

**Across**

- 7 Exotic pepper pot almost gets a friend taken aback (8)  
 9 Tequila is made from these silver birds (6)  
 10 Singer will do this twice on the radio, averagely well (2-2)  
 11 Be an insect flying fast (10)  
 12 Once damaged margins of the sacrificial pool (6)  
 14 In the firing line? (8)  
 15 Exercises disorientate purists, losing resistance. (3-3)

- 17 Italian, replacing American during immigration, documents sightseeing trips (6)  
 20 They got away with space hopping and cycling experience (8)  
 22 Double trouble and strife? (6)  
 23 Good person ate cooked dates for appetizer (10)  
 24 Plant out a rose centre (4)  
 25 In the lead, promoted and not Championship hopefuls over-promising. Villa? (6)  
 26 Droll and funny host (8)

**Down**

- 1 Spaniard on the up in Swiss city, dumping the French lady? (8)  
 2 Shell company down-sized after not starting VAT returns (4)  
 3 Move near Hippogryph to get new identity (6)  
 4 Musical nun joining Nile Rodgers' outfit shortly to form band (8)  
 5 Daily activity for most men - not hard maintaining dignity (4-6)  
 6 Limescale absorbs alcohol? (6)  
 8 Eat away at alumni feasts regularly (6)  
 13 Nothing remarkable

but ale can be more important (10)

- 16 Writers gather here to view fight following panic, initially about empty seats (5,3)  
 18 Doctor injecting into painful radius. Old-hat! (8)  
 19 One involved in slip up makes observation (6)  
 21 Cry from creature half-consumed during kinky sex (6)  
 22 Cycling endlessly on island wearing this? (6)  
 24 Technetium stores aluminium powder (4)