ACROSS
1 Appoint new European leader based in Avignon, perhaps (8)
5 Broadcast endless spite; see if I care! (2,4)
9 Palestinian community in Texas famous for producing raspberries (3,5)
10 A Red Sea department, where everything's French? (6)
12 Covent Garden welcomes a contralto, one with plenty of scales! (5)
13 Not being rational, I tamper with international call log (9)
14 Blackthorns cover Portugal hillsides (6)
16 Constable arrests Henry The Mad Axeman (7)
18 Avignon had one across – if loud – he opposed the one across in Avignon! (7)
20 Chap – no earplugs – part of the problem in sleeping? (6)
22 That time when one's spirits are low? (5,4)
23 Dessert that may go off, we're told (5)
24 He's taking interest in United, growing more confident (6)
25 Cold war Russian bishop never wanders outside Zürich's boundaries (8)
26 Drunk neat (about 100ml) (6)
27 He destroyed an election over there (8)

DOWN
1 It's behind a leading German magazine (6)
2 Pole halting fund transfer as a result of Brexit? (3,7,5)
3 One living with 12, might have 27 (5)
4, 19, 21 Potter's musical girl is a gift from God, I'm told (2 or 7?) (7,4,6)
6 Balls' audible whinge, having put on weight (9)
7 It's thrown overboard to relieve peril the economy is suffering (10,5)
8 Acting as guardian for boy king, knocking off early (8)
11 Say the EU say “stop”? (4)
15 Loo to close – it's official (5,4)
17 Lift required by 16? (8)
19 See 4
20 Charity work from Sky using 16 perhaps? (7)
21 See 4
23 Maybe Zelda features this setting (5)

Solution 15,509

CURIOUSITY KILLED THE CAT NOSPRING
HULL NOTTER
INSULIN REIGATE
CUTTING SSA
KNIFE ENCHANTED
EXECNKL
NEARSIDE PLACIO
TTOWU
THE CAT NOSPRING
ETTTRML
DEBAUCHED PLAZA
ILLASGEXD
OBlique AUSPICE
UETUAMNY
SLIP OF THE TONGUE