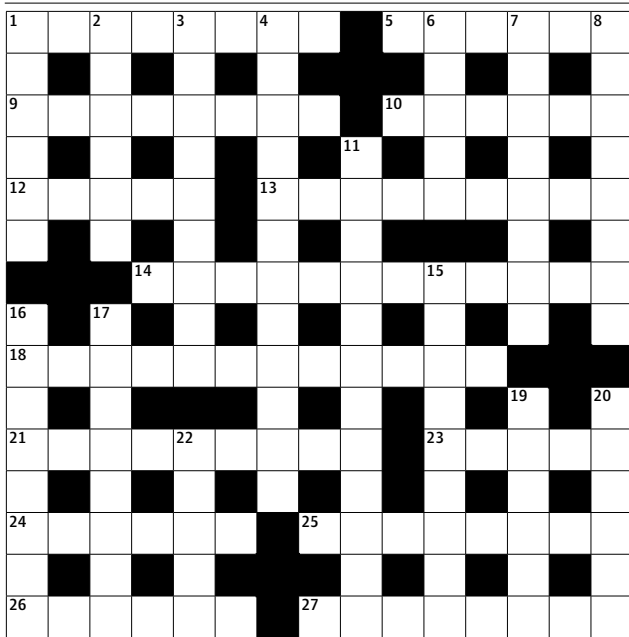


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,217 set by Arachne

Across

- 1 Conservative in agreement about local war memorial (8)
- 5 Short form of county match regularly provokes passion (6)
- 9 Inability to make progress, having gone to Yale? (8)
- 10 Hilary's husband allowed to retire (6)
- 12 Paid less, nurse doesn't work hard (5)
- 13 Unholy topic also concerning Pope (9)
- 14 Advantageous placement for Eastern European? (4,8)
- 18 Harassment of poet by lonely Guardian columnist (5,7)
- 21 Metal bats rather grabbing attention (4,5)
- 23 Scrubbing grand country house Aga? (5)
- 24 Scandinavian blade cut part of body (6)
- 25 Make a mess of second page, second of two (8)
- 26 Drop line to Elizabeth Windsor? (6)
- 27 Quadruped bound to stake? On the contrary (8)

Down

- 1 He supports Tiger Woods, perhaps, as rat gets punch (6)
- 2 Almost new potato (6)

- 3 Start to think everyone's Conservative? It's hard to believe (4,5)
- 4 Dad getting chased by goatsucker ruined the holidays (7,5)
- 6 Segregation barred chap – one had, in short, to be separate (5)
- 7 Student enthralled by changing climate of Mercury? (8)
- 8 Flourished once, during opening of present era (8)
- 11 Try to fell the god of pastures and fail miserably (2,4,3,3)
- 15 One poxy beer ain't making you drunk (9)
- 16 Ought little person to meet a jerk like Albert Herring? (8)
- 17 Instruments show gases and particles (8)
- 19 12 could be a double whammy (3-3)
- 20 Law of French-Canadian natives (6)
- 22 Hobbema illustration's secret message (5)

Solution No. 25,216

