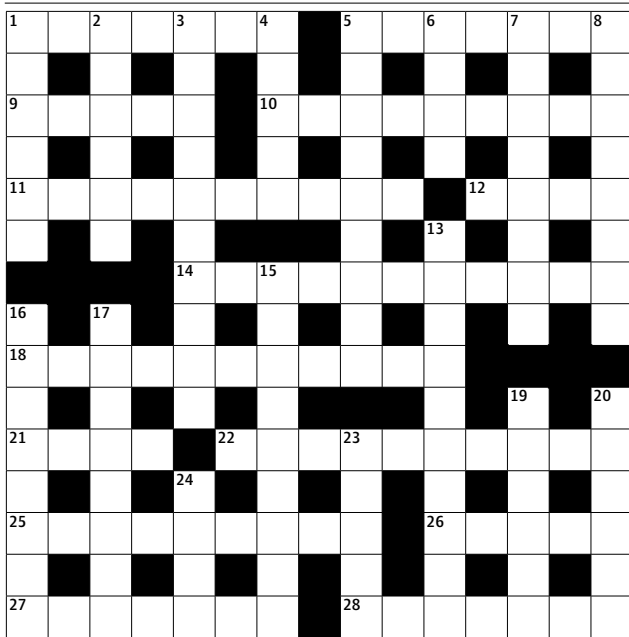


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,087 set by Brummie

Across

- 1 Essential element of jam trade (7)
- 5 Launch of biography (uncompleted) by posh person (4-3)
- 9 Label report of familiar ex-captain (5)
- 10 Able to take part in sport, preserving body (9)
- 11 Night visitor with cash for discarded item of dining equipment (5,5)
- 12 Soften back massage, taking in middle of shoulders (4)
- 14 One wearing tailored "tar" strides, which are awful to get into (4,7)
- 18 Scoff at Delhi's odd, non-independent support for capital punishment (3,8)
- 21 Goo: youngster swallows litre! (4)
- 22 Bush given a life without need, tension and Henry (10)
- 25 Top of London Eye can't, when revolving without energy/gas (9)
- 26 Marie Stopes's housing sign (5)
- 27 There's nothing in waste, having lost US city (7)
- 28 Nutty quality Dan introduced randomly into jam (7)

Down

- 1 Legless and short? They're just the opposite (6)
- 2 Secure a job, almost (6)

- 3 Line in scrap, which might be cut for a cockpit (6,4)
- 4 Doubly firm, top grade drink (5)
- 5 Scour rocks after meat and drink (9)
- 6 Charge round opening of roof on the house (4)
- 7 Produced too many eggs with a coating (8)
- 8 Visionary sporting tutu: first time away (8)
- 13 Plastic, offbeat, direct comedian (6,4)
- 15 Almost sated inside, monarch's stand-in is radiant (9)
- 16 Daughter, hit with much cash, backs dramatist (8)
- 17 Determined underworld criminal (8)
- 19 River rats patrol (6)
- 20 "Number's up" is spiritual knowledge (6)
- 23 Finest 50,000 sheets of paper in modern terms (5)
- 24 A spinner's short period in work (4)

Solution No. 25,086

