

**Across**

- 1 Leaders of Lutheran Orthodox Church sent sermons to dispel Highland myth (4,4,7)
- 9 Native American hoards gold in the city (7)
- 10 Band that made Fatboy Slim? (7)
- 11 Greek character seen by North European river (5)
- 12 Hire car in France to go with old Spanish gentleman (9)
- 13 Initial case covered by criminal tribunal - this should reduce friction (9)
- 15 Crowd run out to get footwear in Sydney (5)
- 16 Expects he's immersed in work? On the contrary (5)
- 18 A grub stop, perhaps (9)
- 20 They bid against each other for contracts in Tyneside? (5,4)
- 23 Present day man evolved from insect in South Africa (5)
- 24 Batting proceeds without opener (7)
- 25 European side first to spot Gray? (7)
- 26 Foolish adults argue after relative provides sweetener (10,5)

Down

- 1 Potentially lethal art, tattooing requires creativity (7,8)
- 2 This might go off if groom holds up lingerie (3,4)
- 3 Theatre director drops first in series on convents (9)
- 4 Patient turns to ice bottles (5)
- 5 Memory capacity setback following great times (9)
- 6 Nosey neighbours always spying at latticework openings (5)
- 7 Quarrel about right exercise to become explosive (7)
- 8 Frail Bogart collapses after wobble at British outpost (4,2,9)
- 14 Different age, when Aeneas was travelling the Eastern Mediterranean (6,3)
- 15 The short strips of bacon are for beaters (9)
- 17 Quiet country area for voracious swimmer (7)
- 19 Imminent small cut in expenditure (7)
- 21 Religion is back for everyone to see (5)
- 22 Subject of the Middle East (5)