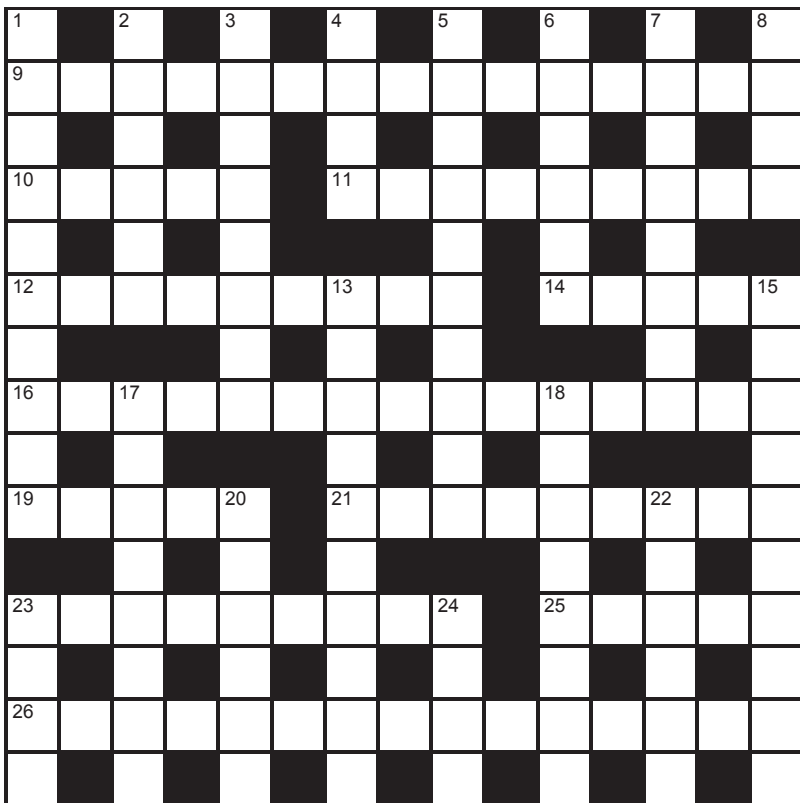


CROSSWORD

No 16,686 Set by GURNEY



ACROSS

- 9 Precision – miss it somehow, describing some paintings (15)
- 10 End trial that's gobbling up energy (5)
- 11 On return fund child's toy, after resistance initially, finding price the highest (3,6)
- 12 Portion of ballot men tally (9)
- 14 Teacher's mild rebuke to register ultimately (5)
- 16 Hero A, avoiding political extremes? (6-2-3-4)
- 19 Nothing odd in brief siesta – change alarm maybe (5)
- 21 Important to have desserts back, say, ices with 50 per cent off (9)
- 23 Performing well, fight champion, lightweight's number one, inside (9)
- 25 Nasty about French street – lying primarily (5)
- 26 Versatile member of pack? (4,2,3,6)

DOWN

- 1 "Don't blame me" – cream lid is faulty (10)
- 2 Urban area seen as special by inexperienced learner (6)
- 3 Ringing about daughter in Paris is to provide support (8)
- 4 Hey! Something interesting from Bishop's Stortford! (4)
- 5 Rival firm without any English flier, work uncovered (10)
- 6 Doctor with unfashionable clothes (3-3)
- 7 Weapon clearly visible brought up in dispute (8)
- 8 Small vehicle's mark of damage (4)
- 13 Selfish – get social for a change, welcoming first of invitees (10)
- 15 Claims raid aroused revolutionary ideas (10)
- 17 Reserve position – supporting investigator (8)
- 18 Acting in secret, they allure (8)
- 20 Hire Nick extremely often (4,2)
- 22 One apt to criticise Greek and German frippery in the end? (6)
- 23 Diet of Poles since early January maybe? Starters only (4)
- 24 On way up, market game (4)

JOTTER PAD