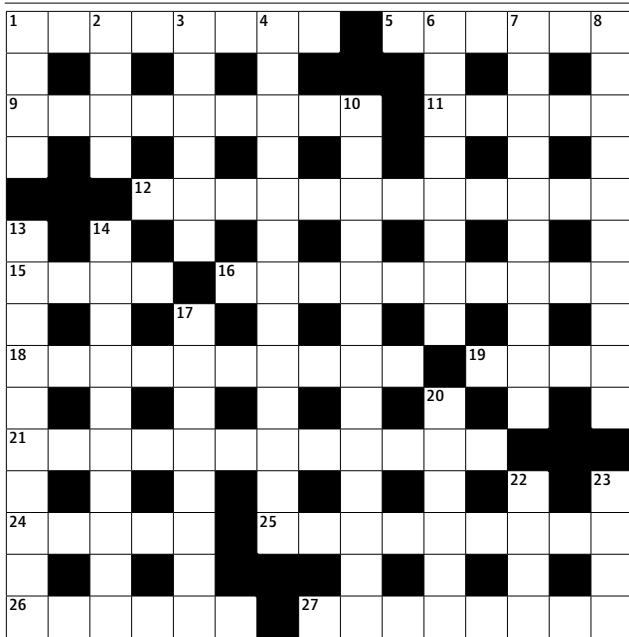


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,008 set by Arachne

Across

- 1 Redundancies ultimately mean decline in economic activity (8)
- 5 Lovely university dropout eats gluttonously (6)
- 9 Insincere heaving of tiny chest (9)
- 11 Being ugly and short, hooker is short of work (5)
- 12 Tabloid pictures which closely resemble one another (6,6)
- 15 See river moving east (4)
- 16 Imprisoned New Labour two, less than honest and decent (10)
- 18 Pro's way of moving patient (10)
- 19 Key elements of Berlusconi's leadership (4)
- 21 Critically, I curse so only when upset (12)
- 24 Rejected princess: "I have returned to Charlie!" (5)
- 25 Frenchman invested in plant making component for semiconductors (9)
- 26 Very much wanting girl to get thin (6)
- 27 Once a council's official tree-feller (8)

Down

- 1 Moderate request for aid by Oxfam leader (2-2)
- 2 Agreed to hide in Tamworth by the sound of it (4)

- 3 Drug-taking artist's a colourful occupant of one's bed (6)
- 4 Deconstructing or debating war and "enhanced interrogation" (13)
- 6 Unfashionable? Fashionable? Which is best? (8)
- 7 Throw shoe! Bugger invaded Iraq! (6,4)
- 8 Egomaniac author ekes out soap (4-6)
- 10 Let no urban car be otherwise (6-7)
- 13 Making flawless mint and gin cocktail (10)
- 14 Sugarplum is what one gets! (10)
- 17 Expelled from Basra, perhaps, during action (8)
- 20 Lazes about, supported by partner's immoral practices (6)
- 22 Description of going concern (4)
- 23 Warning: topless ladies! (4)

Solution No. 25,007

