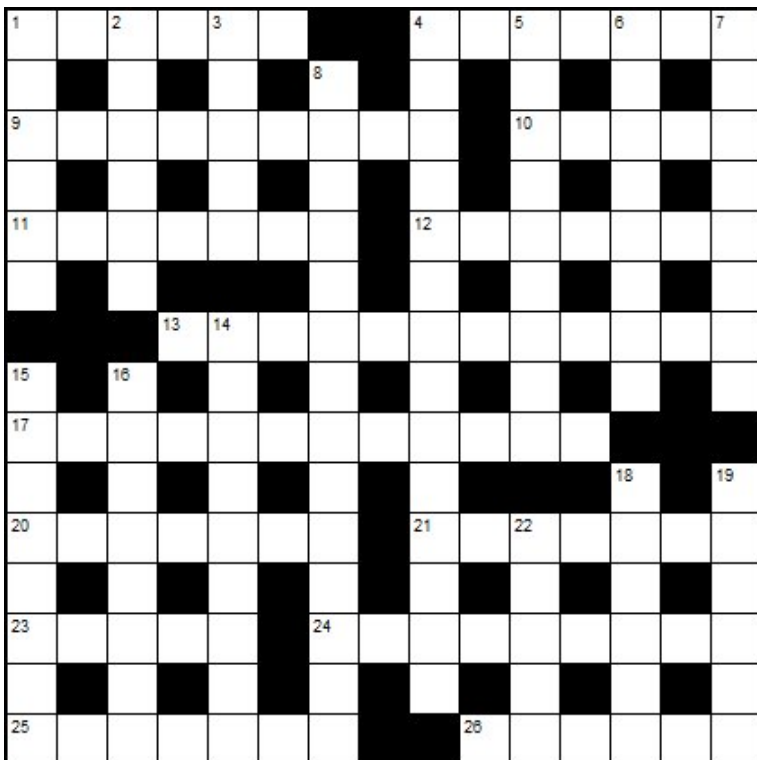


# Puzzle by Wiglaf

This is Wiglaf's first puzzle here but he has very impressive credentials, as he has set Listener, Enigmatic Variations and Inquisitor puzzles. He is a staunch Ximenean and his clues refute the canard that following Ximenean principles somehow stifles creativity. There are some beautifully original misdirections here, along with super-smooth surfaces, and Wiglaf has achieved this with perfectly precise cryptic grammar. 4 across is an absolute stonker!



## ACROSS

- 1 Capital wine (6)
- 4 You won't be able to see Maria after this time (7)
- 9 Recipe carried by nurse going round posh hypermarket (9)
- 10 Valet caught taking the French article (5)
- 11 Middle Easterner lives with one deranged king in retirement (7)
- 12 Uranium used by Curie when probing chilled element (7)
- 13 You'll need both eyes for this series on TV, broadcast over satellite (12)
- 17 Their gadgets get hacked as a rule (12)
- 20 Give a reason for once, Sharon? (7)
- 21 Rod used by Irish MP when catching a small aquatic creature (7)
- 23 Poet has finished on the phone (5)
- 24 Harry in command, he's high in the pecking order (9)
- 25 Lines of poetry about love, mostly written in Rugby (7)
- 26 Sweden's being linked with Scandinavia? Take a walk (6)

## DOWN

- 1 Skipping school, fool heads home to lend a hand (4,2)
- 2 Steppenwolf's original "Magic Theatre", inadequate for French playwright (6)
- 3 An agreement not accepted by English singer (5)
- 4 More hot chocolate to drink? Initially remove skin (7,7)
- 5 Religionists, in possession of false icon, given good hiding (9)
- 6 Muscle condition: a lot of bad cases prescribed drug? (8)
- 7 A number of English people needing time to find a residence (8)
- 8 After removing coat, the author in hotel worked out pi (6-4-4)
- 14 Asian marriage, reportedly on the decline to the south-east (9)
- 15 Part of some letters from an astronaut? (8)

- 16** Go and see doctor to get opinion? Not second one (4,2,2)
- 18** A little clasp on choirgirl's cape (6)
- 19** Doctor Who harboured good and evil (6)
- 22** Dorothy making ordinary service plan (5)