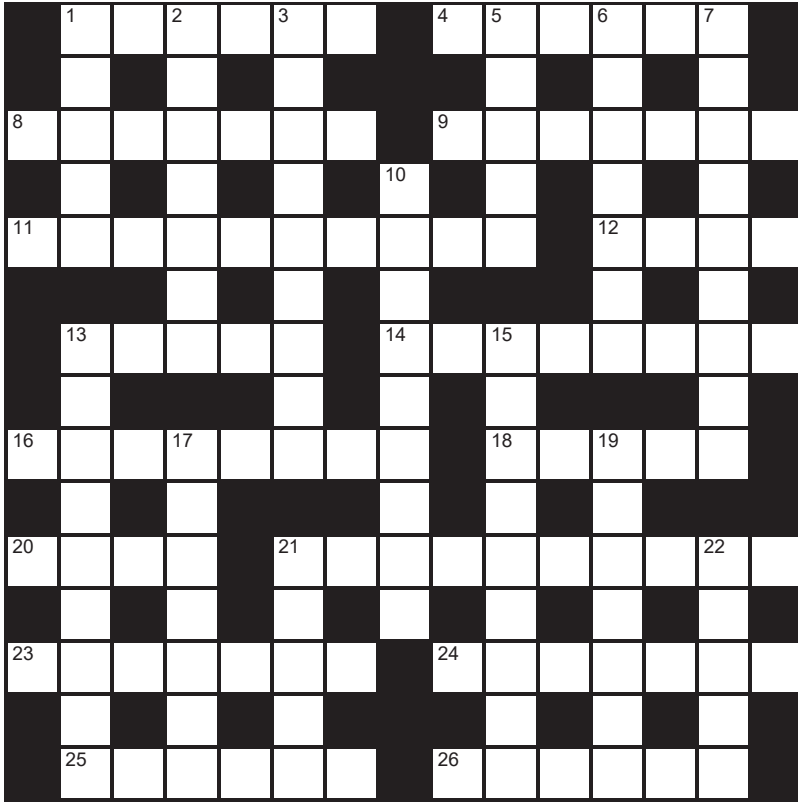


CROSSWORD

No 16,911 Set by GOLIATH



ACROSS

- 1, 4** Lawyer's polite refusal to pick up a state (6,6)
- 8** Home team in wellies, regularly away from home (2,5)
- 9** James content to chase cheese and beans (7)
- 11** Stay engrossed in paperback, being a slacker (10)
- 12** Careful head demoted off course (4)
- 13** Firm about left-wing principles (5)
- 14** Terms describing all recent Labour leaders as belligerent types (8)
- 16** Standard names for melting cheese (8)
- 18** Clark's a bit off the wall (5)
- 20, 5** Feathers and foreign articles from the other side of the world (4,5)
- 21** See 25
- 23** Libertine operating smartly dressed, initially up all night (3,4)
- 24** Mean-sounding birds (7)
- 25, 21** Feature of the pandemic might get Corbyn on the floor if first promoted (6,10)
- 26** Make secure? (6)

DOWN

- 1** How to say "one skilled in martial art from Japan" in Japanese (5)
- 2** Material benefit finally by being among the ascendant elite (7)
- 3** Dropping a hint the original sin violated many such beliefs (9)
- 5** See 20
- 6** Attempt to follow experimental album is a pain (7)
- 7** Where one might study the end of tragic village in fiction (9)
- 10** Shows off home in an elevated position with all-round views (5,4)
- 13** Noisy loving beneath chapel enclosure (9)
- 15** Mother trapped by machinery part in elaborate procedure (9)
- 17** Beast in military coup starts rounding up members of junta (7)
- 19** Rural bum's endless gripe (7)
- 21** Ex cathedra major play (5)
- 22** Old union asked regularly to provide tender (5)

JOTTER PAD

Solution 16,910

