



**Across**

- 8 Mark's batting second - out of order again (8)
- 9 Listen in on large following, initially expecting authoritarian religion (6)
- 10 Computer-generated fiction reads, at first, less appealing (6)
- 11 Damaged once used, that's unacceptable (2,6)
- 12 Socialism evident primarily among evacuated art works self-published in Eastern Bloc (8)
- 13 Arch nemesis extremely invested in proper power (6)
- 14 Spread gherkins, hated, on toast (5,4,6)
- 18 Connective tissue, in ham or steak, sent back (6)
- 20 Form of life, Omicron perhaps, arising after mutation (8)
- 23 Facial hair from last of pirates injured at sea (8)
- 24 Oppose King Arthur's foster brother, for example (6)
- 25 Valuable uncovered, due before the third of last month (6)
- 26 Bring about vacuous electrician with repair worker (8)
- 2 Nothing like a rainbow to make a blue-green colour! (8)
- 3 Leaders of state, naughtily partying around, are getting caught (6)
- 4 Question over what Tinder note mischievously means - to go for a night out? (5,3,4,3)
- 5 Perpetually loveless individual gets hot and extremely nervous (8)
- 6 Disturbance in force by gunmen and fool (6)
- 7 Sailor's line in film after something boring turned up (3,5)
- 15 Sex with unknown number in stylish suite, most luxurious (8)
- 16 Queen regularly wearing gemstone on vacation, vainly, but in a way that is hard to see (8)
- 17 Trying desperately, gonna win! (8)
- 19 Originally flooded marshland, upended under draft animal, to be used only once (3-3)
- 21 Spirit with spiritual exercise endlessly climbing underneath ancient tree (6)
- 22 Disturbed rattlesnake, biting zoologist's head (6)

**Down**

- 1 Engine almost flying over top of monkey puzzle (6)

16 Queen regularly