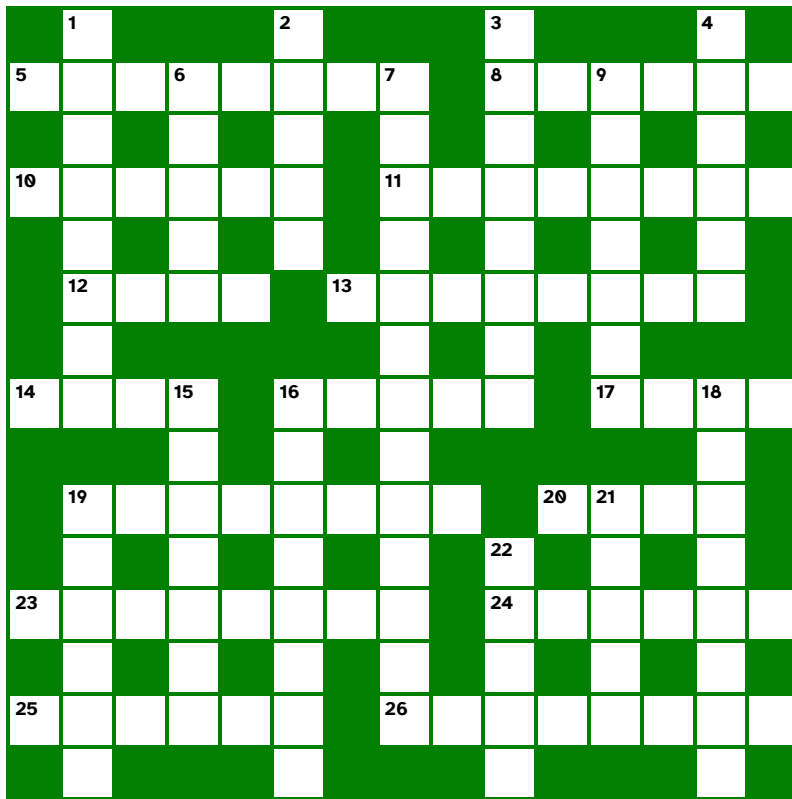


Crossword #71

By Skirwingle



Across

- 5 Air mail letter from a gamer or lunatic (8)
- 8 Attack dog beginning to nip after operation (6)
- 10 Star of *Last Tango in Halifax* - not, at first, a Northern nymph (6)
- 11 Suave type I met, mingling with Soho characters (8)
- 12/13 Artier men get confused - by my work? (4,8)
- 14 Cut the top of tablets for ailments (4)
- 16 Concerning information about nauseous person's appearance (5)
- 17 Reportedly kisses muscles (4)
- 19/20 Painter's worsening viral load - sad! (8,4)
- 23 Currently appearing, oddly dreary? Hardly surprising (2,6)
- 24 Work with alien facilities (6)
- 25 When Lent's ending - always around ... this time? (6)
- 26 Celebs' joint ... this will get them very high (8)

Down

- 1 Brainy bard occasionally tucking into muesli, say (8)
- 2 Eat before taking overdose (5)
- 3 Take crayon to ruin cool work (6,2)
- 4 Light brown coal doesn't start (6)
- 6 Poem about theatre (5)
- 7 Wise executives get into dining-hall forums (7,6)
- 9 Work to support old PM taking small break for fuel (3,4)
- 15 Only uncertainty articulated, having abandoned ones principles (4,3)
- 16 Top wine narc found mixed with drug (5,3)
- 18 They're used to pick uplifting tune at end of college ceremony (8)
- 19 Work hard on a new motto (6)
- 21 It's as good as a mile off (5)
- 22 Book sadly opened by tyrannical leader (5)