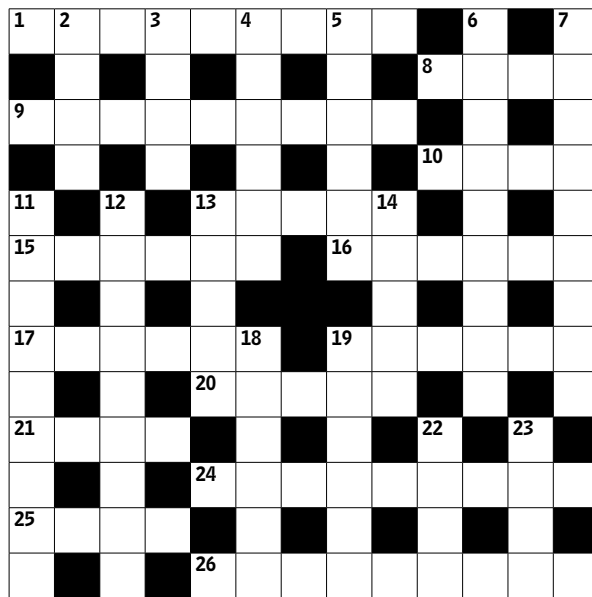


## SPEEDY CROSSWORD NO. 987



SOLUTION NO. 986

L	O	S	T	O	N	E	S	S	H	I	R	T
O	A	U	X	P	N	N	Y					
S	K	I	T	W	O	S	E	A	T	E	R	
E	L	M	T	W	H	A						
R	H	E	T	O	R	I	C	R	E	I	N	
		D	D	C	H	L	N					
C	U	T	L	E	T	R	A	T	I	F	Y	
O	H	D	S	R	O							
C	U	R	L	D	E	A	D	E	N	D	S	
H	O	O	T	S	S	A						
L	O	U	D	M	O	U	T	H	D	A	M	
E	G	E	P	I	E	E						
A	N	H	O	N	E	S	T	P	E	N	N	Y

### ACROSS

- 1 Childhood confection (5,4)
- 8 Ancient Andean (4)
- 9/16 Euphemism for someone who is unattractive (3,4,2,4,2)
- 10 Clarified butter used in Indian cookery (4)
- 13 Ancient (5)
- 15 Witty language used to convey insults or scorn (6)
- 16 See 9
- 17/24 Attack imaginary enemies or evils (4,2,9)
- 19 In? (2,4)
- 20 Score (5)
- 21 Disputes (4)
- 24 See 17
- 25 In maths, the third power of a quantity (4)
- 26 Affecting or influenced by the human mind (9)

### DOWN

- 2 Cupid, to the Greeks (4)
- 3 Flimsy, as an excuse (4)
- 4 Bend out of shape (6)
- 5 Methodist or Baptist church; church for seamen (6)
- 6 Possessing private information (2,3,4)
- 7 Book of place names (9)
- 11 Coarse tie? (anag) (9)
- 12 In a depressed or weakened state (2,1,3,3)
- 13 Soft part of the body which has a specific function (5)
- 14 Bridge position (5)
- 18 Conservative-leaning politicians, from the Irish for 'robbers' (6)
- 19 Having a pH value of less than 7 (6)
- 22 Pacific island nation (4)
- 23 Defendant's answer to a charge or claim (4)