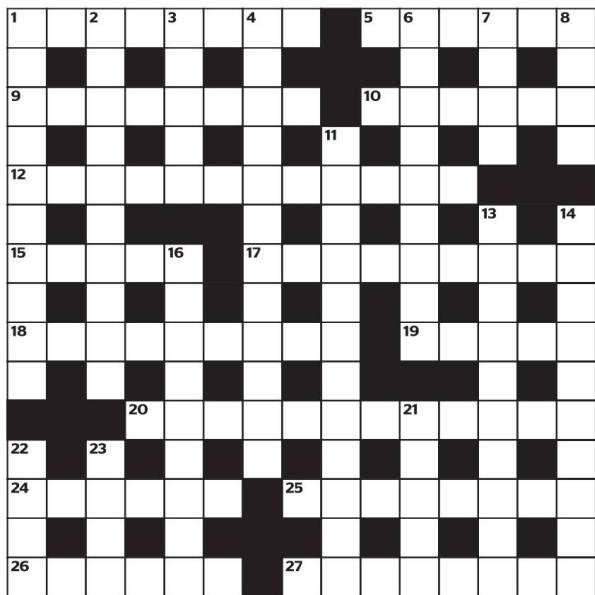


CRYPTIC by DA 20,953

- ACROSS**
- 1 Fool defened onset of grievous assaults (8)
 - 5 Appear to shaves flanks off mongrel dog (4,2)
 - 9 Insects I like to bite? So French! (4,4)
 - 10 Stirs detective curtailing pursuit (6)
 - 12 Dated and mixed in a bar? (3-9)
 - 15 Inferior fast asleep (5)
 - 17 Leather footwear starting to aggravate in short, smart pains (9)
 - 18 Cryptically tips on meets? (5,4)
 - 19 Oz playwright knows drag clothing must be removed (5)
 - 20 Best ever sportsperson a club spinner? (6,6)
 - 24 A pollie is creating suspect stories (6)
 - 25 Grouse cousin sounds grosser (8)
 - 26 Time for beer and soup? (6)
 - 27 Christie's here to fondle, kiss, gallop? (3,5)

- DOWN**
- 1 Rubbish smell infected dumb mammoth (5,5)
 - 2 Christie, for one, abandoned way-out punching contest (6,4)
 - 3 Trump's ex-overhaul of a cosmic language? (5)
 - 4 Understand he joined theft gang, pocketing ring, mobile (3,3,4,2)
 - 6 Go wild to bring 5-across, say? (5,4)
 - 7,8-down Chubbiest fruit fly (8)
 - 8 See 7-down
 - 11 Go OK on DA cryptic, claiming loot? That seems dubious (3,1,4,4)
 - 13 Nicely done exit? (3,3,2,2)
 - 14 Dynamite seller paid for item like 17-across (10)
 - 16 Scheduling craft store call (9)
 - 21 Use both hands to flap, then flies? (5)
 - 22,23-down Pervert isn't made to put on a brave face? (3,5)
 - 23 See 22-down



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Yesterday's cryptic 20,952

