ACROSS
1 Retiring nurses fighting authority, provider of shoddy work (6)
4 I walk back on to cold Arctic mass (3,3)
8 Mistake caging Irish animal (7)
9 Circulation of air in primitive dwelling a rare treat? (7)
11 Jam vessel, brass (10)
12 A London group who play as well (4)
13 Still in ecstasy, Ethiopians (2,3)
14 Worshipper, one addicted to felines? (8)
16 Clean surface originally without pans? (8)
18 Operation hurt (5)
20 Ring circular, as like loop, first of all (4)
21 No room to manoeuvre in apartment, as furniture may have arrived? (4-6)
23 Character beginning sentence, type of punishment (7)
24 Clear film, thin covering (7)
25 Endless joy in swallow, little bird (6)
26 Cryptic setter’s boulevard (6)

DOWN
1 Cotton sock on foot of commando (5)
2 Loaded question about late manoeuvring (7)
3 Crooked ref often moved to net header for Chelsea (3-6)
5 Handle oddball (5)
6 Fine journey south of a US city (7)
7 Moribund and bitter (9)
10 German diet fatty, male scoffing last of torte (9)
13 Past peak, supporting amateur actor, bitter leading man (5,4)
15 Challenge one in bed — early riser? (4,5)
17 Decisive action of snitch? (7)
19 Scent anger (7)
21 Fifty musical boxes for sweetheart (5)
22 English opener in competition (5)