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CRYPTIC by DA

20,774

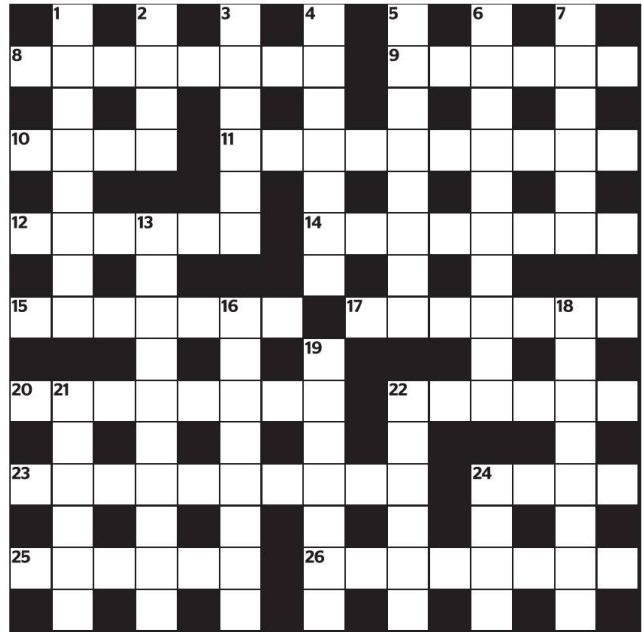
NB: Every answer but one starts with one of four letters. These same initials are ignored by the clues' wordplay, as the exception suggests.

ACROSS

- 8 He joined 2am shift, kind of... (8)
- 9 ...with Latin strength, heart, wisdom (6)
- 10 Iron out jacket from civic leader (4)
- 11 Maybe tables tire Mitch out (10)
- 12 Utter yearning outside good taste (6)
- 14 Top junk shop kept untidy (8)
- 15 Doting idiot stunted us (7)
- 17 Bungle the title in same novel (7)
- 20 Rep makes a list to include alternative sizes (8)
- 22 Continue sinking cents into retro phone contract (4,2)
- 23 Teenager to hand out bouquet (10)
- 24 Key ingredient of beer (4)
- 25 Vocal support in studio spot (6)
- 26 Strange member ran the parade (8)

DOWN

- 1 Boxer's in form, starting off pontificating? (8)
- 2 Number's up in lottery (4)
- 3 Dirk's protected by this 18-down (6)
- 4 Originally trees sheltered by thicket fringes (2,5)
- 5 North Indian's tongue-lashing has one on edge, standing (8)
- 6 Quick copies run off (10)
- 7 Wool producer turned on fury (6)
- 13 Powerless stickler collects rare artisanal frames for Magritte, maybe (10)
- 16 Revealed man's frenzied stabbing of British journo (8)
- 18 Loanword translated out west - it's plain in Scotland (8)
- 19 Prayer may use this amen, half-reflected to pick up speed (7)
- 21 Peacock possibly not 4-down lured (6)
- 22 Young Persian patient distressed when old man's ignored? (6)
- 24 Affair ends over unknown redhead? (4)



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Yesterday's cryptic 20,773

