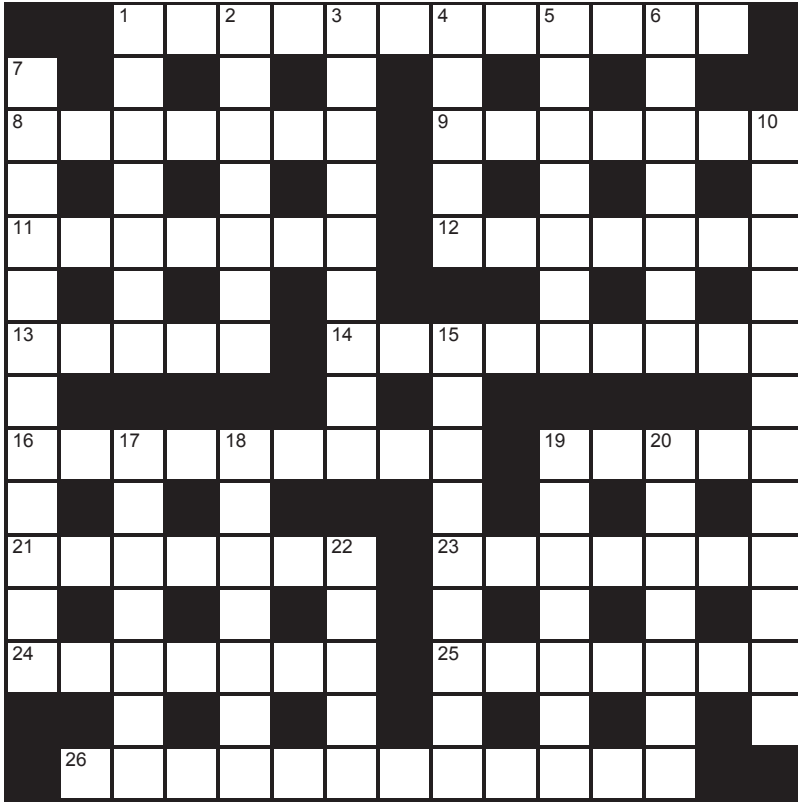


CROSSWORD

No 16,889 Set by SLORMGORM



ACROSS

- 1 Getting sacked, as I am so inept and fiery (12)
- 8 Arrogant type succeeded in winning pastry dish (7)
- 9 I fibbed about politician, it's insinuated (7)
- 11 European operation occupying fat cat (7)
- 12 University books retro-style band on the road (7)
- 13 Fife thug steals assault rifle out of habit (5)
- 14 Exit terms to be amended for ultra-Brexiteer? (9)
- 16 One giving out shots? Mine is rum with a twist! (9)
- 19 Losing foremost of liberals is just terrible (5)
- 21 Well-organised chap who's a hospital attendant (7)
- 23 A Catholic and I ran back to see titillating art (7)
- 24 Leaders to say EU still strong in one new meeting (7)
- 25 Huge singer seen by a French resort briefly (7)
- 26 Honest setter sadly could become homeless (2,3,7)

DOWN

- 1 Popular goods available at shop? (2,5)
- 2 Climbing mountain, eccentric sees public notice (7)
- 3 Full state broadcast ends with a set piece from Shanghai (9)
- 4 Foolish person I spot going around India (5)
- 5 Writer knocked up melody for god in the main (7)
- 6 Disease left one not-half sick around island capital (7)
- 7 Heating appliance used in Barnet sport clubs (7,5)
- 10 I act with lag messing about with Dutch timepiece (7,5)
- 15 One persecuting flipping rubbish teacher (9)
- 17 President once angry with boy full of ego (7)
- 18 Some in Washington or Wichita or another city (7)
- 19 Messenger with mail tucking into beer (7)
- 20 Addicts downing last of cider and Buds (7)
- 22 People from America can be jerks (5)

JOTTER PAD