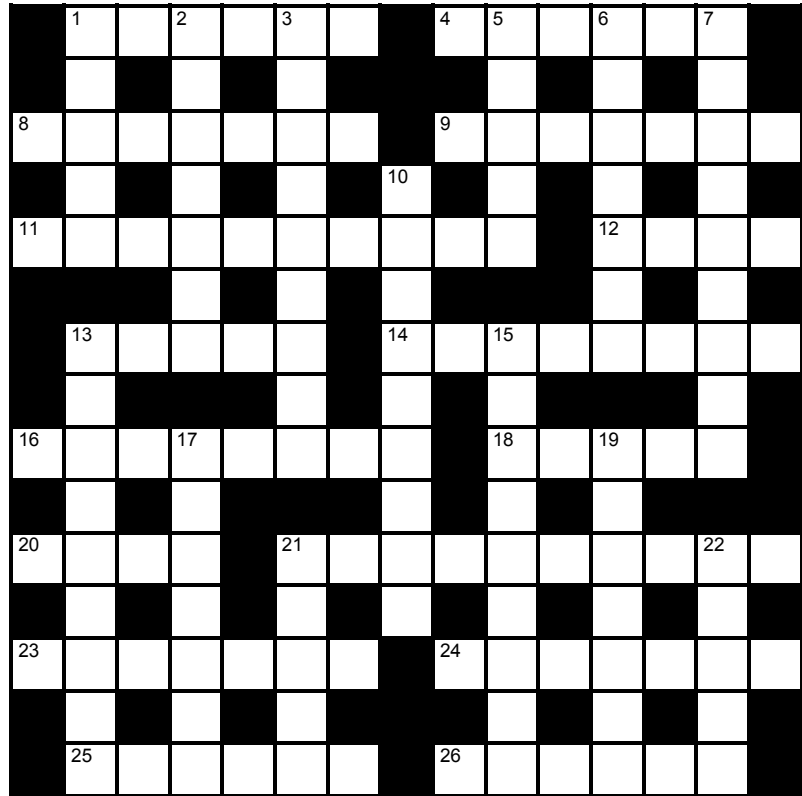


**Across**

- 1 & 4 Dreadful toerag's left sea, to become a pickpocket (6)
- 4 *see 1 across* (6)
- 8 Quit like Havana may have (7)
- 9 Finish in chant - it's enchanting (7)
- 11 A bit angry at first, being an old grump (10)
- 12 Flex a muscle in competition (4)
- 13 Original country girl had form (5)
- 14 Sailor and Queen need to go back to town (8)



- 16 Inferior, so could be grounded (8)
- 18 First person to get a title was a gem (5)
- 20 Missing the boat leaving China (4)
- 21 An unusually debonair one from 14 (10)
- 23 Uncle goes to old town with first class warrior (7)
- 24 A cold response but some of that, is hooley (7)
- 25 Inside, least fiery aren't that hard (6)
- 26 A country serial has changed characters (6)

**Down**

- 1 The road slopes endlessly - it's the stone (5)
- 2 Prepare to leave situation in Africa (7)
- 3 Act opens up badly - there's no competition (9)
- 5 Starts off believing everything, as he's magic (5)
- 6 Idol ends broken - that's handy (7)
- 7 Learn glib way to arouse a response (4,1,4)
- 10 Good man called first but choked (9)
- 13 He gets cross when asked to stand (9)
- 15 Exit speed somehow achieved, then really speeds up (9)
- 17 Encourage with trophies for service during shelling (7)
- 19 I get names wrong with a senior moment (7)
- 21 Bang, rattle, alternatively throw up a stone (5)
- 22 Everything has to land in the island (5)