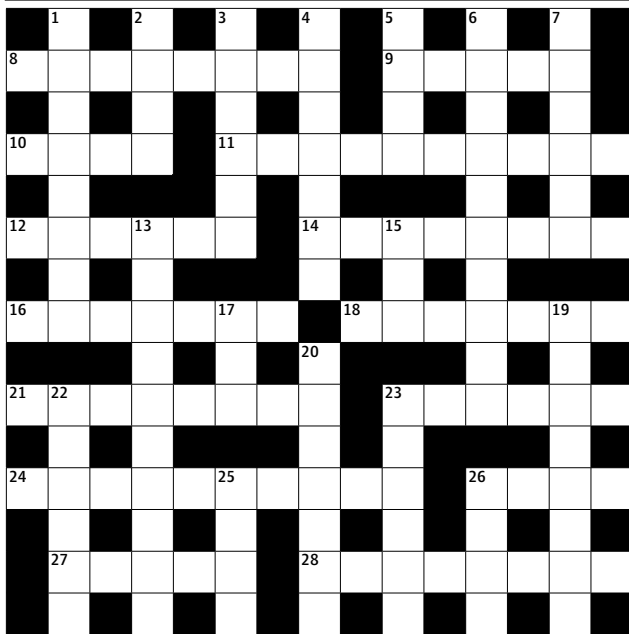


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,272 set by Brummie

Across

- 8 A king given independence in new surroundings is a bit odd (8)
- 9 Ready to circle river 26 down (5)
- 10 In shock – needing a bender! (4)
- 11 Audio device by which the musically illiterate might play an instrument (3,7)
- 12 Cut, say, in number of people involved in legal process (6)
- 14 Exposed as a fraud and deprived of a berth? (8)
- 16 US state benefits from brownie-importing Herts town (7)
- 18 Gaily, casually welcoming sex leads to suppleness (7)
- 21 City well taken in by criminal (8)
- 23 26 down underwear short woman returned (6)
- 24 Fixed price mythological bird with a £ given in return (10)
- 26 People of mixed Latin and Korean origins (4)
- 27 One and minus one, continuously (2,3)
- 28 26 down edited Mail on Sunday article (4,4)

Down

- 1 Alternative jig, say, to secure new mounted guns (8)
- 2 26 down's second-rate old president (4)

- 3 Spender's opposite end of poetry for 26 down (6)
- 4 26 down's one day cuts into cleaner energy (7)
- 5 Tree wizard on river (4)
- 6 A solemn organisation overturning everything that could poison you (10)
- 7 Abandoned hope with live satellite (6)
- 13 26 down's not a description of the Prodigal Son (10)
- 15 Independence gained by backward country's 26 down (3)
- 17 Leaderless country's 26 down (3)
- 19 After time get healthier, as the three blind mice became (8)
- 20 Be glad to see jewel comets without jets (7)
- 22 Keep out of sight of "porky" bass (3,3)
- 23 Newspaper credit causes b***y row (6)
- 25 26 down's contribution to endangered species (4)
- 26 Blur record almost ahead of McFly's No. 1 (4)

Solution No. 25,271

