



Across

- 1 Retires from military service (6)
- 4 Obstacle on a golf course (6)
- 9 Republic in northeastern Europe on the Baltic Sea (7)
- 10 Egyptian solar god with the head of a falcon; the son of Osiris and Isis (5)
- 11 Dyed fabric; a removable wax is used where the dye is not wanted (5)
- 12 Paintings by a French impressionist (1841-1919) (7)
- 13 Steam room where facilities are available for a bath followed by a shower and massage (7,4)
- 18 Member of the Muskogean people formerly living in Alabama (7)
- 20 Hired assassin (5)
- 22 Openly distrustful and unwilling to confide (5)
- 23 A mistranslation of the Danish 'ellerkonge' - King of the elves (3,4)
- 24 Peninsula between the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf; strategically important for its oil resources (6)
- 25 Make attractive or lovable (6)

Down

- 1 US slang for nerds (6)
- 2 Unaccompanied choral composition with sacred lyrics; intended to be sung as part of a church service; originated in the 13th century (5)
- 3 Capital and largest city and chief port of Thailand; a leading city in southeastern Asia; noted for Buddhist architecture (7)
- 5 Anaemic looking from illness or emotion (5)
- 6 Fly people or goods to or from places not accessible by other means (7)
- 7 Choose not to consume (6)
- 8 Loosely woven fabric made in the Outer Hebrides (6,5)
- 14 Tailed amphibia such as newts and salamanders (7)
- 15 Chief city of ancient Mesopotamia and capital of an ancient kingdom (7)
- 16 Sea nymph transformed into a sea monster who lived on one side of a narrow strait; drowned and devoured sailors who tried to escape Charybdis (a whirlpool) on the other side of the strait (6)
- 17 Amusingly eccentric, grumpy or old-fashioned old man (6)

- 19** Ductless glandular organs at the base of the neck (5)
- 21** Licorice-flavoured seeds, used medicinally and in cooking and liquors (5)