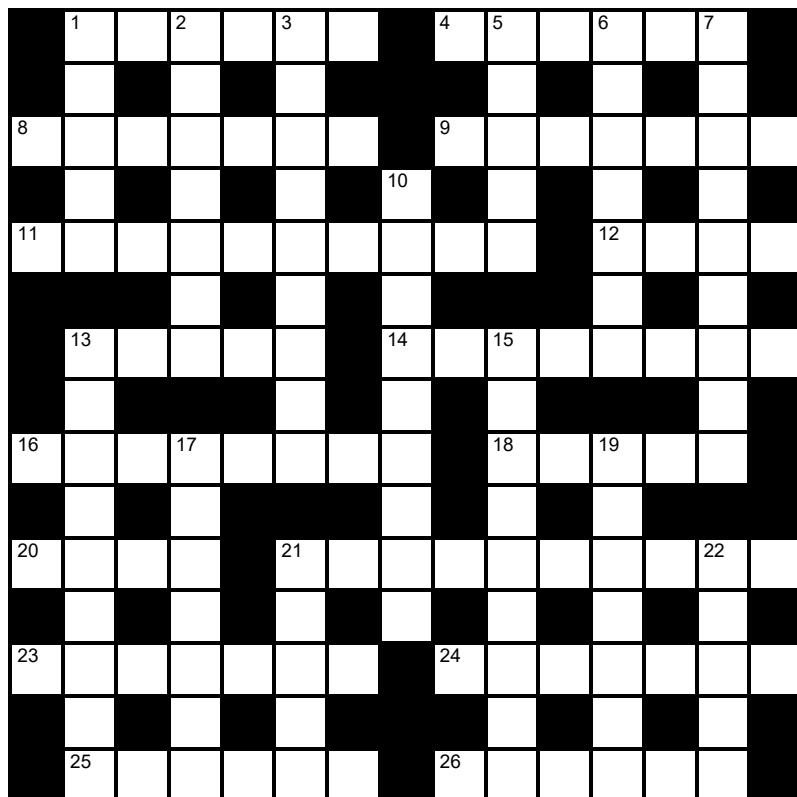


Somewhat Blue

There is a ghost theme (of course - Chalicea is incapable of setting without one) but solvers don't need to recognise it. The title and ten of the words in the solution grid share a definition in the Chambers Dictionary.

**Across**

- 1 Force way into unusual recipe (6)
- 4 Singular girl, Hebrew princess, returning to constantly trouble (6)
- 8 Braised, cooked marine flier (7)
- 9 Scottish speciality to prohibit pinking sound of combustion engines, we're told (7)
- 11 Surrounded by gaseous burps, lady's maid from time to time complains whiningly (10)
- 12 Use knife on wheeling flying mammals (4)
- 13 Characters among ninjitsus hid their delicacy (5)
- 14 Musical composition of buff beginning to tour largest continent (8)

16 He and I welcoming revolutionary links in capital city (8)

18 Foremost tree on street (5)

20 Furtive look in both directions (4)

21 Central American's peculiar lingua franca (not originally Latin or French) (10)

23 Be aware beforehand of fixed charge involving mineral aggregates (7)

24 What gives colour to tissues of hog, humans and beetles essentially (7)

25 Affirmative vote expressed to permit very small hole (6)

26 Short time these days for little fish (6)

Down

- 1** Portion of pastry dish with starters of Camembert and egg (5)
- 2** Following end of game, doctor with charity preserves state of body (7)
- 3** Flower of automobile pursued by great number (9)
- 5** Gather together in a religious service (5)
- 6** Memory loss of men wandering in the largest continent (7)
- 7** Left winger, thus on US intelligence agency register (9)
- 10** Corn husks in bits of cast-off handfuls for little songbird (9)
- 13** Dock worker's nerve ends oddly disregarded in warehouse (9)
- 15** New fashion I enter, fit for Egyptian queen (9)
- 17** Most excellent meat dish served in rich cream sauce (7)
- 19** System of government of engineers, US private, and ordinary soldiers (7)
- 21** Young relative's base in heart of French Riviera city (5)
- 22** About wintery precipitation just like at the present moment (2,3)