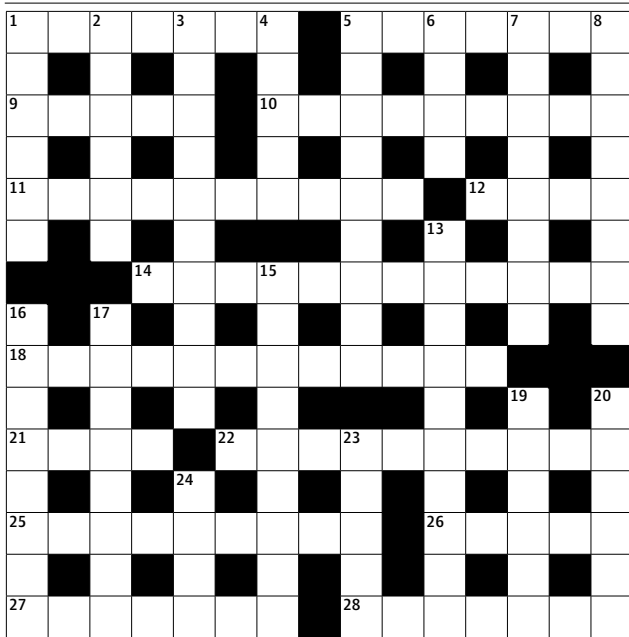


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,009 set by Paul

Across

- 1 Giants fighting to eat before seeing big cheese (7)
- 5 Drinker's hangover? (4,3)
- 9,22 Concentration evident, pushing cunning little wrigglers into back seat (5,3,7)
- 10 Mad albino's upset stomach (9)
- 11 Sea slug with one brown back limb (10)
- 12,19 Beastly hanger-on wants everyone left to be inspired by genius (4,6)
- 14 Question in case romance is hopeless without its physical side (5-7)
- 18 Male (classy) left bird seeking directions – men can't seem to do it! (12)
- 21 A boundary knocked over, producing turning point (4)
- 22 See 9
- 25 Take poor clue as wee (9)
- 26 Broadcasting graceful dancing here? (2,3)
- 27 River meeting city on the Danube measuring the most fathoms (7)
- 28 Rod lends 1p to forge (7)

Down

- 1 Palms up, in effect, keeping so? (6)
- 2 Staff cutting wages, farce (6)
- 3 Former Communist stronghold let Serbian out (4,6)

- 4 Born to replace son in terrorist, he's in the White House (5)
- 5 Medical obstruction? (4-5)
- 6 One withdrawn from silent act, coming up with a novel (4)
- 7 Piece having to wander in Kipling poem (5,3)
- 8 Fifty in boxes are untruthful (4,4)
- 13 Nine on call, cooking Italian food (10)
- 15 NASA equipment's opening action (9)
- 16 Lenin was taking party with me, after revolution, over the sea (8)
- 17 Flirtation non-starter, given marriage (8)
- 19 See 12
- 20 Hospital department on English course (6)
- 23 Where horses and hounds gather fleshy foods, they say (5)
- 24 Around lake, river from swell disconnected land (4)

Solution No. 25,008

S	L	O	W	D	O	W	N	G	O	R	G	E	S		
O	I	A	A					U	E	E					
S	Y	N	T	H	E	T	I	C	T	R	O	L	L		
O	K	L	E	A	S	R	F								
				M	I	R	R	O	R	I	M	A	G	E	S
P	A	A	B	B	A	E	E								
E	S	P	Y	H	O	N	O	U	R	A	B	L	E		
R	P	D	A	N	T	U	K								
F	O	R	B	E	A	R	I	N	G	I	S	L	E		
E	E	P	D	E	S	H	R								
C	E	N	S	O	R	I	O	U	S	L	Y				
T	T	R	N	T	E	F	O								
I	D	I	O	T	G	E	R	M	A	N	I	U	M		
N	C	E			A	Z	R	E							
G	R	E	E	D	Y	A	L	D	E	R	M	A	N		