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Across

1. Frustrate excrescence by applying thorium? (6)
5. Increased stronghold maintenance cost! (6)
8. Submarine emblem seen when Astrid entertains? (7)
9. Gemstone leads to peace in Castile. (5)
11. Order member immersed in argon gas sees warning light. (5)
12. Spryness displayed by the Italian with computer technology inside silver fork. (7)
14. Is she the apple of your eye? (4)
16. Corruption by German red? Nonsense! (3)
17. Ruminant outside city reveals quartz like 10 (4)
18. Had Ms Gardner married Sir Tim, to do so for his money would have been ... (7)
20. Top lawyer to permit metal tip of shoe-lace to be seen (5)
23. Interruption of improvised solo (5)
24. Hesitation after designer gives smallest possible amount (7)
25. Fatal to allow royal prince in play (6)
26. Street hag and Spice girl have hard coating (6)

Down

2. Suppressed laughter, and a sort of sleep, in the women's quarters (5)
3. Publicity and smart clothing really make a speech (7)
4. Dynastic flavour (4)
6. Denial displaces one in murder implicating grassy hillock (5)
7. Quite so! We see deed by former partner with endless alkaline solution. (7)
10. A city entrance reveals quartz (5)
13. Liquid halogen at one spot forms a pair (5)
15. Cleric by lake in daydream (7)
17. Large instrument associated with South Africa seen through thin fabric (7)
19. Get as far as river by every stretch between two bends! (5)
21. Exclude, exclude chlorine! Really sweat! (5)
22. Fibre from west Denmark? (4)