

July 2026 Slot 3 by Ninian

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Across

- 1 Before and after, rouseabout is utterly absurd! (12)
- 7 Saints flag of last resort - that's about right (7)
- 8 Takes action to avoid recreational vehicle going in various directions (7)
- 10 Sunken and in Hamburg, QE2 with a shelled stern (10)
- 11 Token misandrist wish? (4)
- 13 Jerk plans return to cover start of season (5)
- 14 Black hat tolerates family? (8)
- 16 As I recalled, in touch with a missing pest (8)
- 18 Break best friend's feet on release from trap (5)
- 20 Carve into wretched heart (4)
- 21 Flaunts dark and threatening look during Pisces (10)
- 23 Going astray, hugging a stud (7)
- 24 Amelia's broken and indefinite weakness of body (7)
- 25 Solonic assembly - old fashioned but made stronger (12)

Down

- 1 Pledge to include Romeo as a member of the cocktail set? (5)
- 2 Ups and downs as old flame beat up mate about start of rumour (7)
- 3 Users of blades, in packs of 4 or 8? (9)
- 4 Rarely in front, debtor is one of 3 (5)
- 5 Takes out or corrects porous tip of tooth (7)
- 6 Old Greek skipper in lead for five months (5)
- 9 Groom lad to go after stout (9)
- 12 Echoes around top of bypass (5)
- 13 Exercise to occupy the thickset (5)
- 15 And shift to key seven (9)
- 17 Mensch, taking into account 11 and zero, confused vigorous movement (7)
- 19 Would be winning advantage (7)
- 20 Strain of specialist lacking peer leadership (5)
- 21 Sources of, say, unicorn, elephant and modern love (5)
- 22 Crumpled, discredited but relaxed! (5)